

WE CAN CONNECT



VOL. 2, ISSUE 13

APRIL 1, 2021



Please Pray For:

- Red Deer Lake United Church
- Ellen Kneiss who is recovering from surgery



Good Friday

**10:00 – 12:30 Drop-in
Okotoks United Church Sanctuary**

**Reflect on Crucifixion of Jesus
and lay your cross at the Cross**

***Please enter via the east foyer doors and
follow all COVID precautions
(mask and distancing)**

Easter Services

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Sunrise Service:

Recorded by Julia and Matthew at the Big Rock!

Watch early Sunday morning on YouTube at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/TFLqlu08g-8>

Easter Communion Service

Sunday, April 4, 2021 10:30 a.m.

Watch live on Zoom

(link will be sent on Thursday)



Please have communion elements available at home.



VOL. 2, ISSUE 13

APRIL 1, 2021

Alberta Government's Day of Prayer - April 6th, 2021.

The Government of Alberta will declare a “Day of Multi-Faith Prayer and Reflection” on April 6, 2021. This day will acknowledge the importance of faith and faith-based communities for Albertans, especially in responding to the difficulties the COVID-19 pandemic has presented. In these challenging times, connection to faith and community has played an integral role in cultivating hope and building strong, connected communities. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been uplifting to see how faith-based organizations continue to play an essential role in maintaining social connection, supporting mental health, and building resiliency among their communities. This is vital work, and we are grateful to you for doing it.

On April 6, we encourage faith leaders and community members to share their own reflections and messages of hope on social media, using the hashtags #shareyourprayerAB and #shareyourreflectionAB. Sharing our reflections will provide a valuable opportunity for Albertans to leverage the teachings within these spiritual practices to promote compassionate reflection, acts of kindness, and intercultural understanding among us all as we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic together, honouring lives lost and inspiring hope going forward.

Sincerely,
Leela Sharon Aheer
Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women

POSITION OPEN ON THE CHINOOK WINDS REGION COMMUNITY OF FAITH STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

The group meets, typically via Zoom, on a monthly basis. The workload is intentionally kept focused and reasonably light. The biggest task is the annual Mission Grant funding proposal process each Fall.

The following is a description of the working group from the Chinook Winds Website. The Regional Council is responsible for encouraging and engaging in:

- Joining our collective hearts, voices, and resources to witness the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world;
- Local, regional, national, and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical, and interfaith) for ministry, mission, and justice work;
- Ministry with children, youth, and young adults
- Honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry;
- Living in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.
- Working Group and Community of Faith Tools, Processes, and Resources have been designed that progress the Purpose.

Please contact Karen Pryznyk if you are interested in this volunteer position.



Light a Flame for a Guaranteed Livable Income



Moderator Richard Bott invites you to join the call for a Guaranteed Livable Income and contact our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. April 8 is a chance to make this call visible; plan to light a candle and post publicly on social media (#UCCCanlivableincome) in solidarity with small outdoor vigils being held on Parliament Hill, at Minister Chrystia Freeland's constituency office, and at other MP constituency offices. Due to COVID-19, the vigils are restricted to locally designated individuals, and plans will be adjusted if needed. If you'd like to organize one, contact justice@united-church.ca. Take a look at the [GLI webpage](#) for more information and worship resources, and read this [new blog post](#). And [sign up](#) to receive updates—the Cross Canada GLI network of United Church leaders is eager to connect with you!

Please check out Moderator Richard Bott's message is in the video, just click on the picture above.

An invitation to join St. Thomas, Calgary, & others to support Guaranteed Liveable Income

By Karen Kavanagh, Regional Representative

I am thrilled to inform you about Guaranteed Liveable Income (AKA Basic Income or Universal Basic Income etc.). This is something people at St. Thomas have been involved with for many years. The support for Guaranteed Liveable Income (GLI) has grown exponentially. There has been a group of 50 Senators, the Moderator of the United Church, the Anglican Church, a group of Business People and thousands of citizens that have written letters of support to the Liberal Government. The pandemic and the creation of CERB has shown us how the government can support people who need it.



The United Church of Canada GLI group is planning a vigil on Thursday, April 8th at 12:30 in front of as many MP's offices as possible. The date was chosen as it is the day before both the Liberal and NDP National Conventions.

We are also asking anyone who thinks that GLI is important for Canada to write and ask their MP, Finance Minister, and Prime Minister to support the program. If you would like help with a template to send out to people in the CWR, please ask, as we have many different letters and information about how to easily get addresses for all of these people. Our ministers have also done 3 Sunday service messages about Basic Income and they are on YouTube.



VOL. 2, ISSUE 13

APRIL 1, 2021



NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH ***Written by P. Marie Wedderburn***



The little church with a big heart

In the month of March five people from our community of faith celebrate birthdays. So on Friday (the 26th) the occupants of sixteen vehicles gathered at the church for a Park and Honk to celebrate with four birthday celebrants. (The fifth birthday was celebrated earlier in the month.) As the four birthday celebrants stood at the steps the church bell was rung, vehicle horns were honked. The honking was followed by the vehicles going around the church extending birthday greetings from our vehicle' windows.

Then on Sunday twenty-two people joined our weekly gathering via Zoom to check-in with each other. Once again this week Julia asked questions for us to answer during this time which required some pondering and reflecting. For indeed how do we answer the questions "Why do we not talk more about our faith?" "What does it mean to be a follower/disciple of Christ?" and "How do you practice your faith?" for as she reiterated our faith is personal but not private. As these questions were answered, we heard from most of the twenty-two gathered together but not everyone because the time ran out! As we continue to ponder these questions how indeed do we answer them?

Please remember there is no gathering for St. Andrew's United on Easter Sunday. Let us join together with Okotoks for the service at 10:30 where communion will be served so have the elements ready to partake as we celebrate the resurrection.

And then from 1-3 remember the gift bag giveaway at the church once again with social distancing being observed.

Spring Jacket Racket - Help Needed:

We have a number of bags of spring jackets that need washing. If you would like to help out by taking a bag home, washing and drying the contents and returning it please stop by and pick one up from the Nursery. When you bring the bag back it will be tagged with a "Cleaned" sticker. Thanks for your help with this!

Diane





Sunday, April 11th – Holy Humour Sunday

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

This year, on April 11th, 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.



KID'S KORNER:

KID'S AND YOUTH GROUPS ARE TAKING A BREAK FROM 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.

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