

WE CAN CONNECT



VOL. 2, ISSUE 7

FEBRUARY 19, 2021



Please Pray For:

- Burdette-Bow Island United Church

What Are You Doing for Lent?

On weekdays throughout Lent (February 17th – April 3rd), you are invited to come and sit in the chapel for a time of devotion, prayer and reflection.* There will be some Lenten devotionals and a public journal there for you to write in if you wish (remember, it's public so anyone can read it).



The office is open from 9:00 – 2:00 on weekdays so feel free to drop in anytime for some quiet time. By the way, just in case you're worried, the tattoos are temporary. They'll eventually wear off. The spiritual benefits won't. *Please follow proper health protocols.

Guidelines for "Have Your Say"

We are inviting members of the congregation to write articles/opinion pieces for our weekly newsletter under the byline "Have Your Say." The following guidelines will determine the scope of the writing. Please submit your piece to Diane at okunited@telus.net.



1. The article/piece must cover something that is currently being discussed in the local news (e.g. COVID, coal mining on the eastern slopes, indigenous affairs, current politics, random acts of kindness, vaccines, good news stories, environment).
2. The article/piece must be respectful and thoughtful, recognizing that others have differing opinions.
3. The editorial team of Diane, Carol Price and Rev. Julia have final editorial responsibilities for the piece.
4. The maximum length of the article is to be no more than 400 words.



Okotoks United Church Annual General Meeting February 21, 2021

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, the United Church of Canada's General Council has made the following amendments, in effect until June 30, 2021:

In short, Governing Boards may

- make urgent pastoral relations decisions,
- suspend the requirement to hold an Annual General Meeting,
- and make a decision on their annual draft budget.

Okotoks United Church, however, will be holding an Annual General Meeting on Feb. 21 at 11:15 via Zoom immediately following the morning Worship Service. There will be no in-person option to attend. We realize that this will be more difficult but we encourage you to attend by computer or by phone because we need your input and approval on a few important matters that will affect our church for the coming year. Please refer to the Annual Report for details.

Voting will be by show-of-hands or, if you are on the phone, the Chair will poll you directly. This may take a little extra time but we think it is doable. Everyone will be muted except the speaker. If you wish to speak to a motion you will be asked to raise your hand and unmute your microphone when acknowledged by the Chair.

We think that the simplest way to monitor votes will be to ask for those opposed and those who wish to abstain. All others will be assumed to be in favour.

An important item of New Business will be the proposed partnership between the Okotoks/DeWinton Pastoral Charge and the Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge. Please come prepared to vote on this issue.

Please call Karen Pryznyk if you have any questions or concerns.

**Okotoks United Church
Annual General Meeting
Will be held on Zoom only
Feb. 21 from 11:15 to 12:15**

It will immediately follow the morning Worship Service



A Partnership Proposal between Okotoks/De Winton Pastoral Charge and the Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge (Turner Valley)



As you are aware, we have had an informal relationship with the United Church in Turner Valley for many years – supporting each other's events and bible studies and getting to know each other better because of that. It was a natural progression, then, for the Boards of the three churches to get together several times, starting in the Fall of 2019, to continue the conversation about ways we could work together for the benefit of all three churches.

Rev. Julia Kimmett has been Diamond Valley Student Minister Matthew Heesing's Educational Supervisor for two years and, in the past, has been the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Diamond Valley. (Matthew will be ordained in 2021) They have exchanged pulpits on some Sundays and, starting in March 2020 they began to prepare and record the Daily FAITH videos, further introducing Matthew to the Okotoks and De Winton Communities of Faith.

In February 2020 the Boards of all three Communities of Faith were presented with a proposal by Rev. Julia and Matthew to formalize a more collaborative ministry and share two ministries between the three churches.

What would that look like?

- Julia and Matthew would each work a .8 position giving them the work-life balance they desire.
- Each pastoral charge would call their current minister and each church's budget would remain independent.
- Julia and Matthew would equally share the preaching and congregational care between all congregations. Okotoks would take on a .9 FTE position share, De Winton, .2 FTE and Turner Valley .5 FTE for a total of 1.6 FTE positions shared between the three churches. Currently Okotoks and De Winton share a 1.0 FTE with approximately .2 being supported by the De Winton contribution. Under the new arrangement the two churches in our charge will therefore share a 1.1 FTE (.2 + .9) giving us a slight increase in services and a resulting slight increase in our budget – approximately \$3000 per year. The exact amount will be determined after the calls are negotiated by the two ministers and their respective Pastoral Charge.
- Every church would have a Sunday Service just as they do now and the offices would be staffed as they are now with some days covered by Julia and some by Matthew. (Julia and Matthew would split their worship leadership equally between Okotoks/De Winton and Turner Valley)
- The partnership would begin in August 2021 if approved by the respective Communities of Faith.

