

Connections



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Amy Mounkes on Sunday, March 27th.

Her presence looms large in the church as she was involved in so many things. She was a bright light and will be missed. If for any reason you need to talk to someone or need a hug, please reach out to Matthew or Julia.

There will be a Memorial Service on Saturday, April 16th at Okotoks United Church. More details to come.

COVID Precautions: Next Steps...

The OUC Board met March 15 and reviewed our COVID protocols. It was decided that:

- **As of April 1st, wearing masks will be optional at Okotoks United Church.** This will apply to all activities in the church building. You are welcome to continue to wear a mask if you choose. It is recommended that you wear an KN95 or N95 mask in that case for better protection. There will be some provided at the door if you don't have one.
- **Use of hand sanitizer** will still be encouraged upon entry.
- **If you are ill**, we ask you to please stay home.
- **Coffee** will be served after church
- **Zoom services** will continue until at least June.
- **Physical contact** (hugging and handshaking) will be allowed.

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*“Weeping may come for a night,
but joy comes in the morning.”*

**Join us on the journey of Holy Week,
starting with
an experiential service with Communion
on Maundy Thursday;
a reflective, contemplative service
on Good Friday;
a meaningful joint service at the Big Rock
on Easter Sunrise,
and a celebration of resurrection
on Easter morning.**

We hope to see you there!

Connections

Mid-Week Worship New Start Time:

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 10:00-10:30AM

in the Okotoks United Church Sanctuary.

We hope to see you there!



Outreach and Justice Group

What about the people of Ukraine? Indigenous relations? LGBTQ2s+ issues? Affordable Housing? Seniors? Guaranteed Livable Income? How do we become allies or partners with others in serving our community and the world?

All good questions. Let's talk about them.

April 19th, 2022, 6 to 8 p.m.

Okotoks United Church 43 Riverside Dr. Okotoks

RSVP to okjulia@telus.net

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It is time to clean out your Closets, Garages and Garden Sheds and think about Spring Cleaning. More details will be in the Newsletter at the beginning of April. There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer for hopefully many volunteers to sign up. 2 volunteers with trucks are needed to help dispose of items not sold and to take them to the Salvage Centre and the Mission Thrift Shop. **Dropping off items will start in May once we allocate space for your items.** The Garage Sale will not include clothing, books and furniture. If you have any questions please contact Gisela Dyck 403-938-2506.

May 20 & 21



Next Youth Group Event: April 8th!

All Youth Grades 6 and up are welcome to join us at our next event on **April 8th** from **6-8PM** at Okotoks United Church.

We'll check-in with each other, play some games, and have a fun time!

Any questions, please contact Matthew through the office or at matthew.heesing@gmail.com.

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Throughout the four Gospels,
we find countless stories
of *people encountering Jesus*
and emerging from the experience
changed.

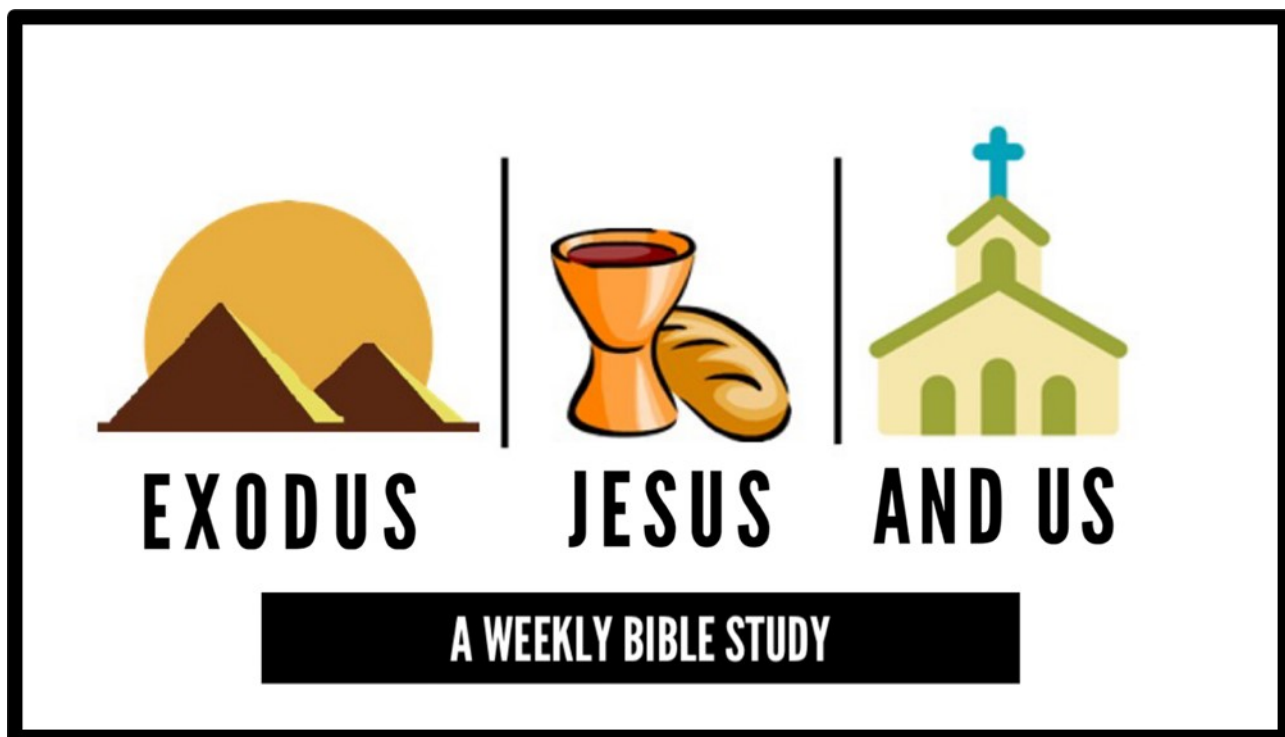
Some were healed.
Some were challenged.
Some left with a lot of new questions.
Others left with a new lease on life.

