

# Connections

## Prayers

- ◆ Redcliff-Irvine United Church
- ◆ Noreen Milburn and family
- ◆ Eileen Thomas
- ◆ Ev Stange - for health and healing
- ◆ Ev Paterson and Herb Corbett



## In-Person Worship Services to Reopen September 5th!

The Board met August 11th to review the reopening recommendations of the Chinook Winds Region. We decided that we would reopen **Sunday, September 5th** with COVID-19 precautions including masking and hand sanitizing. Please see the reopening announcement email that was sent out to everyone. It will tell you what our worship services will look like. Zoom services will also continue to be an option for those who would prefer to wait a little longer.

In the meantime we encourage everyone to complete their vaccinations if possible. See you in September!

## John Wayne Bowerman

**February 27, 1945  
- August 19, 2021**



With great sadness we must announce

the passing of a member of our church family, John Bowerman. John passed away at home on Thursday, August 19th. We will greatly miss his smiling face making lunches in the kitchen with the Lunch Bunch, and his beautiful voice on the stage in our services. Adventurous, incredibly caring and a knack for storytelling, to name a few of his many fine qualities, his absence will be felt by many.

Funeral services will be held **Friday, August 27 at 1:00 p.m. at Snodgrass Funeral Home 200 Woodgate Road, Okotoks** with a reception to follow. Mary-Ann has requested that in lieu of flowers you make a donation to your favorite charity.

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## Bible Study – Wisdom Literature

**When: Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Where: Okotoks United Church Board Room**

**Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**What: Biblical Wisdom Literature**

**Facilitator: Julia**

What is wisdom?

How do we gain wisdom?

How do we apply wisdom?

The writers of Biblical Wisdom literature

sought to answer these perpetual questions,

and we are still asking them today.

Join Julia as we delve into Wisdom literature found

in the scriptures, including the apocrypha.

As a bonus this year, *United Church in the Valley*, in Turner Valley,

will be studying the same material on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30, the same week as Okotoks.

If you know you will be unable to attend in Okotoks,

or Thursdays are not a good day for you, plan to join the group in Turner Valley.

## Haiti Relief



On the morning of Saturday, August 14, Haiti was struck by a severe earthquake. The extent of the damage is still unclear. Haitians and the international community are working hard to rescue people trapped under the rubble. Many homes and community buildings have been destroyed. Hospitals have also been damaged, and acutely injured and traumatized people are struggling to find help. And what's more, Tropical Storm Grace hit Haiti on August 16, making an already bad situation worse. The United Church of Canada is in contact with Mission & Service partners in Haiti to find out how we can support their communities. Today, people in Haiti need emergency shelter, clean water, and food.

To find out how you can help follow this link: [special appeal](#)

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## Turkey on the Go!

Okotoks United Church's  
Second Take-Out Turkey Supper.

Sunday October 3, 2020

4:30 to 6:15 p.m.

\$20 per person.



Available in 1-person, 2-person and 4-person boxes.

This is a church-made, home-style Turkey Dinner which includes Abe's famous barbecue turkey, savoury stuffing, gravy, house-made cranberry sauce, creamy mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, fresh buns **AND** your choice of homemade pie slice baked by Karen Jones, Pat Reader-Downey and other bakers from Okotoks United Church – Blueberry, Apple, Cherry or Pumpkin.

### To Order and Pay

Call Diane at the church office 403-938-4357.

### Pick Up:

Drive through the East parking lot between 4:30 and 6:15 Sunday, October 3, to pick up your hot and ready dinner.

### Volunteers needed:

Potato cookers

Turkey Carvers

Pie bakers – fruit only

## Children's Corner Volunteer

Part of our new format for Children's Ministry is the creation of a "Quiet Corner" in the Nursery space: a place for kids to go and work through their Children's Bulletin and other quiet activities. Starting September 5<sup>th</sup>, we are hoping to have **at least one Supervisor** for the "Quiet Corner" on **Sunday mornings @ 10:30** (must be here on site by 10:30 and stay till end of the service): someone to attentively and supportively watch the kids, and create a safe, inviting space. Would you be able to help us out? If so, please contact Matthew or the office.

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## NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

*Written by P. Marie Wedderburn*



At our Sunday Zoom gathering Matthew welcomed eleven people. This was an opportunity for us to get to know Matthew a little more and for him to put some names to faces. As always we greeted one another. After the announcement time, we were asked this question from Matthew: "What will we take from this time of pandemic?" Many answered this question, after which we had a time of prayer and further discussion.

Then three of us joined the service hosted by Okotoks United where we heard Matthew speak about the scripture passage 2 Kings 5 about Naaman being healed from a skin disease as he bathed in the Jordan River seven times. Upon his return to his own country he took with him two loads of dirt from Israel so that he could continue to encounter the Holy of Israel. This provided us an opportunity to ponder "What will we take with us as we come home to in-person worship on September 5<sup>th</sup>?" For we have all changed in some way and so I further ask each of us to ponder what we will take with us as we come to in-person worship once again.

Did you receive Mark's e-mail containing the protocols the board agreed upon for in-person worship? If not, please contact him or any board member for this list of ten protocols.

