

# 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:**

Okotoks United Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Okotoks United Church Annual General Meeting

Time: March 6, 2022 01:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84985874897>

Meeting ID: 849 8587 4897

One tap mobile

+15873281099,,84985874897# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

Meeting ID: 849 8587 4897

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdnzHyLAY1>

As always, this is a significant event for setting budgets, reviewing the year and making other major decisions.

# Connections

## 2021 Tax Receipts

Your 2021 tax receipt is in the mail. Should you have any questions about your tax receipt please feel free to call the office at 403-938-4357 or email [okunited@telus.net](mailto:okunited@telus.net)



**May 20 & 21**

Dear Church Family, 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. **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.

## Okotoks United Church - Reopening Procedures:

The Okotoks United Church Board has been looking at the new Provincial regulations regarding COVID precautions and is taking a gradual approach to lifting precautions in our building. This all depends on COVID numbers continuing to decline.

### Rental Groups

- Rental groups will be allowed to meet in the church following Provincial guidelines and their own policies.

### Church and Church User Groups

- We will continue to wear masks, hand-sanitize and avoid contact for the month of March as the province reopens.
- We will add more chairs to the sanctuary bringing the number to one-half capacity as per AHS recommendations
- Small groups may meet in person in the church but must continue to wear masks for March.
- No eating and drinking in the church just yet but this will be considered as a next step in April.
- The youth group meeting in March will be in person. A decision regarding masks will be made closer to the day. (Note: youth are no longer required to wear masks in school but some choose to do so)
- We are starting to look at fund-raising opportunities as part of a gradual return to normal activities.

Thank you for all you have done to work with these precautions and to continue to build and support our community of faith.

Karen Pryznyk

# Connections



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

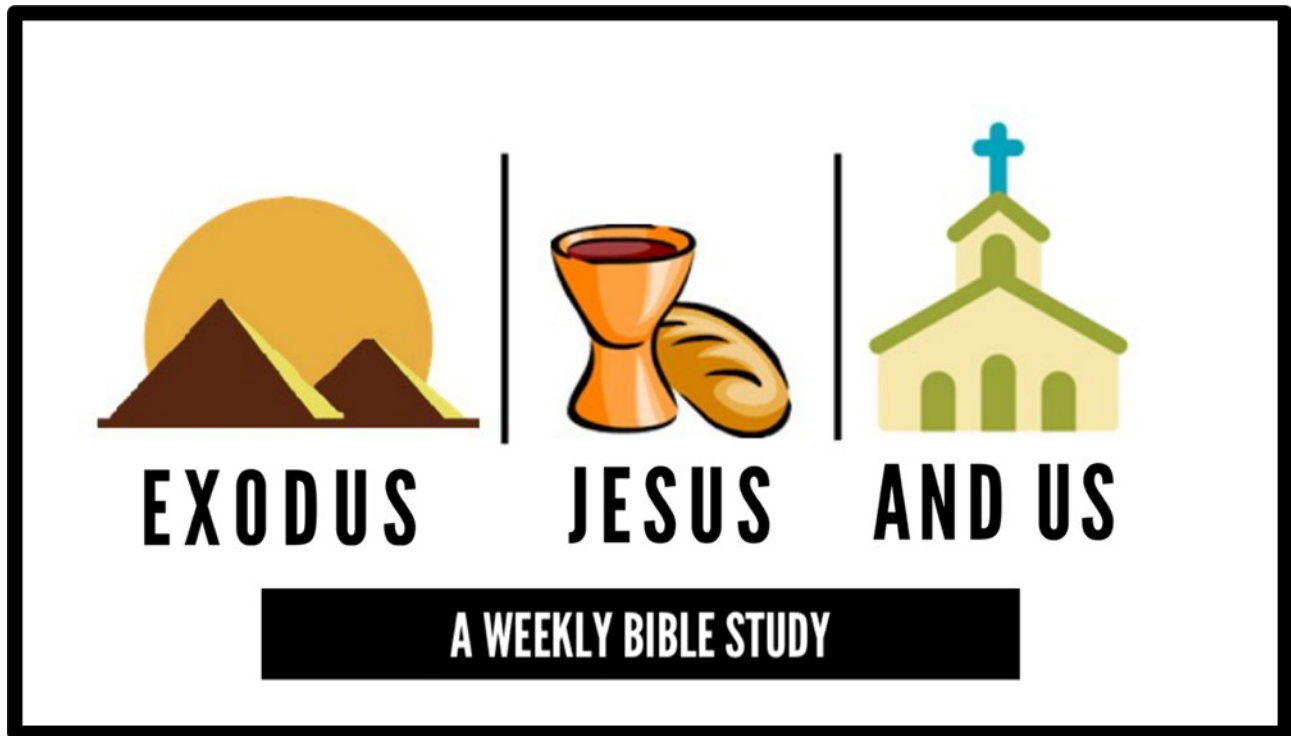
Some were healed.  
Some were challenged.  
Some left with a lot of new questions.  
Others left with a new lease on life.

