

WE CAN CONNECT



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MAY 8, 2020

Daily FAITH Videos

Many of you are receiving links to the **Daily FAITH** Videos sent out by Julia and Matthew. Joanne is also putting links to the videos on our website if you missed them. If you aren't receiving them or don't wish to receive them, please email dailyfaithvids@gmail.com. And please feel free to share them with others. If you know of people who would like to be put on the daily list, please send us an email. We are inviting people to "sponsor a day" of the Daily FAITH video for \$20.00. Could you sponsor one of the daily offerings? If so, call the church office. We'll give a shout-out to whomever sponsored that day. It would be easiest to sponsor the day by sending an e-transfer to the Okotoks church office, but we'll find other ways to receive payment if interested. To get all videos try this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4snfkwd9o9_1KMf1znsr-w

Please Pray For:



- Food banks and their volunteers
- Postal workers
- Utility workers
- For people who live by themselves
- People who have lost aging parents
- Kids who are home schooling and their parents
- Consort United Church

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

Broadview Magazine –

Also, the Broadview magazine subscriptions are up for renewal. The deadline is May 29th. If you'd like to renew your subscription or add your name to our subscription list please let me know at okunited@telus.net. The cost for a year's subscription to this great magazine is \$25.00.

Julia Responds

Hello Friends. This week we are introducing a new feature in our newsletter, called "Julia Responds". If you have a concern, a question or a query, please submit to Julia by email (okjulia@telus.net) or phone (403-938-4357) and Julia will do her best to respond.

From Karen P

I received a letter and religious tract (from a church) in the mail recently and was at first angry and then saddened by its content. I believe it uses the unsettled feelings we are all experiencing during this COVID-19 pandemic to exploit our fear of death. Instead of telling us how much God loves and cares for us in times of trouble it tells us to fear God and his potential wrath if we haven't made things right with him before we die. I hope that other people aren't frightened by this letter. We need a message of hope and love right now, not fear.

Julia Responds

Christianity is not uniform in its response to struggle and suffering. As much as we might believe that there is only one way to approach our faith, there are a spectrum of beliefs that attempt to address human need and human pain. One way suggests that when something bad happens to people, it is due to the sin of humans, or it is attributed to evil. In order to counter the effects of sin and evil, God needed to do something to save us from them. God's response was to send Jesus to save us through his death on the cross. As this theology suggests, in order to receive forgiveness we must accept the gift of Jesus' death and believe that we have been saved. This is necessary for us to attain heaven.

There are other theologies though, closer to what I believe, that says that God is love (1 John 4:8). If God is perfect love, God loves all creation and every single human being, regardless of who they are or what they believe. God can do nothing *but* love, which means that no matter what we do, God will love us eternally. A God who loves us could never condemn us for who we are, what we believe, or even what we do. God chooses to save us all. Everyone is God's beloved whether or not they know it. God will always choose to draw us through love, not through fear.

Love of God cannot be coerced by making us fearful. God wants us to love him/her because we choose to, not because we'll be punished if we don't. This is not love, this is threat, and God would not do this to us.

I believe that messages that exploit people's fear during these trying times is not only irresponsible, it is unethical. Please remember through everything, that you are deeply loved and companioned by God as we continue to meet our challenges with grace and compassion.



Anyone else's car
getting 3 weeks to the
gallon at the moment ?

Quarantine is going well but I'm
pretty sure the cat is cheating



AFTER LISTENING TO,
LINDA, HIS HUMAN, FOR 12 DAYS
WHILE IN QUARANTINE AS SHE
COMPLAINED FOR HOURS ON END



SPARKY REALIZED HE
WAS NOT CUT OUT TO BE
AN EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG

Grandma tried to
prepare us by hiding
the toilet paper!



Volunteers Opportunity at OUC:

Are you looking for something to do? We currently have a volunteer opportunity for work to be done around OUC. The project is clearing the winter debris from the parking lot including hosing down the pavement. We'd like to get this done in the next couple of weeks if possible. If we could get this done then we can have a local Okotoks company paint parking lines in the parking lot at no cost to OUC.

A big thank you to the wonderful person who helped out by bringing the recyclable things to the recycling centre. Much appreciated.

Newsletter submissions:

Would you like to contribute to the weekly newsletter? Where were you when all this happened? Would you like to share with congregation members what you are doing? Or, what message would you like to pass along to the congregation? If you'd like to submit something to the weekly newsletter send an email to okunited@telus.net.

Okotoks United Church Office - We're here for you!

The office continues to remain open at this time but will change to Monday to Thursday 9:00 - 2:00 effective May 8th. The office will be closed on Fridays. Please contact Diane at okunited@telus.net or 403-938-4357 for church related news.

Please contact Julia at 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

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>

Bible Study:

Join Julia for Bible Study on Thursday morning 10:00 - 11:30. On Thursday, May 7th, the Bible Study group started a new Bible Study session on Parables. Please email Julia at okjulia@telus.net if you'd like to join.