To truly encounter Jesus, then,
means to open ourselves to transformation:
a disruption of our life right now,
in order to experience life in the fullest.

So join us, this Lent,
as we explore some of the most compelling
Disruptive Encounters with Jesus.

How might *we* be changed on the journey?

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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!

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NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Written by P. Marie Wedderburn



For the third in this year's Lenten sermon series *Disruptive Encounters with Jesus* eleven of us joined Matthew as he spoke of the disruptive encounter with Jesus in the area of Gerasa from Mark 5:1-17. This encounter with Jesus not only healed a man plagued with a legion of demons, but also disrupted the economic system of the region as the herd of pigs was drowned. Matthew left us with a couple of questions to ponder: how willing are we to disrupt our own financial status quo for the sake of the healing of one person? and as we are all one family and it may take a village to heal one person back to wholeness, what is the cost of our own inaction?

Then for the fourth sermon for this Lent, twelve of us joined Julia as she spoke from the scripture Luke 7:36-50 where Jesus is at the home of Simon the Pharisee for supper and a woman comes in and "bathes [Jesus'] feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment" which she had brought with her in an alabaster jar (Luke 7:38 NRSV). Meanwhile the Pharisee is silently asking himself why Jesus is allowing this 'worthless' woman to do such things. Jesus knows what Simon is thinking and so replies that the woman has given her all and it is the Pharisee himself who has not followed the hospitality protocol of washing a visitor's feet, kissing both the visitor's cheeks, and anointing the visitor's head with oil. For those who may be considered worthless in the world are in God given grace, forgiveness, and love for Jesus knows the woman is beautiful and has given him her all. For in our encounters with Jesus our values are turned upside down as we are to give preference to those who are considered worthless in our world as Jesus did.

A couple of events to put in our calendars: St. Andrew's United has reserved four long tables for the DeWinton Garage Sale to be held at the DeWinton Community Hall on Saturday, May 14th. For more details please contact Shirle.

St. Andrew's United Strawberry Tea will be held on Saturday, June 11th at Okotoks United Church. More details will be forthcoming.

Prayers

- ◆ Forest Lawn United Church - Calgary
 - ◆ Foothills United Church
 - ◆ Innisfail United Church

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HEALING PATHWAY

The Healing Ministry is ready and available as of April 4th, 2022. Healing sessions are offered on the first Monday of every month except for stat holidays. To book a healing session please contact Gisela Dyck at 403-938-2506.

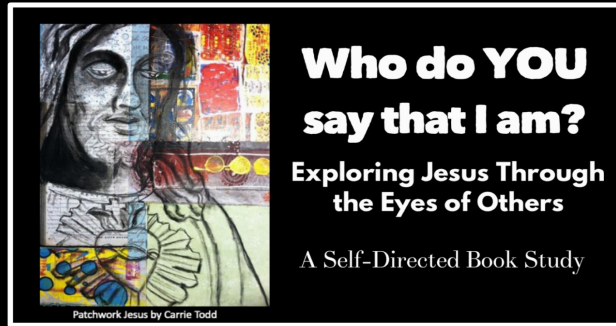
We also like to welcome Cindy Imler to our team. Cindy has completed the Naramata Healing Pathway as well as the Healing Touch International Certification Program.

If anyone is interested in taking a Healing Pathway Workshop please contact Gisela Dyck.

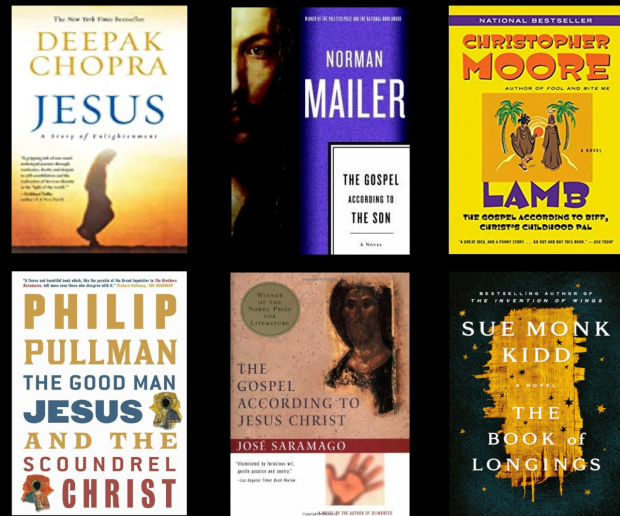
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If you have an urgent pastoral care need please call 403-807-9432. This will lead you to the 24/7 on-call minister, Matthew or Julia.

Pastoral CARE



Come find the following thought-provoking books—and reflection bookmarks! — in the Okotoks United Church Library.



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.