



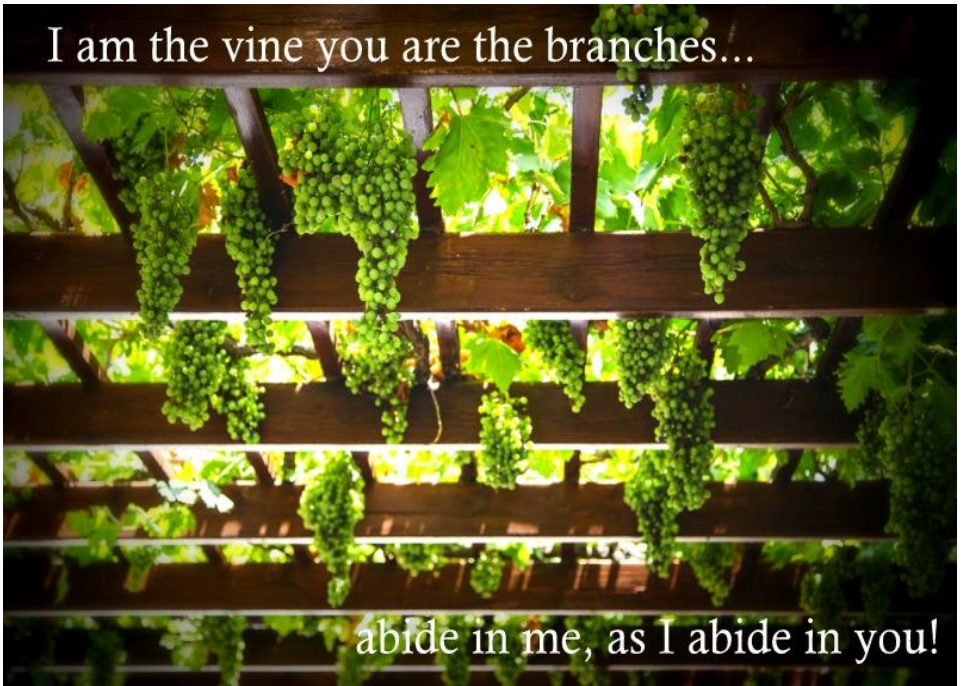
An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 May 26

Sacrament of Communion

Pentecost 2

I am the vine you are the branches...



abide in me, as I abide in you!

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, or differing abilities. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

Welcome to Robertson-Wesley

Please know that in the eyes of God you already belong here and you are welcome to participate in any of the activities of the congregation.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground for Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 4.

ACCESSIBILITY

There is an elevator located inside the building with the glass door entrance. Access ramps can be found: inside leading from the lobby to the sanctuary and outside at the rear of the building, leading from the parking lot.

There are accessible washrooms on each floor located near the elevator.



For hearing assistance download the Listen Everywhere app on your cell phone and connect to the R-W network by scanning this QR code. Please bring your own headphones to listen on. Classic hearing assists headsets are still available from the ushers.

Large print worship bulletins, and hymn books are available from the ushers.

Service animals are welcome, except where food is prepared.

We commit to make R-W a comfortable space for people with cognitive impairment. If you require accommodations please contact the office.

There is a sensory-friendly worship space in the Club Room every Sunday, the service is live streamed into the room with reduced lighting and volume.

BABY/ CHILDREN'S AMENITIES

People can breastfeed anywhere in the building, should you want more privacy there is designated nursing space in the Millson room, located by the grand piano. Baby changing tables are installed in all washrooms. If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel. There are also activity books available for children. Please ask an usher.

INFORMATION

The ushers located at the entrances are here to help should you have any questions. More information about the church and church activities can be found in the pamphlet racks outside Memorial Hall.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.



10209 123 St, Edmonton T5N 1N3 780-482-1587
mail@rwuc.org www.rwuc.org

Friends in Christ

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *A Pentecost Prelude*, arr. by Charles Callahan

Jean Triscott, flute; Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

All of you who have a deep and abiding faith, you are called!

All of you who are seeking God, you are called!

All of you who have doubts and questions and an emptiness within, you are called!

All of you who cannot believe and trust in God, you are called!

You have come at God's call, to worship, to praise, to learn, to reach out, perhaps to receive and accept the grace and the love of God this day.

Let us worship together, all of us, just as we are!¹

Hymn: *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

Voices United 205

**Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the Church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Coming into God's Presence

Hymn: *Your Will Be Done*

More Voices 151

Your will be done, be done on earth.

Your will be done, be done on earth.

Your will be done, be done on earth.

Your will be done on earth.

Your will be done on earth. (2x)

¹ Written by George Allan, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2022, p. 37. Used with permission.

