

Connections



*“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!

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

The Outreach and Justice Group is open to all 3 Communities of Faith.

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.

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Where Do We Go from Here?

There's a *lot* in the air these days: unrest, instability, uncertainty, alarm.

In moments like this, *where* do we instinctively go? What places do we move to, emotionally and spiritually?

And where might we *intentionally* go instead?

For six weeks, starting May 1st, let's explore some of the *places we typically go* when life is overwhelming and confusing—and, using the **Psalms** as an ancient inner road-map, let's also uncover some *alternative* directions.

Where do we go from here?
And where might we go—*after that*?

Let's learn and journey together!

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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!



Spring is here and so is the DeWinton Spring Plant Sale!!

This year we are selling: 13 inch hanging basket \$35 dollars

Deadline for orders is Friday, April 29th. Pickup will be Wednesday, May 11th at OUC (time to be determined). An order form is located on the Church bulletin board in the Foyer. If you need additional information please call Bonnie at 587-226-3839 or the office at 403-938-4357.



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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

Just a friendly reminder that the books that were borrowed need to be returned so that we can return them to the library.

Thanks.



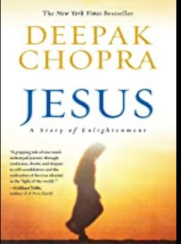
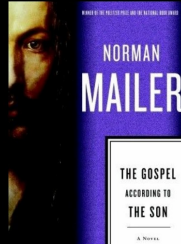
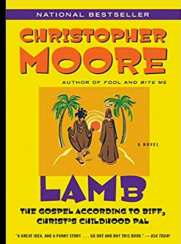
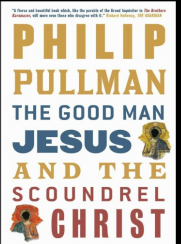
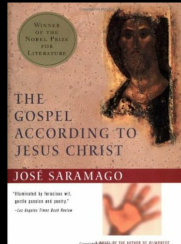
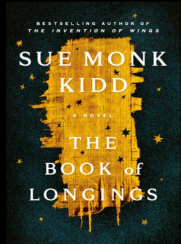
Who do YOU say that I am?

Exploring Jesus Through the Eyes of Others

A Self-Directed Book Study

Patchwork Jesus by Carrie Todd

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

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NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



This year's Lenten sermon series *Disruptive Encounters with Jesus* concluded with first Matthew and then Julia speaking from the scripture John 11. On April 3rd, fifteen of us heard Matthew speak from John 11:1-6, 17-37 where we hear of Lazarus's illness and his sisters Martha and Mary calling for Jesus to come. However, Jesus delays going to see them and by the time he and the disciples come, Lazarus has died. The sisters tell Jesus that if he had been there earlier perhaps their brother would not have died. So Matthew asked "How will we respond to our disrupted expectations of the Holy?" To Martha Jesus responds that he [Jesus] is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25) and when Jesus greets Mary who is weeping Jesus responds with compassion. To each of the sisters, Jesus comes to them in their own need and in their own way by being straight-forward to practical Martha and compassionate to Mary by also weeping with her. In the midst of our own disappointments which are a part of life let us remember that God (the Holy) is still with us and we are not alone in the midst of the disappointments and disruptions of our lives.

Twenty-one of us attended the service on April 10th as we entered this year's Holy Week. We thank Mark for leading the service as Julia was on study leave. We heard Julia speak from John 11:1-44 via video where she asked "What is the purpose of life?" As the crowd follows Jesus to the tomb of Lazarus (who died four days earlier) Jesus weeps for those around him who do not live life fully. For often we are entombed as we may live colourless, routine lives amidst the pressures to conform. So Julia asked us to consider by what are we entombed today and to explore within ourselves what keeps us bound? For even as Lazarus emerged from the tomb he was still bound with strips of cloth until Jesus said to the crowd "Unbind him, and let him go" (John 11:44). Julia also quoted Galatians 5:1 (NRSV) which says "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." As we have now entered Holy Week, let us not be entombed any longer as we live and treasure our lives fully each day.

Forthcoming events to remember: 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 later.

Prayers

- ◆ Acme United Church
- ◆ Innisfail United Church

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De Winton Strawberry Tea

When: Saturday, June 11th 1:00 - 2:30

Where: Okotoks United Church foyer

Tickets: \$15.00



Come join us for a Strawberry Tea on Saturday, June 11th from 1:00 - 2:30. You'll enjoy strawberry shortcake and tea. There will also be a bake sale and plant sale. For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Bonnie Campbell at 587-226-3839 or the office at 403-938-4357.



HEALING PATHWAY

The Healing Ministry is ready and available for Healing Sessions. 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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A reflection on the practices of Healing Touch and Healing Pathway. What is the difference?

Healing Touch is a worldwide program for the medical community, primarily nurses. The basic curriculum is a medical model that defined energy-based healing in scientific terms.

Rochelle Graham was a certified H.T. instructor. She felt called by God to teach Healing courses within the United Church of Canada to “reclaim the Christian roots” that were the foundation of the Church.

After a conversation with Janet Mentgen, founder and director of the Healing Touch Certification Program, Rochelle Received Janet’s blessing and encouragement to develop the Healing Pathway Program, with the understanding that the new Christian-based curriculum would be kept separate from the H.T.C. program.

1996 Rochelle was offering healing workshops from a Christian perspective throughout B.C. and Alberta. This Christian-based healing quickly grew and needed a home and the “Naramata Centre” was the logical location. Out of growing enthusiasm in both provinces Naramata Centre partnered with the B.C. Conference and Alberta Northwest Conference to support the development of the program.

In 1998 a curriculum was developed and formally adopted and named The Naramata Centre Healing Pathway.

The Healing Pathway focuses on this practice as a team ministry offered free of charge. Practitioners open themselves to the Sacred Source and allow that Spirit to work through them to offer healing. In many ways, Healing touch and Healing Pathway are twin sisters but the Pathway honours its own healing tradition as part of the Christian story. It is the foundation of the who ethos of it and how the sequences are practiced, and the language is used.

Healing Touch has been developed as a medical model. It is a certification program where people are trained and certified to set up their own healing practices, where they work individually, with their own insurance coverage.

Rochelle Graham was a guest speaker at our church four years ago. She also wrote the book **Healing from the Heart**. This book is available at the Church by contacting Gisela Dyck.

I would like to clarify that within the Church we are the **Healing Pathway** and the **Healing Ministry**. We have a **Healing Ministry Team**. Members of the team are:

Heather and Stan Clark

Shannon Olson

Margaret Orme

Marlene Podwisocky

Gisela Dyck

I hope this will make the difference between the two programs more clearly.

Sincerely,

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

Save The Date -

April 28th Harmony Group's Turkey Pot Pies



Our Harmony Group will be making and selling their famous turkey pot pies on Thursday, April 28th. The pies will be available for pick up on the 28th at 1:00. Each pie will be \$8 and the order sheet will be on the bulletin board in the foyer next Sunday! Don't delay - the pies go quickly!

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.