



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2024 June 2

Pentecost 3



### **Welcome and Inclusion**

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, or gender identity. 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.*

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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.

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

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Holy Manna*, American Folk Hymn arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson  
Jacqueline Hernandez, percussion; Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

Whenever you feel disrespected or overlooked, let down by others,  
**resting and praying, we affirm that God knows us and loves us.**

In those times when you feel lost or unsure, seeking God's presence in  
your life,

**listening and singing, we remember that God leads us.**

As we worship, we share our worries and concerns, craving answers  
and support.

**Praising and reflecting, we recognize that God works through us.**

Together we remember that God is a God of surprises,

**working in surprising places through surprising people, loving us  
in surprising ways and so we worship God!<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold*

*Voices United 605*

**Jesus, teacher, brave and bold,**

**let us serve you, young and old.**

**Let us faith-filled workers be,**

**all around, your wisdom see.**

**Let us play and dance and sing,**

**your goodness find in everything.**

**Jesus, friend, so strong and true,**

**show us good, brave work to do.**

**Show us those who need a friend,**

**all things broken help us mend.**

**Free our minds and stretch our care,**

**teach us to serve you everywhere.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

Move within our hearts with compassion and in trust, O God, that we  
may discover your call to each of us by faith: your call to turn from

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<sup>1</sup> Written by **Gill Le Fevre**, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont., **Gathering**, Pentecost 1  
2024, p. 39. Used with permission.

fear to hope, your call to discard status for your service, your call to open our minds completely to your promise. As we receive the scripture today, help us to embrace your Way. **Amen.**<sup>2</sup>

Scriptures:

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

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *Let Us Go Rejoicing*, by Jeffrey Honore

Flutes: Rhondda Gower and Jean Triscott; Clarinet: Trisha-Lee Wasmund; Choir of R-W

Sermon: *Vessels*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Hymn: *When Pain of the World*

***Voices United 598***

**When pain of the world surrounds us  
with darkness and despair,  
when searching just confounds us  
with false hopes everywhere,  
when lives are starved for meaning  
and destiny is bare,  
we are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's healing flow through us.**

**We see with fear and trembling  
our aching world in need,  
confessing to each other  
our wastefulness and greed.  
May we with steadfast caring  
the hungry children feed.**

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<sup>2</sup> Written by **Gord Dunbar**, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont., Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont., **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2022, p. 46. Used with permission.

**We are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's justice flow through us.**

**The church is a holy vessel  
the living waters fill  
to nourish all its people,  
God's purpose to fulfill.  
May we with humble courage  
be open to God's will.**

**We are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's spirit flow through us.**

**We praise you for our journey  
and your abundant grace,  
your saving word that guided  
a struggling human race.**

**O God, with all creation,  
your future we embrace.**

**We are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's changes flow through us.**

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### *Grateful Response*

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Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Rev. Karen Bridges

*Voices United p. 921*

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](mailto: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:

Change us as we give, loving God.

**Change us from those who seek our own good to those who seek  
the good of others.**

Change us as we give, loving God.

**Change us from those who discuss justice to those who get daringly  
involved.**

Change us as we give, loving God.

**Change us from those who call ourselves followers of Jesus to those  
who with boldness proclaim the good news.**

Change us as we give, loving God.

**Change us from those who are content with what we do now to  
those who are committed to seek a deeper spiritual life.**

These gifts will enable us to change.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Hymn: *We Have This Ministry*

*Voices United 510*

**We have this ministry and we are not discouraged;  
it is by God's own power that we may live and serve.  
Openly we share God's word, speaking truth as we believe,  
praying that the shadowed world may healing light receive.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.**

**O Christ, the tree of life, our end and our beginning,  
we grow to fullest flower when rooted in your love.  
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay, called to service by your grace,  
different cultures, different gifts, the young and old a place.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.**

**The yoke of Christ is ours, the whole world is our parish;  
we daily take the cross, the burden and the joy.  
Bearing hurts of those we serve, wounded,  
bruised and bowed with pain,  
Holy Spirit, bread and wine, we die and rise again.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.**

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<sup>3</sup>Written by **David Sparks**, Summerland, B.C., **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2024, p. 40. Used with permission.

Farewell Blessing for Rev. Dirk

Commissioning:

God calls us all beloved.

**We go to love what God loves.**

Accept your calling to love, to heal, to seek justice, and to reconcile.

**We answer God's call in all we say and do.**

The courage of Christ attend to you.

The love of God surround you.

The Holy Spirit guide you.

**Amen.**<sup>4</sup>

Postlude: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*, by L. Van Beethoven arr. by Patricia Cota  
Nova Bells and Robertson-Wesley Ringers

Questions for Reflection:

How have faith leaders and ministers been vessels of the light of the Gospel for you?

How have you been a vessel of the light of the Gospel for others?

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, June 9, 2024**

### **Pride Sunday**

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

**Scriptures:** Acts 8:29-40 • The baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 • There is a time for every matter

**Sermon:** The Path of Belonging

On this Sunday we come together to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Robertson-Wesley United Church being an Affirming Community of Faith. What do we mean when we say we are welcoming and inclusive in our diversity? Robertson-Wesley values diversity, and is committed to being a safe and inclusive space for all people. Today is a time when we not only celebrate where we come from, but we recommit to seeking justice, for all. Being an affirming ministry calls us all to work toward healing and wholeness for all creation by challenging bias and discrimination, working to end racism, promoting economic justice, increased accessibility, and caring for the planet. Let's celebrate who we are while continuing the work of this ministry in the world.