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A Partnership Proposal between Okotoks/De Winton Pastoral Charge and the Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge (Turner Valley) continued

What are the benefits?

- Both ministers can remain in the communities they love and wish to serve in. Both pastoral charges continue ministry with a faith leader they are familiar with and trust.
- Because each minister would have to prepare only two sermons a month, Julia and Matthew expect this would improve the quality of their preaching.
- Less time on sermon preparation leaves more time for other ministries such as teaching, congregational care and other programs.
- The churches would benefit from the varied gifts of two ministers.
- A natural collaboration would develop between the three churches leading to a larger impact in our area.
- We would be an example to other churches as an innovative way to combine strengths and talents and efficiently share resources and coordinate efforts.
- Julia and Matthew will benefit from having a colleague in a team-ministry with all the support, collaboration and creativity that such collegiality brings.

What is next?

- All three Boards have approved this arrangement in principle.
- A Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared by the Boards to formalize the agreement.
- The 2021 budgets of each church being presented at their respective AGMs will reflect the financial impact of this arrangement.
- A motion to approve the collaborative ministry will be presented at the AGM.
- Formal Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding by Chinook Winds Region.
- Terms of the call for each minister to be finalized.

Your part: Please...

- Contact either Rev. Julia or Karen Pryznyk if you have any questions or comments.
- Take the time to review the Budget for 2021 when it is released.
- **Be prepared to attend the 2021 AGM planned for February 21 at 11:15 on Zoom and vote on this matter.**

Nominees for the position of Trustee

The following people have allowed their names to stand for the position of Trustee for Okotoks United Church: **Michael Scappaticci and Desiree Hart**

Their nominations will be brought to a vote at the Annual General Meeting to be held Feb 21 at 11:15 a.m. Nominations for these and other positions may also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

GOD'S "PHONE" NUMBER

Hello God, I called tonight
To talk a little while
I need a friend who'll listen
To my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it
Through a day just on my own...
I need your love to guide me
So I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep
My family safe and sound.
Come and fill their lives with confidence
For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face
Each hour throughout the day,
And not to worry over things
I can't change in any way.

I thank you God for being home
And listening to my call,
For giving me such good advice
When I stumble and fall.. !!!!!

Your number, God, is the only one
That answers every time.
I never get a bury signal,
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening
To my troubles and my sorrow.
Good night, God, I love You, too,
And I'll call again tomorrow!

P.S. Please bless all my friends and family too.





NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn



The little church with a big heart

On February 14th at 9 a.m. (our regular time if we could physically meet in person) 24 people joined via Zoom for a brief devotion and prayer led by Rev. Julia followed by the Annual General Meeting for St. Andrew's United. With opening remarks from the Governing Board Chair and the election of a Community of Faith meeting chair and secretary, we began the meeting with prayer from Julia. During the meeting the 2021 budget was passed. Also agreed upon was the Memorandum of Understanding between Okotoks/DeWinton Pastoral Charge and the Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge (Turner Valley). Two more members were elected to the Governing Board. The Board of Trustees remains the same. The Community of Faith representative to the pastoral charge Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee also remains the same, as does St. Andrew's lay representative to Chinook Winds Region. It was also agreed that the present chair of the Governing Board remain for the coming year to maintain stability and continuity during the pandemic.

It was good to see so many people join together for this important gathering of our Community of Faith – "the little church with the big heart."

Greetings from the 2021 Images Planning Committee!

This is your invitation to the 31st Annual Images of Spirituality Gathering. Come and join with other women to celebrate God's great gift of a creative spirit within each of us. This year, we celebrate our 31st gathering Saturday April 10, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We will join online through Zoom and spend the day with one another virtually.



Theme: GROUNDED IN GOD: an opportunity to explore the longing of our heart/soul and discover how being *Grounded in God* meets our deepest needs.