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

God of Grace, as we receive these words - words inspired by you - may we discover your urgings, may they stir our thoughts, may we be empowered to grow, and may we act in ways that reveal who you are to all who would notice. **Amen.**²

Scriptures:

John 15:1-17 • Jesus the true vine.

Claire Foff

“I am the true vine, and my Creator is the vine grower. God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch that withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Creator is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Creator has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Creator’s commandments and abide in God’s love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from God. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Creator will give you whatever you ask in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *How Beautiful*, Twila Paris arr. by Mary McDonald Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *Faithful Friends Abide*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Now to Your Table Spread*

Voices United 456

**Now to your table spread
we come, each one in faith
that you alone provide the words of life or death:
in wine and bread,
in promised food
we find your loving heart, O God.**

**Hands of the world stretch out
your mystery to touch**

² Written by Sheryl McLeod, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2019, p. 47. Used with permission.

**in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
to sing in joy,
to cry in grief,
to know your meaning for our life.**

**Here is our common wealth
in sharing what is good,
as though all humankind around one table stood,
this bread to break,
this wine to taste:
one people in the name of Christ.**

Grateful Response

Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Voices United p. 921

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kin-dom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

A Gratitude Minute

Sylvia Duffus

Offering:



Your donations today support R-W Church programs and operations, as well as outreach projects and programs in the city and around the world. You can donate by e-transfer to pay@rwuc.org, cheque, debit/credit by speaking to an usher, pre-authorized remittance, or PayPal by scanning the QR code. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for donations over \$20 if your name and address are provided.

Offertory: *O Breath of Life*

Voices United 202 vv. 1 & 3

**O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us
and fit your church to meet this hour.
O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.**

Offering Prayer:

All that we have is from you, Creator. With these gifts, we seek to be like you: creating a world where love is known, sharing the goodness of beauty and kindness, blessing our neighbours with our faith in

action. Bless these gifts and may they be a sign of our co-creating ministry in your name. Amen.³

Sacrament of Holy Communion

All who worship with us today, regardless of age or church membership, are invited and welcome to partake in this sacrament. For people who worship online, please prepare whatever is available in your house, a cracker, bread, muffin, and juice, wine, or water. People in the sanctuary will be offered bread and grape juice. There is a gluten free option available.

The celebration of communion is always a festival of friends, a pulling together of our lives and our hopes, our moments of agony and our glimpses of success. It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared, that we can most fully be ourselves and see others for who they truly are: children of the living God.

Here the common things of life - bread and wine, memories and dreams - become holy, touched by God.

Here that which is earthly becomes divine, and that which is human becomes more than it has ever dreamed.⁴

The Spirit of God be with you.

And also with you.

Turn to God, the source of life.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks.

We offer joyful thanks to God.

Source and Sustainer of life, we gather at this table to offer thanks, and to taste afresh the wonder of a holy love. In companionship with all creatures, we are one in gratitude for the gift and mystery of life, and one in longing for a world reborn.

Creator and Friend, we praise you for your presence in and with your creation, ever drawing it toward healing and wholeness. In our joy, you are the overflowing cup; in our need, you are the bread by which we journey on. With all who abide in your presence and care, we lift our voices to sing:⁵

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Voices United p.942 Setting E

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might;

holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might;

Heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Remembering Jesus at Table:

When Jesus knew that his hour had come, he gathered with his friends for a meal. Getting up from the table, he tied a towel around himself and

³ Written by Wendy MacLean, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2023, p.50. Used with permission.

washed their feet. And, after he had finished, he said, "I have set an example for you; do as I have done to you." Then he took bread, blessed it, and gave it to them saying, "I am the Bread of Life. Do this to remember me." And Jesus blessed the cup, and gave it to them saying, "I am the True Vine. Drink of this cup to remember me."

Then Jesus gave them a new commandment, saying, "Love one another as I have loved you. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."⁶

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, as we break bread and share the cup, giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labour. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people.⁷

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation: *Voices United p.943 Setting E*
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

By these signs of bread and wine, we recognize the longings of all our hearts for a time when all humanity will be one family - when justice and compassion will be the way we live according to the One we seek. Holy Spirit, hover over our lives, uniting us in these signs and strengthening us to live the resurrected life of Christ in the world.⁸

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

Great Amen: *Voices United p.943 Setting E*
Amen, amen, amen, amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup (Instructions)

Meditation: *Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace*, John Rutter
Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Prayer after Communion:

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.⁹

Hymn: *Many Are the Lightbeams* *Voices United 588*

**Many are the lightbeams from the one light.
Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the lightbeams from the one light;
we are one in Christ.**

**Many are the branches of the one tree.
Our one tree is Jesus.
Many are the branches of the one tree;
we are one in Christ.**

**Many are the gifts given, love is all one.
Love's the gift of Jesus.**

**Many are the gifts given, love is all one;
we are one in Christ.**

**Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one,
servant spirit of Jesus.**

**Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
we are one in Christ.**

**Many are the members, the body is one,
members all of Jesus.**

**Many are the members, the body is one;
we are one in Christ.**

Commissioning:

Be the branch that bears good fruit. Be yeast to lighten the burdens of others. Be oil that gladdens their hearts. Even as you have been fed, so tell others of the Living Bread. **Amen.**¹⁰

Postlude: *Fugue in C Major*, by Charles Stanford

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

What needs pruning in your life?