### Accompanist Required

Due to the retirement of our accompanist and with the anticipation of opening again in late summer or early fall, St. Andrew's United Church, DeWinton, is seeking two accompanist volunteers to share their musical gifts during our regular worship services.

Instruments in church: upright piano and pump organ.

(Playing the organ would be a bonus but not required)

Time: 8:45-10:15 each Sunday morning except during July.

Photos of the church can be found at <http://dewintonunitedchurch.ca/>

If you are interested in this volunteer ministry please mail your response to:

St. Andrew's United Church

Box 156, 304 Macleod Trail West

DeWinton, Alberta

ToL oXo

Reference: Accompanist Volunteer

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## Who You Gonna Call?

### Rev. Julia and Rev. Matthew

Starting a new position is always a challenge. Starting the same job with two people, it seems, is also a challenge. Splitting the same job between two people who will be doing essentially the same things poses some interesting dynamics not only for the ministers, but also for the three congregations, especially since each minister's workload is limited to a .8 full-time position or 32 hours per week. Using the precious time of both ministers for dealing with everything, we quickly realized, would be a waste of time and energy and not beneficial for anyone.

For example, who answers emails or questions related to particular ministries? Should both answer, or one, and who would that "one" be? Or, who gets to make the final decision regarding a particular area of ministry? Discussing everything until a decision is made would take a huge amount of energy and time.

Decisions have to be made in a timely and efficient way. How are we going to do ministry between equals if we both focus on the same things all the time and need to check in with each other before we can do anything? We needed something that would allow us to do our work more efficiently and would keep lines of communication clear.

After considerable back-and-forth dialogue, we settled on what we think is a workable solution.

We will split and coordinate complementary areas of ministry for a year and re-evaluate or switch after the year. We decided that there were six primary areas of ministry within the church and that we could each take three to coordinate. That is, each minister will be a **point person** for three areas of ministry, delegating and collaborating with each other and members of our congregations to fulfill each area. **We will each participate in all six but be responsible for coordinating only three.** This way, various ministries and individuals within our congregations will know who to contact for the relevant ministries.

To this end, the following delineates our respective areas of coordination:

**Matthew:   Worship**

**Spiritual Formation/Christian Education,**

**First Third (Children, Youth, Young Adults, Families)**

**Julia:       Congregational/Pastoral Care**

**Social Justice**

**Stewardship**

Knowing that these are our respective areas of ministry allows everyone to **direct their questions to the right person**, avoiding confusion and conflict. If one of us gets an email or inquiry about a ministry that the other is coordinating, we will simply forward that email to the other minister for follow-up.

It will take all of us a while to get used to this arrangement. We are hoping, however, that this will, in the end, give better clarity to our roles and help to serve each community better.

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## Children and Youth Ministry

Curious about Children and Youth Ministry this fall? Here's an outline of what's in store!

Instead of a traditional Sunday School program, Julia and I will be striving to make the Sunday morning service as **inclusive** as possible. We want our children to feel part of the family, and to *grow familiar with* the words and rhythms of worship. We are a God-family, after all!

To help with this, we have ordered engaging **Children's Bulletins** that kids can take with them into the sanctuary. We'll also be inviting children or youth to play a role within the service.

In addition, we'll be setting up the Nursery as a **"Quiet Corner"**: a supervised place where kids can go to work through the Children's Bulletin and some other quiet activities. The service will be "piped" into the space so that kids will still be able to take in the songs, stories and prayers.

Outside of Sunday mornings, **Youth Group** will be resuming on **Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 6-8PM**

with an event the *first Friday night of every month*. Anyone Grade 6 and up is welcome! I'll be hosting those events myself, and am thrilled for the opportunity to get to know our youth. We'll build relationships and have fun through pizza and movies, game nights—maybe even bowling!

We'll also be planning a Christmas pageant to share during a Sunday in Advent—stay tuned!

-Matthew





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## Ministers on Call

Starting on **Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>** there will be a **new on call phone number** for phoning or texting a minister for *urgent* pastoral emergencies. Julia and Matthew will share one phone for this purpose and will alternate carrying the phone. This means that when you call or text this number you may get either Matthew or Julia. Please use this number for urgent church-related calls. Otherwise, you may call them during regular office hours for any other church-related concerns.

The new **Minister's On Call number** is: **403-807-9432**

**\*Please note that neither Julia nor Matthew are available for appointments between 8-10 as this time will be dedicated to focused preparation.**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
OKUC	Matthew: 8-3 Julia: 8-11	Matthew: 8-3	Julia: 8-3 Matthew: 8-11	Julia: 8-3
UCV		Julia: 8-3		Matthew: 8-3

### Okotoks United Church Office - We're here for you!

To contact **Julia** email her at [okjulia@telus.net](mailto:okjulia@telus.net). To contact **Matthew** email him at [matthew.heesing@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.heesing@gmail.com). Both can be reached with number for the church office listed below during regular hours.

**The office continues to remain open at this time Monday to Friday 9:00 - 2:00. Please contact Diane at [okunited@telus.net](mailto:okunited@telus.net) or 403-938-4357 for church related news.**

**Congregational Care Team** invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at: [okcongregationalcare@telus.net](mailto:okcongregationalcare@telus.net)

Please refer to our website [www.okunited.ca](http://www.okunited.ca) for updated information and links to the newsletter.