

WE CAN CONNECT



Please Pray For:



- Didsbury-Knox United Church
- Martha Webster who is recovering from surgery
- Donna Waller (Susan Hearn's mom) who is awaiting heart surgery
- Young people who are looking for summer employment

Living in Limbo

We have all had that experience of living being between where we've been and where we're going. It happens when something significant happens or a period of our lives is over and we are looking toward a future that is not yet certain. It might be triggered by a particular event or it is part of the transition from one stage of life into another.

We are living in limbo now. What was once normal is no longer. We will never return to what things were like before the pandemic. Our world has changed. Our lives have changed. Our future will be different, but we don't yet know what it will look like.

Limbo is defined as "an uncertain period of awaiting a decision or resolution; an intermediate state or condition."

Jesus' first disciples experienced this state of limbo as they encountered the risen Christ after his resurrection and awaited what was to come next. They had to wait to see what would emerge in this new, uncharted reality that had opened up to them.

Over the next four weeks we will explore the theme "Living in Limbo." How can we live with grace and courage and what can we learn through this time?

Please join us on Zoom Sundays to explore this theme and carry on the conversation.

OUC Has A New Affordable Housing Fund

Good news! Consistent with our church's ongoing commitment to affordable housing in Okotoks our Board has established a stand alone Affordable Housing Fund.

This Fund can be used to provide incentives to members, adherents, and friends of OUC to create affordable secondary suites and studio apartments on their property. It can be used to incentivize non-profit developers to construct purpose-built affordable rental apartments in Okotoks. The Fund can be used in partnership with other churches in our area to create critically needed affordable housing opportunities for our neighbours here in Okotoks.

Our Affordable Housing Fund has just been established so our dreams for it may be a ways off. It needs the support of our members, adherents, and friends. Whether you can contribute a little or a lot, every contribution to the Fund is welcome. This designated Fund deserves our support. Affordable housing is a critical issue for our community. We have helped and we want to help some more. Donations can be made to Okotoks United Church, with a designation that it's for The Affordable Housing Fund.



Getting to Know Our (New) Ministers! (Pt. IV)

As we prepare for the start of our ministry partnership, we thought it would be fun to spend some time *Getting to Know Your Ministers!* For the next few months, Rev. Julia and Matthew will independently respond to a series of questions. In fact, what would **YOU** like to know about Matthew and Julia? Email the office your questions, and they'll do their best to answer them!

Julia:

What's your favourite form of "play"? Building things. I have a toolbox at work and at home plus a whole lotta power tools. I love putting things together or doing repairs. Makes me so happy.

Which season is your favourite? Summer. Love the heat and the light and being outside puttering.

What podcast do you listen to the most? Brené Brown's "Dare to Lead" podcast. She is an awesome interviewer, teacher and "deep diver" into things that are important.

Early bird or night owl? Total early bird. The earlier the better. When I am rested, I like to be up at 5 a.m.

Which "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal 5:22) would people say is most evident in you? Patience (but what do I know). And it's not always that evident.

What's one thing you appreciate about the Foothills area? Its incredible beauty. Every day it is different, unique and stunning. I love my drive from Okotoks to Black Diamond.

Matthew:

What's your favourite form of "play"? Playing tabletop board games with my spouse. I also enjoy playing violin and mandolin, and dabbling in other instruments too.

Which season is your favourite? Winter: nothing is as invigorating to me as a chilly morning! (Plus, my favourite item of clothing is a sweater!)

What podcast do you listen to the most? Brene Brown's *Unlocking Us* and *Dare to Lead*; *The Minimalists*; and *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*.

Early bird or night owl? Early bird—the more I can accomplish before 10AM, the better I feel.

Which "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal 5:22) would people say is most evident in you? Being pretty self-disciplined and self-directed, my first guess would be "self-control." I'll keep doing my best to embody the rest!

What's one thing you appreciate about the Foothills area? I've grown to more deeply appreciate our proximity to such incredible wilderness. (Now, to actually make more time to get out and enjoy it!).



NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn




Once again on Sunday morning we gathered virtually to welcome each other as twenty-six people signed in on Zoom. For our check-in question this week, Julia asked "What do you know for certain?" As we answered this question, we heard many different responses. Then Julia offered a couple of statements that I for one found worth pondering on further. For she said that 'Uncertainty causes growth and the opposite of certainty is faith.' So this causes me to wonder once again what I do know for certain. So how about you? What do you know for certain?