What rules or norms need to change in this community of faith in order for all people to thrive?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Children & Youth: Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to Kids' Church. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4: 5-12 • Treasure in Clay Jars

Sermon: Vessels

Paul the Apostle is writing to a community of Jesus believers in Corinth. In this portion of the letter, Paul is writing about what he and his colleagues in ministry are about. He uses the image of jars of clay, common, fragile vessels used to hold something important. In this case, the precious item is no less than the message that the very light of God was seen in Jesus and that living accordingly saves and transforms lives. They themselves are not the light, but are privileged to together carry the light and share this light with others. How have ministers and other faith leaders been vessels of light in your life and in the life of churches you have been part of? How is Robertson-Wesley itself a vessel of light?

Music: Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Robertson-Wesley Choir; Robertson-Wesley Ringers

¹⁰ Written by Robin Wardlaw, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2024, p. 48. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun May 26	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Air Room	10:45 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:00 pm
	Koinonia - Memorial Hall	5:30 pm
Mon May 27	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues May 28	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
Wed May 29	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - Lower Hall & Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Thurs May 30	Not Falling For You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat June 1	Talent Show - Memorial Hall	7:30 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun June 2	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - Youth Room	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - Air Room	10:45 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:00 pm
Mon June 3	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues June 4	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Parent Support Group - Club Room	4:00 pm
	DEAP - Room 11	5:30 pm
Wed June 5	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
Thurs June 6	Not Falling For You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat June 8	Community Dinner - Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	Youth Group Party - Youth Room	6:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

KOINONIA

Join us for Koinonia as we gather **tonight** at 5:30 pm in Memorial Hall. Tonight's gathering is a bit of an R-W crossover. After our potluck supper, Nova from Wild Church will share with us yet another way of being church at Robertson-Wesley.

TALENT SHOW

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, **June 1**, at 7:30 pm. A Talent Show entitled "The Very Best Times of the Year" will take place in Memorial Hall. The event will feature our choirs, talented soloists and members of the congregation. Wine and cheese will be served. This will be a fun evening in support of the church so please plan to attend! Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased after church today from Marilee Stephens or John Fleming.

M&S OF THE UNITED CHURCH

Today is Communion Sunday and there will be a collection of special offerings for M&S. On each Sunday when communion is served we highlight some aspect of the work of the National Church. At this time we also take up a special collection designated for this work. Blue envelopes are provided for this purpose in the bulletin.

YEG FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICES

We are pleased to be working with YEG Family Counselling services to provide mental health support to community members. We have a student therapist who provides free to low cost therapy **Wednesdays** 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm by walk in or appointments. YEG Family Counselling will also be offering a low cost 6 week parenting support group that will provide group therapy to parents of adult children starting **June 4**, 2024 from 4:00 -5:30 pm. To book contact Lindsay at lindsay@yegfamilycounselling.com.

TAKE TIME FOR RENEWAL LABYRINTH

Walk the Labyrinth this summer in Memorial Hall at Robertson-Wesley United Church. Tuesdays **July 16** and **August 6** from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm and Saturdays **July 6** and **August 24** from 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

EMAIL SAFETY TIPS

Recently people from the church have been experiencing scam emails, using a method called spoofing. Email spoofing is when a scammer forges (spoofs) the email's from address, so the sent message appears to have been sent from someone you know with the intention of infecting your computer with malware, asking for money or stealing information. These addresses can either be created by using alternative numbers or letters to look slightly different than the original, or by disguising the 'from' field to be the exact email address of someone in your network. If you receive an email that looks like it is from someone you know, requesting gift cards or help and asking for secrecy, please feel free to call Elyse in the church office or the person who sent it to confirm legitimacy, do not reply to the email because the reply will get sent to the scammer.

What to do if your email has been spoofed:

- Don't panic, spoofing does not mean that the scammer has access to your account, they are only making it appear as though they do. You have not been hacked. Spoofing is a temporary issue that will often be resolved in a few weeks when the scammer will move on.
- Email everyone in your contacts to let them know to disregard any suspicious emails from you.
- Just to be safe, run a full virus scan on your computer. This ensures that you have not experienced a malware or virus infection and helps eliminate the possibility that you have a compromised account.
- Update your email password, making sure that you have a robust and secure password.