Session Leader: Rev. Julia Kimmett of United Church

The day will include sessions with Julia, small group discussion, a lunch break, and some craft time together as well as singing, communion, and fellowship.

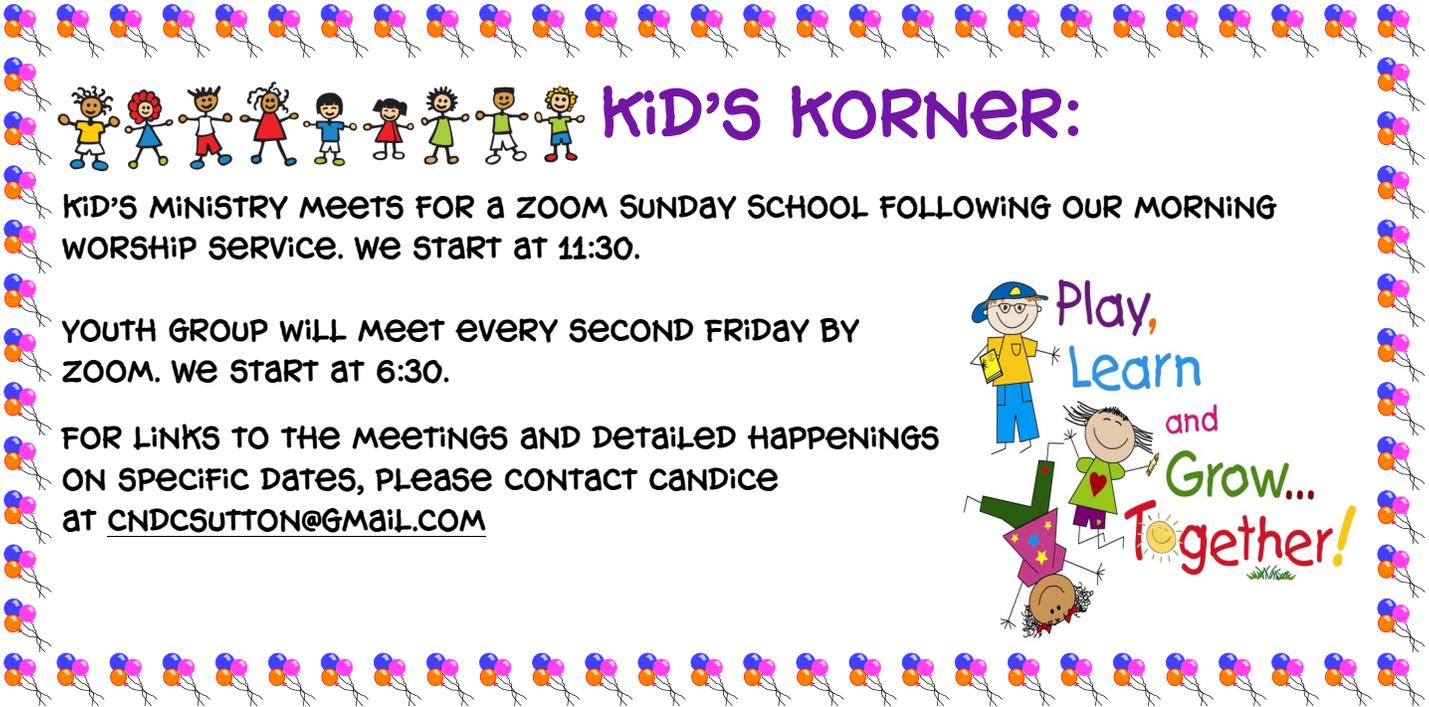
To learn more about us and to register, please visit <http://www.imagesofspirituality.ca/>

Registration Fee: \$25.00 by March 31, 2021

Hope you can join us. 2021 Images of Spirituality Planning Committee:

Sandra (chair), Connie, Joanne, Nancy, Ruth, and Maureen





 **KID'S KORNER:**

KID'S MINISTRY MEETS FOR A ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOLLOWING OUR MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE. WE START AT 11:30.

YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET EVERY SECOND FRIDAY BY ZOOM. WE START AT 6:30.

FOR LINKS TO THE MEETINGS AND DETAILED HAPPENINGS ON SPECIFIC DATES, PLEASE CONTACT CANDICE AT CNDCSUTTON@GMAIL.COM

 **Play, Learn and Grow... Together!**

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.

To contact **Julia** email her at okjulia@telus.net or phone her at **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

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