

WE CAN CONNECT



VOL. 1, ISSUE 22

AUGUST 14, 2020

Visits with the Vicar on the Veranda

Julia is now available for **Visits with the Vicar on the Veranda** *Tuesday to Friday* from **1-3 p.m.** These will be physically distanced visits for anyone needing a little time to get out, catch up or just share what's on your heart and mind. They will be 45 minutes visits with time for prayer. All are welcome.

A cozy space on the veranda will be set up so you can come up the ramp of the veranda and sit in the chairs provided. Julia will come out the front door and join you. Please bring your own beverage and a warm jacket in the event of cooler weather.

Please call to make an appointment to visit - (403)938-4357 or (403)702-2249. Look forward to seeing you. Julia



Please Pray For:



- Food banks and their volunteers
- Postal workers
- For people who live by themselves
- People who have lost aging parents
- Waterton Park United Church

Please refer to our website www.okunited.ca for updated information, links to the newsletter and Daily FAITH videos.

SUMMER Daily FAITH (Faith Alive In The Home)

Many of you have been receiving links to the **Daily FAITH** Videos sent out by Julia and Matthew. Joanne and Shirle are putting links to the videos on the Okotoks and De Winton websites if you missed them. If you wish to see any of the videos, you can access them all at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/U1znsw/videos>

We are now on our **summer** Daily FAITH schedule where you will receive two videos per week (Sunday and Thursday), plus perhaps a few random "guest" videos. Matthew will be off for several weeks over the summer to complete his final year of studies and to take a little break.

If you would like a summer Daily FAITH booklet for your use throughout the week please pick one up at the Okotoks office or let us know and we will get one to you.

If you would like to comment or have a question about Daily FAITH, you can continue to use the dailyfaithvids@gmail.com address.

Thank you for your sponsorship of Daily FAITH videos. Your support has greatly helped each of the congregations. Sponsorship of the Daily FAITH ministry still continues through contacting the Okotoks office at okunited@telus.net or calling 403-938-4357.

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

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

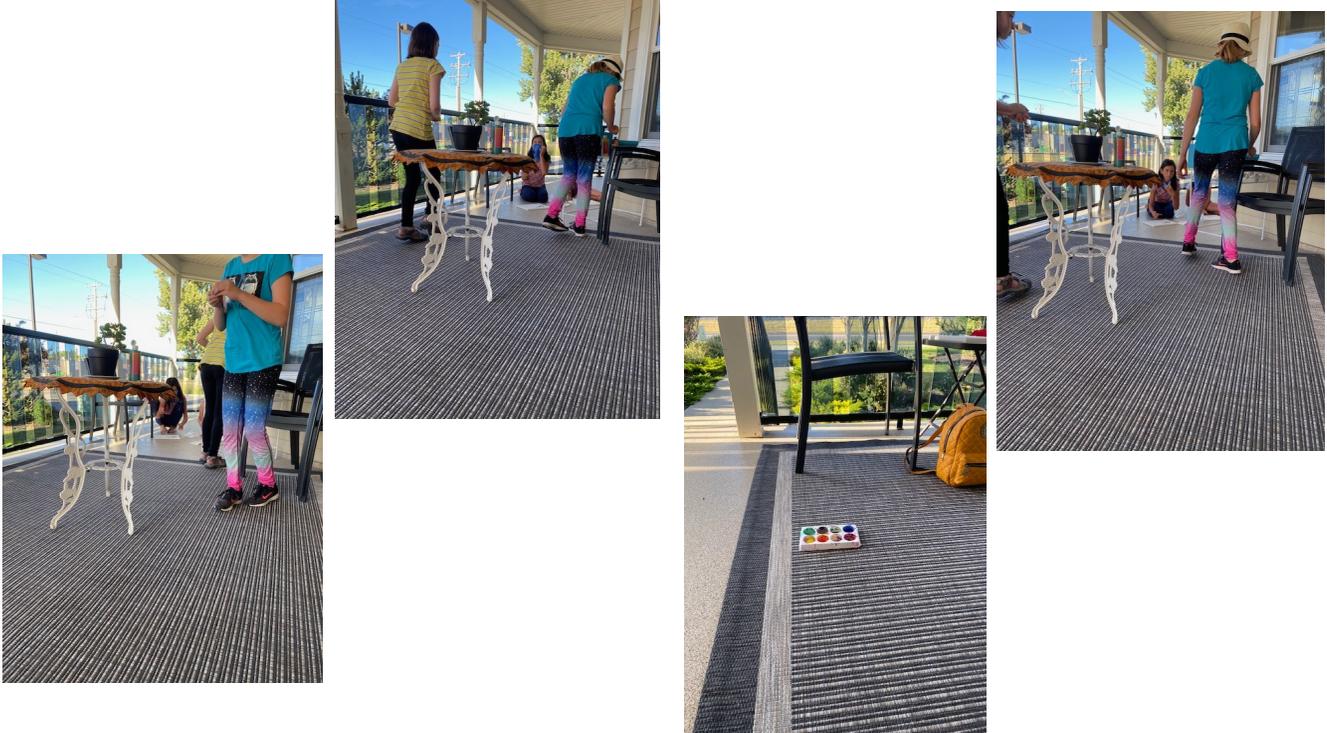
Please contact Julia at okjulia@telus.net or 403-702-2249 (cell) at any time.

Congregational Care Team invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at: okcongregationalcare@telus.net



Kid's Ministry Update:

The Youth Group spent one of our meetings painting on the veranda. The setting was beautiful and the art we created was even better! We spent time reminiscing what we missed most about church and some of our favourite memories prior to our meeting. The kids documented our conversation through the art we made. We cultivated some gratitude for what we have had. We can't wait to have those activities back again and start making memories. This art is going to be displayed in the boardroom upstairs.