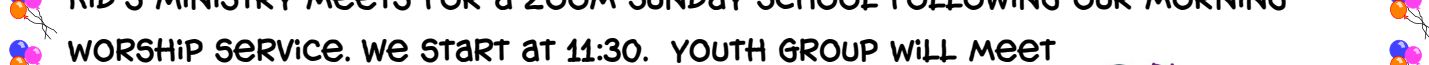
After signing off from our DeWinton gathering, some of us signed in to the Okotoks gathering where Julia further explored the theme of "Living in Limbo."


At 2 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon, the occupants of fifteen vehicles gathered at the church to celebrate with the two people who have April birthdays. Once again the church bell rang as the birthday celebrants stood on the church steps. As the vehicles drove around the church we waved from our windows and honked our horns in celebration with the April birthday celebrants.



Can you speak a language other than English? Pouvez-vous parler une langue autre que l'anglais? ¿Puedes hablar otro idioma que no sea el inglés? Maaari ba kayong magsalita ng ibang wika kaysa sa Ingles? Können Sie eine andere Sprache als Englisch sprechen? Sai parlare una lingua diversa dall'inglese?


Karen Pryznyk needs you for a short scripture reading in your mother tongue on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. If you would be willing to help out please give her a call or email.













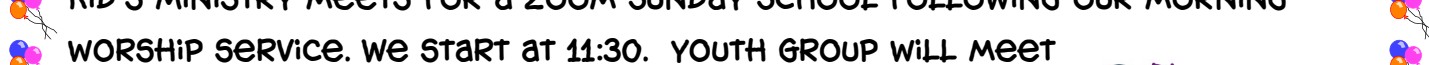



















































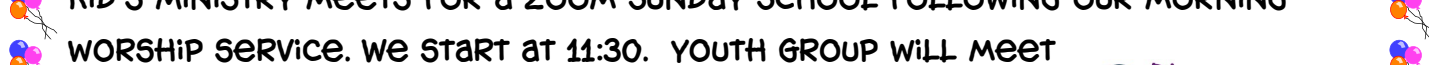