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?

# 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*



Due to the weather and road conditions, our service on February 20<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. Some of us Zoomed in for the service at Okotoks United where we heard Matthew deliver the last in the sermon series *A Little Child Shall Read Them*. Reading Patrice Karst's children's book *The Invisible Web* of strings that connect everyone and everything. The scriptures he used were Colossians 1:15-17 which speak of the invisible God and 1 John 4:7, 12, 16b which speak of how love comes from God and if we love one another we see God. The invisible web has no borders and one good deed travels across the web as we are grounded in love and compassion. For Christ is the image of the invisible God in whom all things are held together in love.

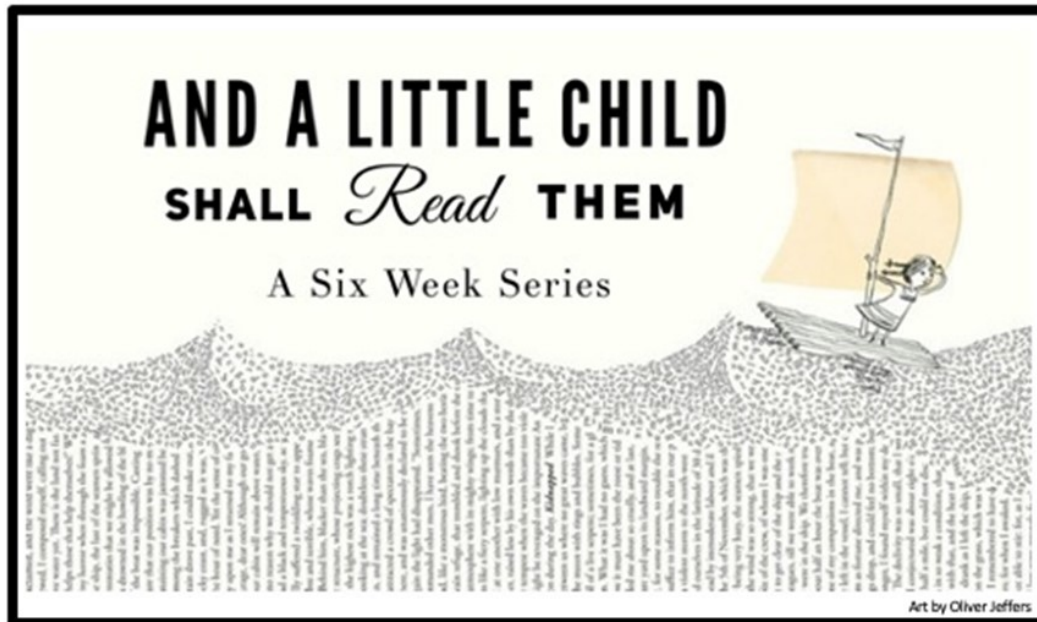
Then on February 27<sup>th</sup> seventeen gathered together with Julia where she spoke of dance. Using the scripture from 2 Samuel 6:12-23 where King David brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem and danced before God without restraint. She also referenced the book *You Gotta Keep Dancing* written by Tim Hansel. As we dance with God as our partner, we show our trust in God as we choose to pray, to dance, to protest, to show our faith as we share the good news of our sacred dance with the Holy.

At 12:30 on February 27<sup>th</sup>, nineteen people gathered virtually via Zoom for the Annual General Meeting. Many things were discussed, the budget was passed, and the Governing Board and the Board of Trustees remain the same. The Chinook Winds Regional lay representative for St. Andrew's United, DeWinton is now Mark. Thanks to all those who gathered together for this year's AGM.

**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

# Connections



## And a Little Child Shall *Read* Them

Curious about which books were read during this series?

Here's the complete list from Rev. Julia and Rev. Matthew!

*A Child of Books*: Oliver Jeffers

*The Invisible Web*: Patrice Karst

*The Remember Balloons*: Jessie Oliveros

*Be Who You Are*: Todd Parr

*The Peace Book*: Todd Parr

*The Don't Worry Book*: Todd Parr

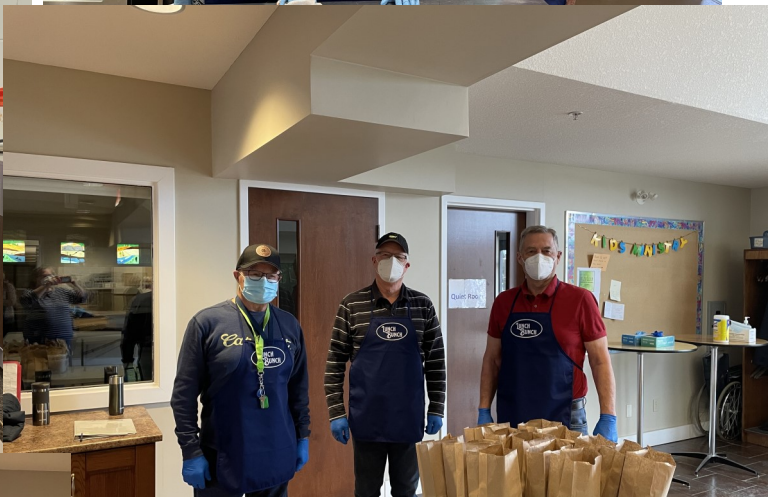
## Prayers

- ♦ Maskwacis United Church
- ♦ Nanton-Cayley United Church



# Connections

**Who are these masked and aproned people? Why the School Lunch Bunch of course!  
A dedicated bunch of people who make the lunches for kids in need in the community.**





# Connections



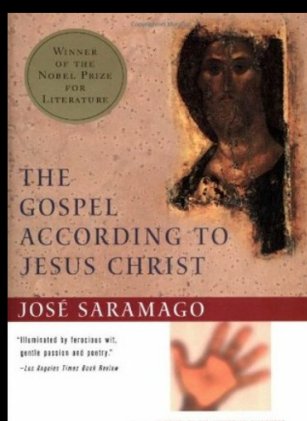
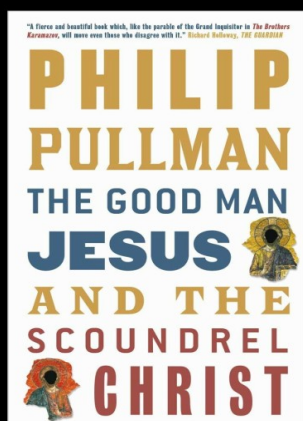
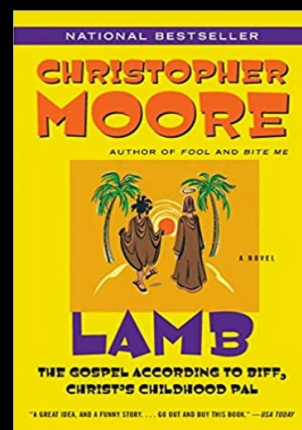
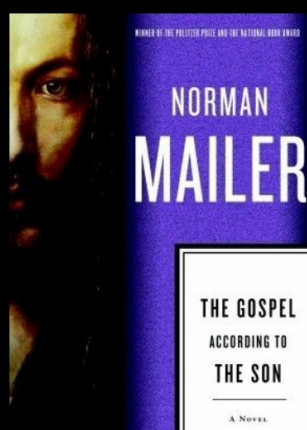
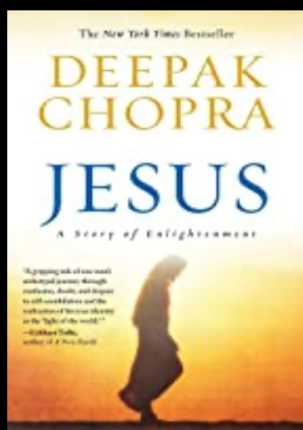
Patchwork Jesus by Carrie Todd

## Who do YOU say that I am?

Exploring Jesus Through the Eyes of Others

A Self-Directed Book Study

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





# Connections



## Greetings from the 2022 Images Planning Committee!

This is your invitation to the 32nd Annual Images of Spirituality Gathering. Come and join with other women to celebrate God's spirit amongst us.

We will meet through Zoom on **Saturday April 2, 2022, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

**Our theme this year is** *Encounter at the Well: A Journey to Wholeness*

Discovering wholeness through Jesus' presence in our life's journey. The woman at the well had a chance encounter with Jesus that changed her world. She came for a pitcher of water and her whole heart was flooded. What is Jesus offering us?

**Session Leaders:** Alicia Dykstra and Dawna Richardson of Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) Centre and **Worship Leader:** Rev. Joan Carson

The day will include sessions and small group discussions, a lunch break, and some craft time together, as well as singing, worship, and fellowship.

To learn more about us, please visit our website: <http://www.imagesofspirituality.ca>

**Registration Fee:** \$25.00 by March 24, 2022

Hope you can join us.

Yours in Christ,

Images Planning Committee: Nancy, Ruth, Maureen, Connie and Sandra

## Okotoks United Church Office

To contact **Julia** email her at [okjulia@telus.net](mailto:okjulia@telus.net). To contact **Matthew** email him at [matthew.heesing@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:okunited@telus.net) **or 403-938-4357.**