

Connections

Ministers' Office Hours Effective February 1, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs
OKUC	Julia: 9-12	Julia: 12-2	Matthew: 9-12	Matthew: 12-2
UCV	---	Matthew: 12-3	---	Julia: 10-3

Office Hours are reserved for drop-in visits and calls.

Both ministers are also available for appointments outside of office hours.

Please contact them through the church office or email them directly:

okjulia@telus.net or matthew.heesing@gmail.com.

**NEW OFFICE HOURS
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1 2022**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Connections

Mid-Week Worship:

Come and find the quiet centre.

Come catch your breath and pause.

Come be reminded of God's presence.

Come and join us for Mid-Week Worship:

a short contemplative service

of song, Scripture, silence, and prayer

every Wednesday morning,

from 10:15-10:45AM

in the Okotoks United Church Sanctuary.

We hope to see you there!



Okotoks United Annual General Meeting Date:



Mark your calendars for a virtual Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 6th at 1:00 pm on Zoom.

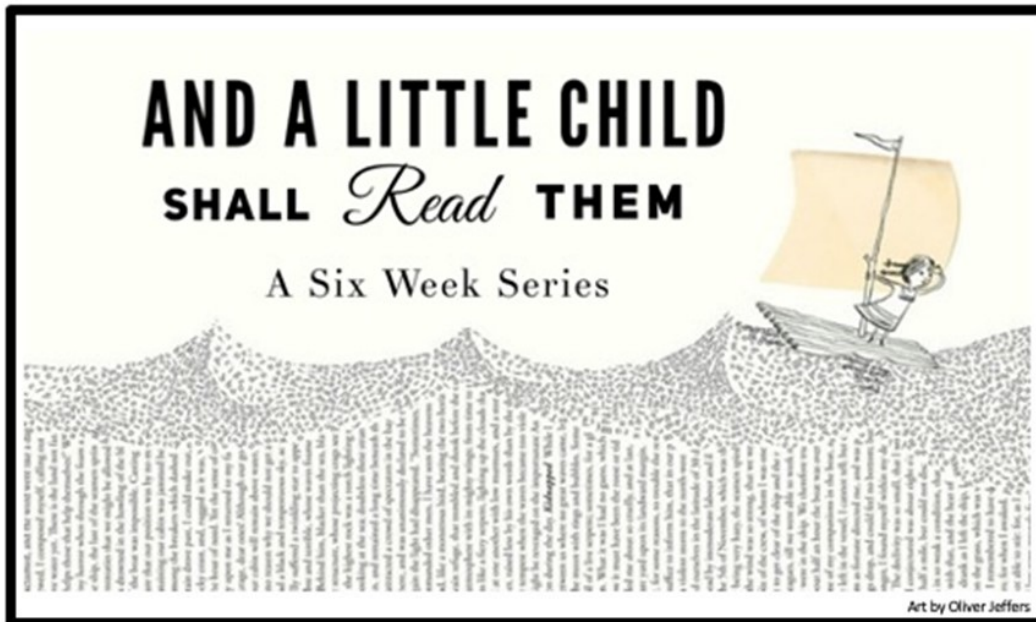
As always, this is a significant event for setting budgets, reviewing the year and making other major decisions. Meeting packages (Annual Report, Minutes, Agenda, Financials and 2022 Budget) will be emailed out, but please contact the office if you'd like to receive a physical copy.

You can reach the office at 403-938-4357 or okunited@telus.net.

Prayers

- ◆ Consort United Church
- ◆ Maskwacis United Churches

Connections



And a Little Child Shall *Read* Them

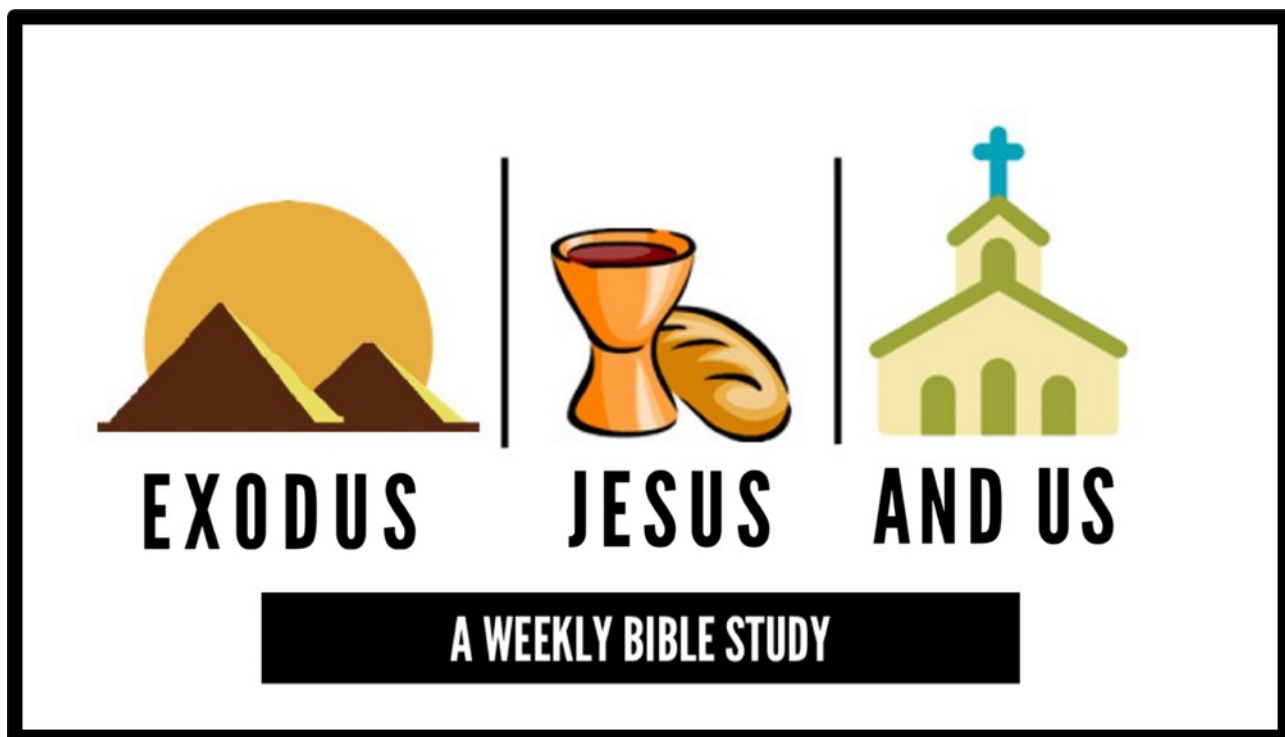
In Isaiah 11:6, we hear the holy promise that *“a little child shall lead them.”* Jesus himself once proclaimed that the kingdom of God will prove elusive to us, unless we *“become like little children”* (Mt. 18:3).

