

# WE CAN CONNECT



VOL. 2, ISSUE 11

MARCH 19, 2021



## Please Pray For:

- Diamond Valley United Church
- Ellen Kneiss who is recovering from surgery

## What Are You Doing for Lent?

On weekdays throughout Lent (February 17<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>), 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. You can even get a tattoo! 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.

## Seder Dinner - April 1, 2021



On Thursday April 1 we will be celebrating Maundy Thursday with a Seder Dinner.

A Seder meal is a Jewish tradition that was set out in the book of Exodus as a means of remembering the original Passover when the Hebrews were finally freed from the clutches of Pharaoh.

A Christian Seder takes the same basic preparation and elements of this Jewish meal and ritual, modifying some parts. It is celebrated on

Holy Thursday as the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and his disciples was almost certainly a Seder meal. This year we will gather in our own homes meeting via Zoom, reciting the story of Israel's redemption from bondage in Egypt.

If you would like to be part of this celebration at 5:30 on April 1 please email Diane at [okunited@telus.net](mailto:okunited@telus.net) or phone 403-938-4357 to sign up. When you register we will email you instructions and a script or you can pick up a copy at the church.

## Thanks!

P.I.E. Day is celebrated each year in the United Church on March 14th to support the LGBTQ2S+ community in a Public, Intentional and Explicit way. This year we recruited some fabulous pie bakers and some adventurous customers for a surprise pie sale and raised \$300.00. Thanks everyone! The money will go to the Affirming Ministry Fund as we continue to explore becoming an Affirming Church.





## Good Friday – April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

In the Christian tradition, Easter makes no sense without Good Friday. We need to remember and feel the pain of rejection, betrayal, fear and death before we can enter into the experience of forgiveness, healing and new life. Easter reminds us that we can come through difficult times and find hope and new ways of living.

This last year for some has perhaps felt a lot like Good Friday. Yet, in order to move through it, we must reflect on it, looking for meaning and even healing in the pain and suffering. This year there will not be a Good Friday service. Instead, you are invited to come to the church for a time of reading, reflection and prayer. You will be offered a booklet of scripture and readings with space for journaling if you wish. There will also be an opportunity for you to lay your particular pain and struggles at the cross.

**The church building will be open from 10:00 – 12:30 on Good Friday for you to come and sit in the sanctuary for a time of reflection.** Please enter via the east foyer doors and follow all sanitizing, masking and distancing protocols. There will be chairs set up around the sanctuary and we are confident that as people come and go there will be enough room for all who want to participate.

## Easter Sunrise Service – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021





## **NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**

**Written by P. Marie Wedderburn**



Where were you a year ago? Perhaps you were on vacation outside of Canada. Perhaps you were wondering what the declaration of the pandemic would mean for you here in Alberta. Perhaps you were looking forward to a special event in your life. As we have now passed the one year anniversary of the pandemic we know many things that we did not know a year ago. And one of the things we know is that we can still gather together via Zoom and see one another's faces (without masks on).

So at Sunday's "power social" gathering we saw nineteen people's faces. And one of the surprises was seeing a couple who had previously been a vital part of our community of faith who had moved to Nova Scotia a couple of years ago. So now we not only see those who live in the area of St. Andrew's United Church, but also those who have moved to other places like Quebec and Nova Scotia. Who knew we could have connected thus a year ago?

The question Julia asked us to answer for our check-in time was "What is your go to comfort food or pleasure food?" We heard many answers to this question. My question to this is, "Has your answer changed during the time of the pandemic?"

## **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 Kimmitt 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

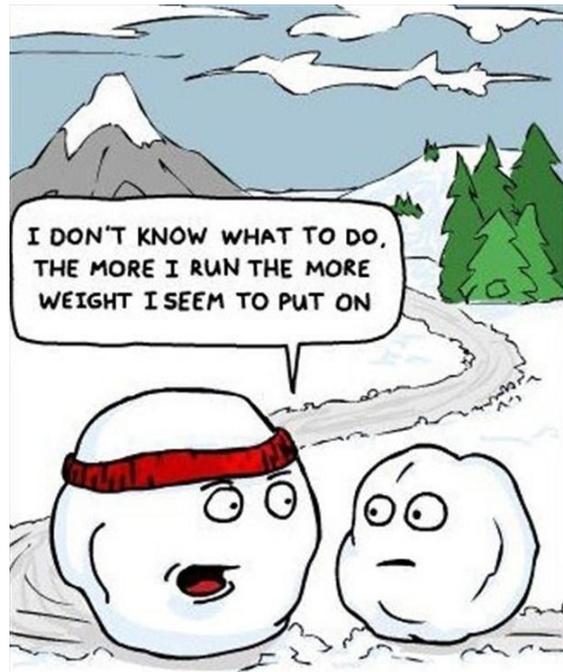


## Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – Holy Humour Sunday

The Sunday after Easter has sometimes been celebrated as “Holy Humour” Sunday.

This year, on April 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be joining together to share funny stories and clean jokes.

So start collecting. We can all use a bit of laughter in our lives.



Funny Pictures on [www.LeFunny.net](http://www.LeFunny.net)

Finally found out why the fish weren't biting..



# Zoom Meeting

Audio only      With video

Sunshine & CHALK



## KID'S KORNER:

**KID'S AND YOUTH GROUPS ARE TAKING A BREAK STARTING THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 6 AND GOING UNTIL APRIL 10. WE WILL RESUME SUNDAY SCHOOL ON APRIL 11.**

**DURING THIS TIME, THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS OF YOUTH GROUP OR SUNDAY SCHOOL. WE WILL STILL COMPLETE THE SPECIAL EASTER PROJECTS THOUGH!**



**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.

To contact Julia email her at [okjulia@telus.net](mailto: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](mailto:okcongregationalcare@telus.net)

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