Lysol Wipes:

Have you seen these Lysol wipes at Costco? This 6 pack of wipes are usually less than \$20 and are really hard to get. When Costco receives a shipment of them they get snapped up really quickly! We desperately need a supply of these so that when we open our doors again things can be properly sanitized. So, if you are shopping at Costco and happen to see a supply of these wipes please pick them up and we'll gladly reimburse you or if you like we can submit your receipt for them as a Gift in Kind tax receipt.





Staying Alert: Further information on Email Scam that Targets Churches

Several United Church people have lost hundreds of dollars due to an email scam that is circulating in United Church communities over the last several months.

The emails look as though they are from United Church congregational ministers or Regional Council staff, but they are fake messages carrying a simple, yet sophisticated scam. The messages impersonate the minister, sometimes doing enough research to mimic their personality or writing style.

The content of the scam messages varies, but always have a personal ask for help. When the recipient responds, they are asked to purchase gift cards, take photos of those cards, and send the images back to the impersonator. This scam preys on our desire to be in ministry together, helping out where we can. One victim reported that 'they felt honoured to be asked to help.'

Please know that Chinook Winds leaders (ministers, regional staff etc) will not email you to ask for help (financial, emotional, etc), and will not ask you to keep correspondence a secret or ask you not to contact them by phone.

If you get an email that looks like it has come from someone you know And trust, but suspect it is spam, please follow these steps:

- don't click on any links in the email
- don't open any attachments attached to the email
- don't use the Reply feature to respond to the email

If you feel and think that the email may be a legitimate message you can:

- hover your cursor over the From name to reveal the email address that the sender has used. If the details are different from the minister or church staff person's usual email address, it is not legitimate and follow the three steps above
- call the minister or staff person who is supposedly sending the email, or
- compose a NEW email (not Reply to) to the staff person or leader, using their trusted email address, to gain clarity and information about the email you received.

The scammers frequently use Gmail addresses and you can report the email address to Google with this link: <https://support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse?hl=en>

How are you spending your time?

Would you like to send in photos of how they are spending their time during COVID-19 gardening, hiking, sewing, reading? It would be nice to "see" people and what they're doing. Or we could send a photographer around and take pics of them waving from their window or balcony. If you need someone to take your picture we have a volunteer who will help you out. Email your photos to okunited@telus.net so they can be added to the newsletter.



Kid's Ministry Zoom Program Days and Times:

Sunday School, Sundays 11:00 am
Activities, stories, check-in and prayer

Youth Group, Fridays 7:00 pm
Games, check-in and discussions

For Zoom meeting numbers and passwords for these events, please email Candice at cndcsutton@gmail.com

On-line Worship Services

If you would be interested in viewing live worship services, please go to this link:

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/worship-online-during-covid-19>



ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH HAPPENINGS BIRTHDAY DRIVE-BY AUGUST 7th

We had another birthday drive-by on August 7th. This drive-by was a little different for a couple of reasons. The first reason is that the person whose birthday we celebrated lives in the town of Okotoks, whereas the other drive-bys have been in the County of Foothills. So the organizer of the drive-bys phoned and we were given permission to meet in the east parking lot of Okotoks United Church. The organizer also phoned the Town office and was told that we were to honk our horns for the birthday celebrant for the town also.



Ten vehicles set off from OUC at 7 p.m. with the writer of this epistle leading the way. I led the way so that we only had to content with two traffic lights and one stop. We all arrived in the area of the birthday celebrant's home and I took the first turn in the subdivision instead of the second – and I knew once I had turned that I had turned too soon. Fortunately someone who also knows the way to the birthday celebrant's home was about four vehicles behind me and so took the rest of the people to the correct turn. Myself and the vehicles who had followed me turned around and caught up with the rest of the well-wishers. As we all drove past the birthday celebrant's home we honked our horns and waved and shouted "Happy Birthday" from our vehicle's open windows. The birthday celebrant was in the driveway of their home waving and greeting us by name.

Another time of acknowledging a special occasion in our community of faith had concluded. (And I will not offer to lead the way for any more birthday drive-bys!)

Did you know that St. Andrew's United Church has their own web-site? So, for example, if you want to see the write-up and pictures for the Bell-ringing ceremony that took place at St. Andrew's United following the Nova Scotia massacre, please go to dewintonunitedchurch.ca

A Place to Visit

Sometimes it is difficult to find a place to meet and visit with people where you can remain physically distanced and access a washroom if need be. The **veranda** of the church is a perfect place to do this. While Julia is taking appointments from Tuesday – Friday in the afternoons, the veranda is available for visits Monday all day and every weekday morning (and weekends if you don't need a washroom).

The veranda can host 3 safely distanced or four if two people are together. If you need to use the washroom you would enter through the office door and access the designated washroom, sanitizing all touch points before exiting. Wipes will be provided. Also, chairs would need to be wiped down after the visit. Consider booking a time with the office (**403-938-4357**) to enjoy a visit with some friends.



What: Walking Prayer Initiative

When: Each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

Where: OUC East Parking Lot

Matthew Heising talked about the spiritual practice of Walking Prayer during the Daily

FAITH Video on April 29th. He explained that Walking Prayer is a way of "Deepening our awareness of the Holy" and "Refreshes our sense of God." The OUC Board has approved this Walking Prayer Initiative. We will meet with masks on and keep our 2 metres distance while walking and praying along our beautifully treed riverside walkway. We will walk for about 30 minutes each Wednesday, leaving the Church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in joining us, please just come along. If you would like more information, email carol.a.price@shaw.ca or call 403-982-4442. To learn more about Walking Prayer, watch Matthew's video of April 29th on our website, under the Sermons Tab. Thanks! Hope to see you!