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Douglas Graham and Raydene Koch, soloists; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

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<sup>4</sup> Written by **Wetaskiwin Writers**, Grace Lutheran Church and First U.C., Wetaskiwin, Alta. **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2023, p. 32. Used with permission.

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun June 2	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Air Room</b>	10:45 am
	Fellowship & BBQ - <b>Memorial Hall/Lawn</b>	11:30 am
Mon June 3	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues June 4	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Parent Support Group - <b>Club Room</b>	4:00 pm
	DEAP - <b>Room 11</b>	5:30 pm
Wed June 5	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
Thurs June 6	Not Falling For You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
Sat June 8	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm
	Youth Group Party - <b>Youth Room</b>	6:00 pm

## ON THE HORIZON

Sun June 9	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
	Membership Class - <b>Club Room</b>	12:00 pm
Mon June 10	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues June 11	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Property Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	1:00 pm
	UCW - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	1:30 pm
	Parent Support Group - <b>Club Room</b>	4:00 pm
	Finance Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
Wed June 12	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
Thurs June 13	Not Falling For You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Men's Group - <b>Away</b>	10:00 am

## Volunteer Opportunities

### SIGN UP AND VOLUNTEER

Visit [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer) or use the tablet in the outer office.

### COMMUNITY DINNER

We are in need of more volunteers for the Community Dinner on Saturday, **June 8**. To Sign-up visit [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer) or use the tablet in the outer office or during fellowship.

### R-W News & Notes

### 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. To register email [Lindsay@yegfamilycounselling.com](mailto:Lindsay@yegfamilycounselling.com)



## **GREEN THUMBS AND PERENNIALS WANTED**

Do you miss having a 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.

## **BOOK SALE: DONATIONS NEEDED**

We are still seeking book donations for R-Ws annual fundraiser book sales in June and August! Fiction, non-fiction, adult, childrens, cookbooks, comics, magazines, CDs, DVDs are all welcome! You can drop them off at your convenience.

## **GREEN BITES**

The word COMPOST is interesting. The word itself originated in the 14th century when fruits were preserved in the form of a compote. Fruits were cooked together, like a stew, then stored in porcelain containers. When waste products such as food and/or agricultural waste were put together and allowed to deteriorate, the word COMPOTE evolved into COMPOST. The city of Edmonton picks up household compost and heats it with hot water as part of the process in preparation for its use. The heat will kill weeds and insects so that gardeners can be assured they are adding nutritious compost to their soil. happy gardening everyone, and may Compost be with you!! - the Environmental Stewardship Group

## **YEG FAMILY COUNSELLING: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE??**

### *A Support Group for Parents of Adult Children*

Parenting is hard, and it doesn't seem to get much easier when your kids grow up. This group will help parents process through the difficult realities of raising adult children, especially adult children who are struggling with their mental health. Topics will include:

- Parental stressors
- Coping with stigma
- Establishing boundaries
- Building a support network
- Communication strategies
- Crisis management
- Exploring how faith affects interpersonal dynamics

Weekly on **Tuesdays** from 4:00 - 5:30 pm in the Club Room. Starting **June 4** for 6 weeks. These sessions are priced on a sliding scale from \$30-\$210 for all six group sessions facilitated by Lindsay Muawanga (Intern) and Ashley Shiach, MA (Mental Health Therapist) To register email [Lindsay@yegfamilycounselling.com](mailto:Lindsay@yegfamilycounselling.com)

## **LABYRINTH: TAKE TIME FOR RENEWAL**

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.

## **TOILET PAPER NEEDED FOR FOOD BANK**

Quite often we are asked by Food Bank clients if we have toilet paper, while it is available by request from the Food Bank, people don't always remember to request it in advance. If you can help with donations of toilet paper, you can drop it off anytime during office hours 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday to Friday or on Sundays. Thanks so much.

## **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](mailto:karen.bridges@rwuc.org) to register.

## **THANK YOU**

To our Robertson-Wesley Ringers and Nova Bells for all your ringing this past church year! As our ringers go on summer break following the service, why not consider being a part of this fun and musically inspiring activity in the fall?

## **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.

## **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.

### In the Community

#### **A COMMON WORD ALBERTA AUTHOR DISCUSSION**

**June 10** from 6:00-9:00 pm. A Common Word Alberta will be hosting an interfaith event at Al Rashid Mosque (13070 – 113 Street) to learn together from the co-authors of *The Wall Between*. Amidst the current grief, trauma, and pain and the intense expressions of distrust, enmity, and hate between the Jewish and Palestinian communities in the Diaspora, what can be done to bring North American Palestinian and Jewish communities together? A lot according to authors Raja Khouri and Jeffrey Wilkinson. Join Raja and Jeff in a frank discussion about what we must do. To register visit [www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-wall-between-registration-906368962967](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-wall-between-registration-906368962967)

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### *Cover Image*

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Photo is from [wallpapers.com](http://wallpapers.com)

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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

# *Welcome to Robertson-Wesley*

If you would like you can fill out this page, tear it off, and place it in the offering plates at the exits. This form is also available to fill out online at [rwuc.org/infocard](http://rwuc.org/infocard)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred gender pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to subscribe to the email newsletter

- Yes     No
- I am new in the community
- I am a visitor
- I am interested in speaking with a minister
- I am considering making this my church

Please put in the offering plate. Thank you

