

# WE CAN CONNECT



VOL. 1, ISSUE 26

SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

## Sunday Gathering on "Zoom"

I was not prepared last Sunday for how emotional I'd be seeing everyone, and how much lighter my heart was after. To see both the De Winton and Okotoks folks on Sunday morning did me a world of good. I hope that those who joined us had the same experience. I heard from a few of you following the gathering about how much it meant to you.

Since it was our first time to meet, there were the usual glitches, but all-in-all it was a great gathering of God's beloved community. We'll continue to work at it.

For the next little while, we will continue to meet together on Sunday's via Zoom. **Please note the times:** De Winton will meet from 9:30 – 10:15 Okotoks will meet from 10:30 – 11:15.

An invitation to the Okotoks meeting will be sent out every Thursday from the office. The link to the meeting will be in the invitation. Please click on the link to join us. These meetings will be an opportunity to connect and pray. If you have the technology but aren't confident about how to get on and use Zoom, please contact the office and we will get you some help. Hope to see you this Sunday.



## Please Pray For:

- Parents and their children who have returned to school
- Teachers who have returned to school
- Crystal whose son Brayden has serious health concerns
- Brooks United Church

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

## Visits with the Vicar on the Veranda

Julia is still 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

### Also if you need 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

## 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](mailto:cndcsutton@gmail.com)



### City-Wide Pride Service 2020

Last Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Affirming Network of Calgary and Affirming Connections hosted a virtual Citywide Pride Service! Okotoks United Was included in that service as a Community of Faith who is in the Affirming Process.

If you would like to see that service, please click on this **Youtube** link:

[wach?v=2TF0USBIQTk&ab\\_channel=AffirmingConnections](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TF0USBIQTk&ab_channel=AffirmingConnections)

If you are interested, a link to showcase all of the ministries involved in this event is here:

**MINISTRY LINK:** <https://affirmingconnections.com/ministrymap>

This Fall, we will continue to look for ways to continue with this vital ministry creatively.

### Coddiwomple and Collywobbles - submitted by Julia Kimmett

A few years ago in a sermon, I introduced the word “coddiwomple.” To coddiwomple is to “travel in a purposeful manner toward a vague destination.” Coddiwomple popped into my head in the middle of the night this week as I pondered where we are right now in our global story. We are working purposefully to find solutions for situations that threaten lives and our future, yet we do not have a sense of where we’re going or how things will get resolved.

There are so many unknowns in life that we are busy trying to eliminate so we can settle into a sense of safety and security. Sometimes the insecurity and uncertainty give us a case of the “collywobbles”, a word I just encountered this week. Collywobbles is a state of intense anxiety or nervousness, especially with stomach queasiness. Who hasn’t experienced the collywobbles at some point?

For some of us, coddiwompling gives us the collywobbles. We want to know where we’re going.

Jesus never promised that life wouldn’t be hard or that we would have all the answers. God has not laid out for us every detail of our lives or exactly what we should do. Part of the joy of life is not having everything spelled out for us. To be human is to explore, discover, make mistakes and learn. Life is about coddiwompling. Collywobbling however, is optional.

When we learn to lean on Christ and not on our own understanding, we can trust that we do not need to know where we’re going, just that it’s in God’s hands. Jesus reminds us to turn our burdens over to him and he will give us rest. Certainly we are to work toward restoration, reconciliation and healing. That is our purpose. The destination however, we will leave to God.

### ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn



During last Sunday’s Zoom gathering we heard a passage from scripture. Then Julia gave a brief reflection on this scripture, and led us in prayer. After this a discussion was held in which many participated. When I phoned Julia on Tuesday afternoon, I told her that Sunday’s Zoom time felt like church for me (and hopefully for others who were able to join us) as we saw one another, heard scripture, reflected, prayed, and discussed.



This coming Sunday, if you are able, please join us at 9:30 as we check-in with one another and Julia once again leads us in a time of reflecting on scripture, prayer, and discussion.

### Okotoks United Church - Re-opening Survey:

Thank you to those of you who have completed the survey regarding our re-opening. Please consider filling out the on-line survey as we need this information for planning our re-opening. Thanks.



## Genesis Summit - October 1-2, 2020 Live-Streamed

Julia is planning on attending this seminar.

*The Genesis Summit* is designed for ministry leaders, pastors, and everyone who desires to learn how genuine spiritual formation can take place in their churches and ministries.

### **AROUND THE WORLD PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING!**

#### WHAT ARE WE CALLED TO DO?

Will you step up and participate in the 2020Genesis Summit?

For your own transformation ...For those you are called to serve?

Spirituality and suffering is 2020's Genesis Summit focus. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is the awakening to our fragility and vulnerability in life. Such a reality opens up an opportunity for us to deepen our awareness of God's presence and sustaining support in the difficulties and challenges of life. Suffering enters our experience uninvited and disrupts our fragile equilibrium.

For more information please go to: [www.genesis-summit.ca](http://www.genesis-summit.ca).

Dates: Thursday, October 1 – Friday, October 2, 2020

Live-Streamed

Cost: \$125

Special rates for groups of 3 or more also available contact [info@renovarecanada.ca](mailto:info@renovarecanada.ca)

### **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](mailto:okunited@telus.net) or 403-938-4357 for church related news.**

Please contact Julia at [okjulia@telus.net](mailto: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](mailto:okcongregationalcare@telus.net)

### **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>