GREEN THUMBS AND PERENNIALS WANTED

Do you miss having garden or want to get outside and learn about gardens hands on? R-W needs help in keeping up our gardens for everyone to enjoy. Individual beds are available for any greenthumbs to plant and maintain e.g., weed. Please call Lea at 780-451-1684 OR 780-905-4861 (cell). NOTE: We also need perennial plants, so if you have any perennials that need splitting we will gladly accept them to be planted in the church flowerbeds. Hoping to hear from you soon.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

For 4 weeks on **Sundays** from 12:00 to 1:30 pm (**May 26, June 9, June 16, and June 23**) in the Club Room. This is an opportunity to talk about your faith, to learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is also an opportunity to learn about the history, polity and faith practice of The United Church of Canada, and how we live out our faith in the world. After the class you will be asked to discern for yourselves whether or not you wish to publicly proclaim your commitment in this dynamic faith organisation. If you wish to participate in the group please contact Rev. Karen at karen.bridges@rwuc.org to register.

PAR: WHAT IS IT AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO R-W

The United Church of Canada has declared May to be PAR month. So, this month, we are inviting you to prayerfully consider using our regular monthly giving program, PAR. PAR stands for Pre-Authorized Remittance. It's a way that your monthly gift to Robertson-Wesley and to our larger work through Mission and Service can be automatically withdrawn from your bank account to the church account. It's easy to start and simple to change, as those of you already using PAR know very well. Besides being convenient, using PAR for your offering ensures regular monthly givings to help our church's ministry even when you are away. You will be providing our congregation a dependable flow of contributions, which increases our overall financial stability. Thank you to those who are already giving to Robertson-Wesley through PAR. Would you consider joining them? Ask the Office for the PAR form.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY HEATHER WARKENTIN FROM THE MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Rev Dirk Jessen has been with Robertson-Wesley as a bridging minister, which is meant to be a temporary ministry while a congregation goes through a time of transition. We have been fortunate to have had Rev. Dirk with us for almost 2 years, since the summer of 2022, which is longer than originally expected and for this we are very grateful. Now, the Northern Spirit Region has another bridging assignment for Rev. Dirk and has asked him to start in June. His final Sunday at Robertson-Wesley will be June 2, 2024. We here at Robertson-Wesley have benefited greatly from Rev Dirk's ministry during our time of transition. We will celebrate Rev. Dirk properly as we approach his final Sunday with us, but for now I would like to thank Rev. Dirk for his ministry at R-W and wish him and his new congregation all the best.

BOOK SALE: DONATIONS WANTED

With two great book sales last summer we are going to do the same this summer - one in June and the second in August. If you have any children's and/or adult books as well as magazines please donate them to the church. You can drop books off at your convenience.

GREEN BITES

Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology created the Merlin Bird App ten years ago. Thousands of volunteers have contributed to its development, including scientists, audio and video specialists, bird watchers, and photographers. The Merlin Bird ID was recently updated to include Bird of the Day, Sound Identification, and a Life List that tracks the user's sightings. Check out merlin.allaboutbirds.org. Best of all, it is a free app, funded by various supporters who believe that knowledge about nature should be readily available to one and all.

SPIRITED ART STUDIO

Spirited Art Studio is a free secular community art program providing an informal, welcoming and inclusive space where we come together to nurture our creative spirit through art and craft activities. There are as many pathways to creativity as there are individuals! Come see what adventures await you as you create, learn and make new connections. **Mondays** from 7:00 - 8:30 pm and **Wednesdays** 1:30 - 3:00 pm.

Worship Notes

On this Sunday we are participating in one of the two sacraments of The United Church of Canada, that being the sacrament of Communion, the other sacrament being Baptism. In the Protestant tradition a sacrament is an act in which Jesus himself participated. Anthony Robinson writes, "a sacrament is something God does; a ritual is something we do. In baptism and communion, God is present and active." I have also heard sacraments defined as the invisible love of God made visible. There are many meanings associated with the sacrament of Communion. Anthony Robinson writes: "Forgiveness, Christ's presence, penance, community, hunger, feeding, Christ's body and blood, memorial, and sustenance are among the many dimensions of the meal Christians share." Like the disciples who followed Jesus, we the faithful followers are also asked to receive the body and blood of Christ in the symbolic ritual of eating bread and drinking wine (grape juice) as an act of remembrance.

Cover Image

Photo by Milada Vigerova on Pixabay. Words added by Rev. Karen Bridges

Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: Vacant

Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant

Lead Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges

Bridging Minister: Rev. Dirk Jessen

Music Director: Dr. Allan Bevan

Office Administrator: Elyse Munro

Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell