

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!



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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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.



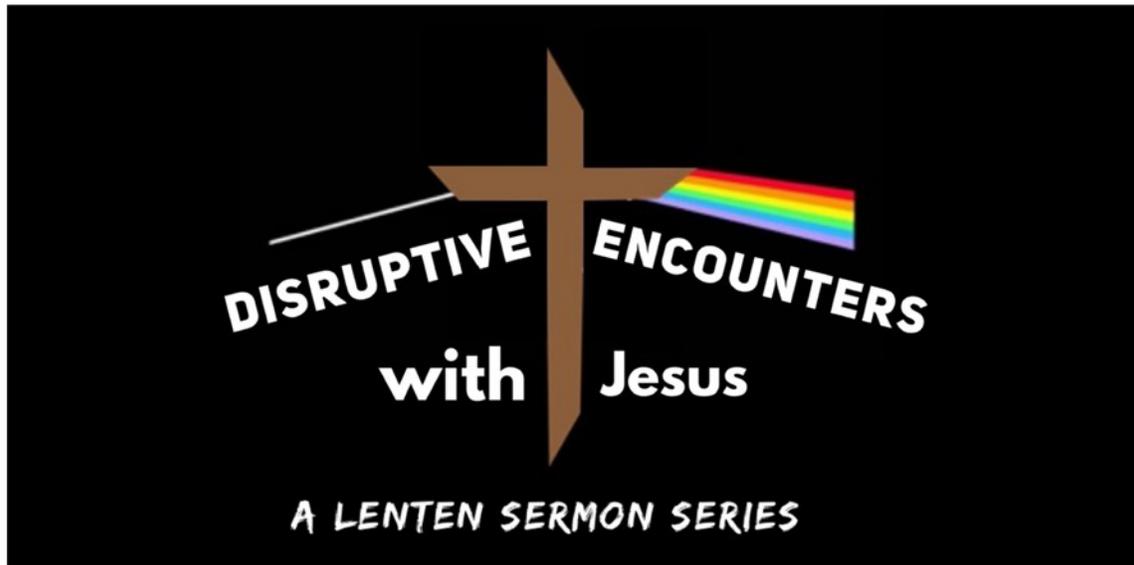
Next Youth Group Event: April 8th!

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.

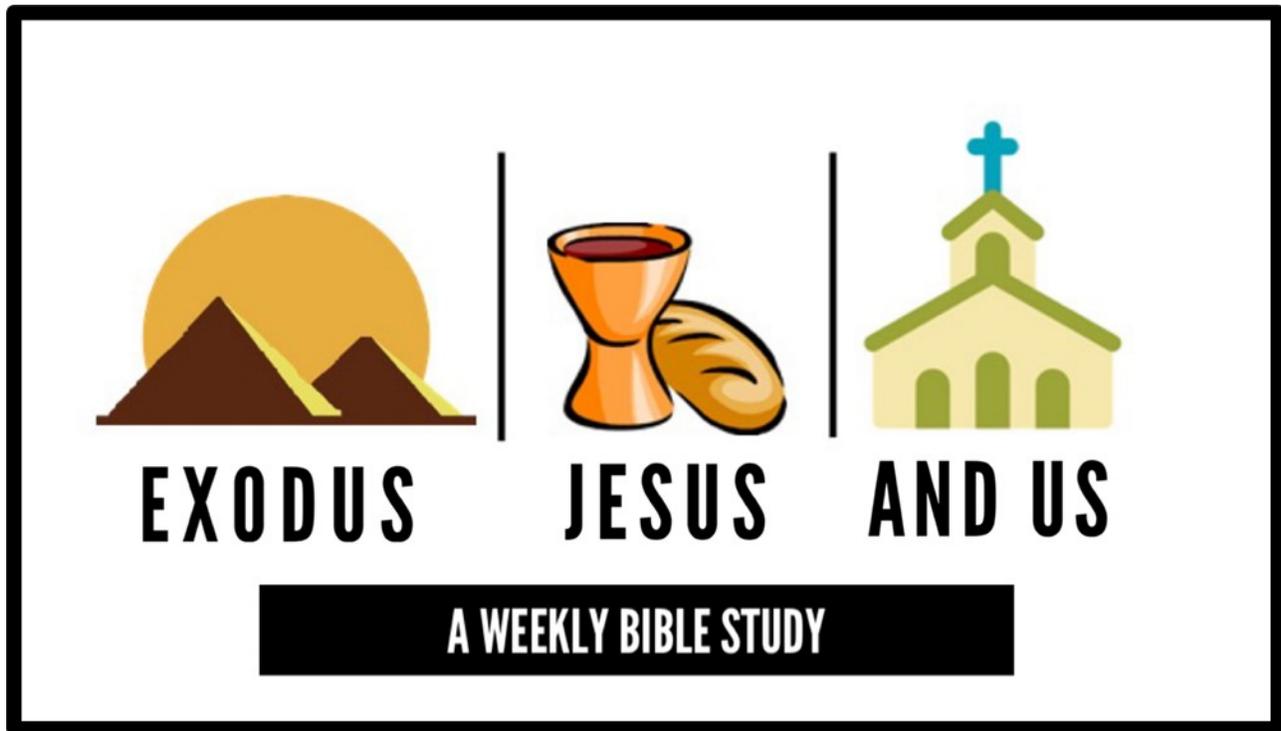
Some were healed.
Some were challenged.
Some left with a lot of new questions.
Others left with a new lease on life.

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



On Sunday, March 6th, eight people gathered with Matthew as he began the Lenten sermon series *Disruptive Encounters with Jesus*. Using the scripture Mark 10:17-23 which speaks of the wealthy man coming to Jesus and asking what he must do to follow Jesus, to which Jesus replies by sighting some of the commandments including an additional one of “You shall not defraud” (Mark 10:19) to which the wealthy man replies that he has kept all of the command-

ments. Then Jesus says to sell what the man has and give to the poor and the man “went away grieving” (Mark 10:22) for he had many possessions. In society there are certain assumptions that we all make about those who have wealth. However, Jesus disrupts our preconceptions of what wealth symbolizes for great wealth does not imply virtue as we continue to be challenged to look at what “stuff” means. Matthew left us to ponder how we signal of faithfulness to others as our notion of blessing is disrupted as the wealthy man’s was.

And then on Sunday, March 13th (did we remember to turn our clocks ahead one hour), twelve people gathered with Julia as she continued the Lenten sermon series for this year. Julia used the scripture Mark 5:25-34 which speaks of the woman who had suffered societal shame because of her physical condition of hemorrhaging for twelve years, She reaches out and touches Jesus’ clothes and is physically healed from the bleeding. However, Julia further explored the real miracle in this scripture as Jesus asks who touched him and in fear and trembling the woman comes back and falls down before Jesus and tells him the whole truth of why she touched his clothes. And in reply Jesus calls her “My daughter” (Mark 5:34). And in this the miracle occurs as the woman receives spiritual healing. For Jesus disrupts our idea of healing for healing is not only physical, but also mental and spiritual as well. For from living in shame because of her physical condition for twelve years, Jesus heals the woman’s mental and spiritual being as well. Julia asked us to consider what shame we have ourselves as well as who we shame today?

This year’s Lenten sermon series *Disruptive Encounters with Jesus* continue to be disruptive and but hopefully also transformative in our own faith lives. Stay tuned for the next four sermons on our Lenten journey.

Prayers

- ◆ McDougall United Church - Calgary
- ◆ Ralph Connor Memorial - Canmore

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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.



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. 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.

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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.