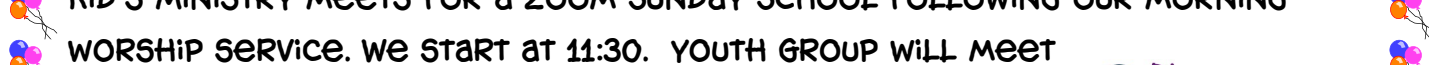











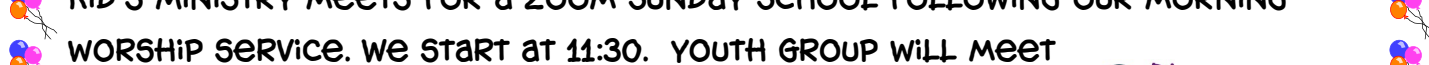











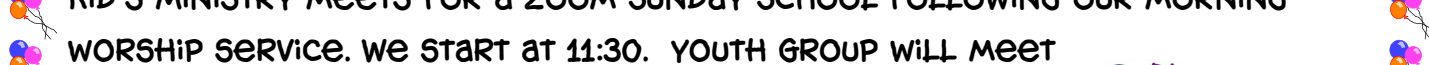



















































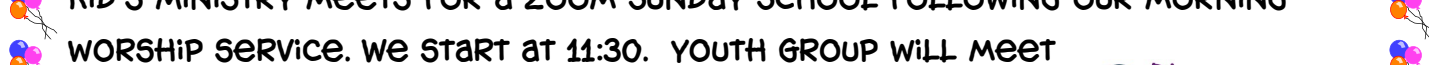













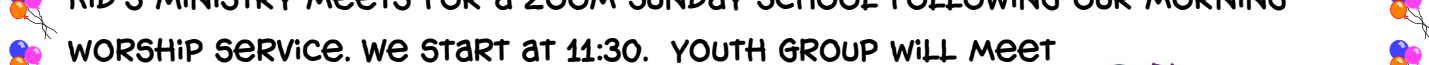






























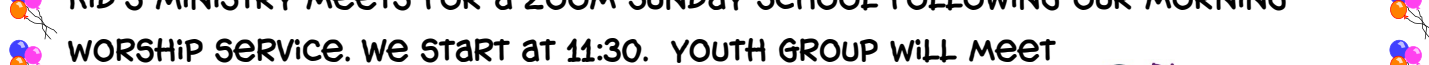











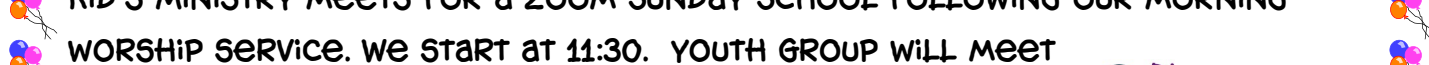














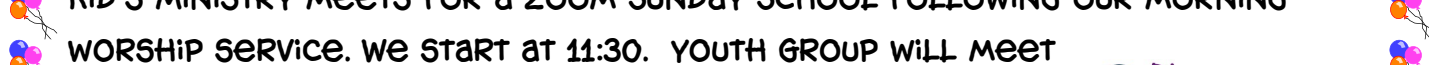




































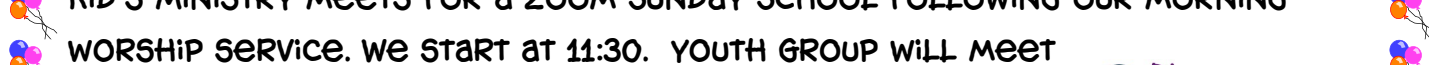

























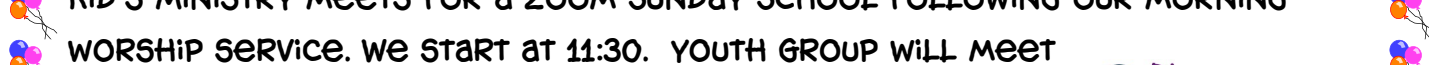














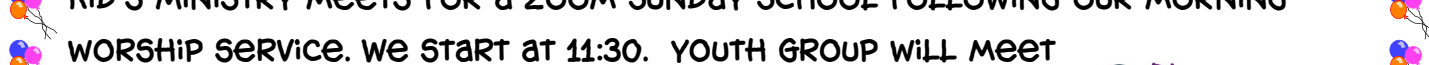

















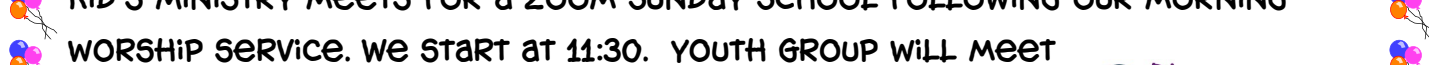








































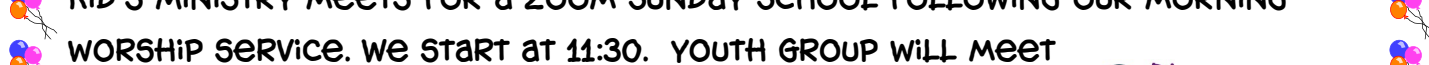
























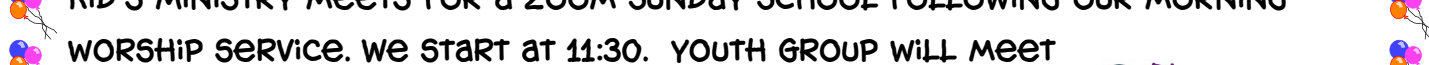















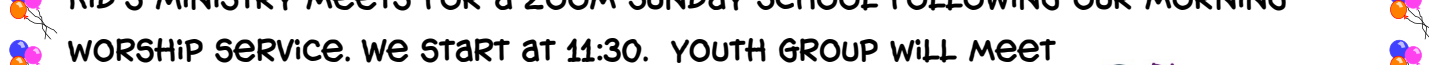













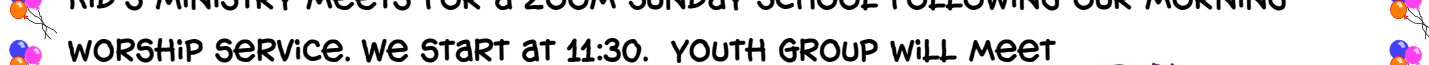
















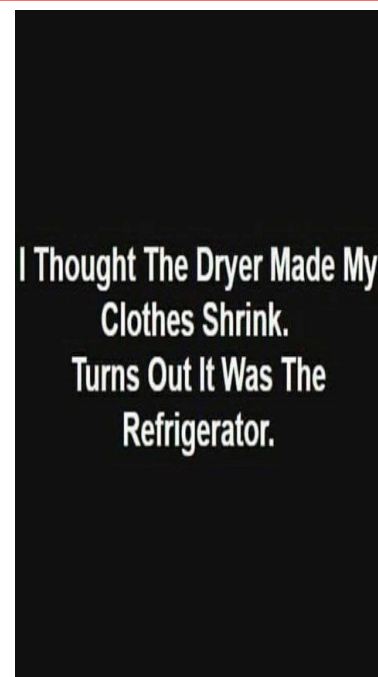






Okotoks United Church Office - We're here for you!
The office continues to remain open at this time Monday to Friday 9:00 - 2:00. Please contact Diane at okunited@telus.net or 403-938-4357 for church related news.

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.