This Epiphany season, we invite you to embark on a sacred adventure through *six children’s books*: books that can lead us into a deeper understanding of the divine.

What might our little children be *reading*?
Where might our little children be *leading*?

Come and join us!

Connections



What *is* the relationship between freedom and responsibility?
 Why *do* Guaranteed Livable Income and “right-to-disconnect” laws matter?
 What might the Bible say about *Amazon Prime*?

Join Matthew in our Bible Study titled *Exodus, Jesus, and Us*.

Tuesdays OR Thursdays 10:00-11:30AM on Zoom

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89851684492?
 pwd=QzRxREILbVZ6cmQ0QzNmZGRMeDNMUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89851684492?pwd=QzRxREILbVZ6cmQ0QzNmZGRMeDNMUT09)

Meeting ID: 898 5168 4492

Passcode: 709825

We'll look at all of the *significant connections* between *Exodus*, the most important book of the Jewish Bible, *Jesus*, a Jewish individual, but also so much more, and *us*, living as disciples of Jesus today.

Everyone's invited!

Connections

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn



Sunday, January 23rd saw fourteen people gather with Matthew once again. Using the scripture John 14:25-27 and reading the children's book *The Remember Balloons* written by Jessie Oliveros, Matthew spoke of what happens when we do not remember our own and our collective faith stories. For us in the community of faith, the Holy Spirit gently helps us in our memories of who we are in God. For just as the Israelites did not always remember and through prophets and poets they remembered that they were beloved by God. *The Remember Balloons* spoke of dementia and as we gently tell the stories that we have shared with those who have Alzheimer's how these stories form a bond between us. So what are the stories that we need to keep sharing from our personal and collective lives so that they are not forgotten?

And then on January 30th, fourteen people joined Julia for the first time in 2022 at St. Andrew's as she spoke from the scripture passage Genesis 1:27 and the children's book *Be Who You Are* written by Todd Parr. She said that we are created in God's image and so to be who we are for we were made by God to show reflections of God. For imagine that God is the sun and we are prisms that radiate God's light into the world. However, sometimes our prism becomes cloudy and so we do not reflect God's light and it can become difficult to be who we truly are – AMAZING – for God knows that each one of us is unique just like everyone else is and to let our light reflect this not only to ourselves but to others also. So let us remember that each one of us is amazing as we be who we are!

Have you remembered to put this date in your calendar for **our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 27th at 12:30 via Zoom**. The annual report will soon be sent out and thanks to Brent for putting it together again this year with contributions from various people in our community of faith at St. Andrew's United – the little church with the big heart.



If you have a pastoral care emergency please call 403-807-9432. This will lead you to the 24/7 on-call minister, Matthew or Julia.

Pastoral CARE

Connections

Mission Possible Update:

Travel restrictions with Covid-19 again prohibited our mission possible team from travelling to the Dominican Republic in 2021. However, we continued to support the TEARS charity through donations to the church, school and programs in the community. One special project that OUC funded in 2021 was the installation of the lights for the community soccer field on the TEARS complex. In previous years we fundraised to help bring in 100's of truck load of soil for the field and the planting of the grass to create this soccer field. Previous to the development of the field the youth had to practice in a smaller area in the community baseball field.

During several trips to the DR the principle soccer coach (Obed Penuela) often told me of his dream for a lighted soccer facility. With the DR close to the equator, the sun sets around 6pm in the winter months and also sets around 7pm in the summer months. Many of the senior youth involved in the soccer program work during the day and are unable to practice during the weekdays due to darkness. The installed lights now allow the soccer program to have practices and games in the evenings. TEARS has the only soccer facility in the surrounding area with lighting allowing not only the expansion of their program but the entire city of La Vega.

We have just confirmed a small team will be travelling to the Dominican Republic in July 2022 to host a summer baseball camp for the children

of the barrio. During the past 18 month the mission possible team has been fundraising and collecting baseball equipment (gloves, shoes, bats, balls, bases, etc.). Please watch for future fundraising announcements as we will be looking to provide on-going support for the community baseball program.



Okotoks United Church Office

To contact **Julia** email her at okjulia@telus.net. To contact **Matthew** email him at matthew.heesing@gmail.com. Both can be reached at the church office phone number listed below during their regular hours.

Congregational Care Team invites you to reach out for confidential spiritual and compassionate care by email at: okcongregationalcare@telus.net

The office is open Monday to Thursday 9:00 - 2:00, Friday 9:00 - 12:00.
Please contact Diane at okunited@telus.net or 403-938-4357.

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