

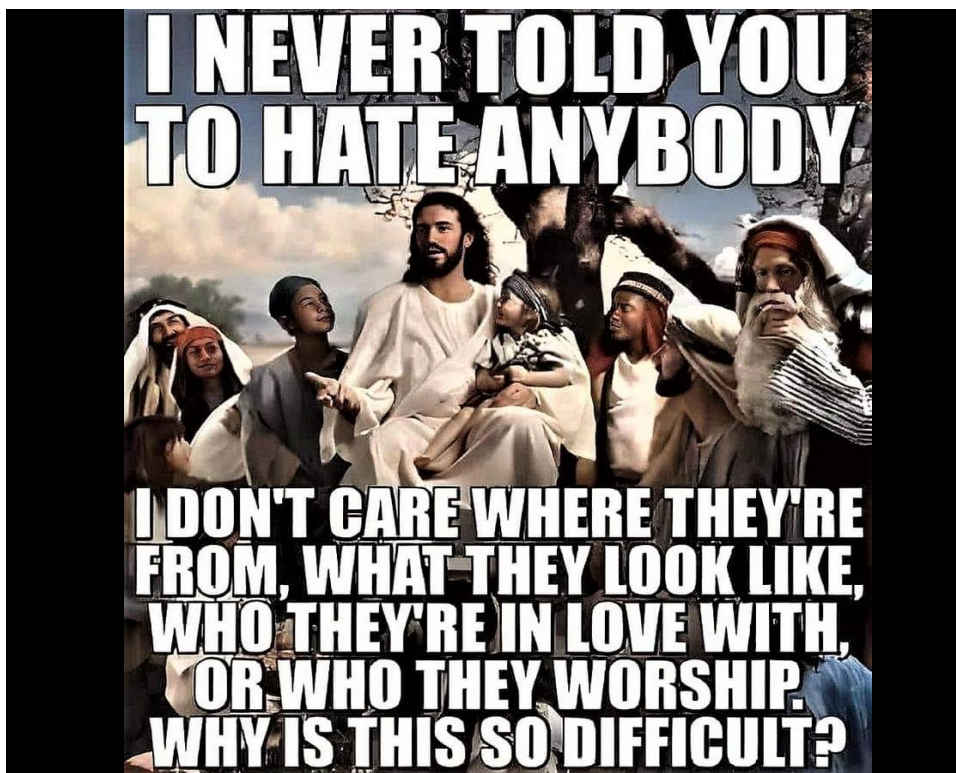


*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2024 June 9

15th Anniversary of Affirming Ministry

Pentecost 4



### 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 community of faith.*

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.

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## **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 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: *Variations on "Simple Gifts,"* Traditional Folk Hymn arr. by John Carter  
Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *I Feel the Spirit!* Trad. Spiritual arr. by Don Besig  
Douglas Graham, Raydene Koch, soloists

Call to Worship:

The rainbow is a sign of diversity and hope.

**A reminder of the covenant made between God and humanity.**

Red is the colour of raspberry and rose petal, passion and birth.

**Sweet and vivacious, colour of life: red. Thank you God!**

Orange is the colour of pumpkin and flame, warmth and compassion.

**Bright and enlivening, colour of healing: orange. Thank you God!**

Yellow is the colour of lemon and sun, joy and enthusiasm.

**Radiant and bold, colour of hope: yellow. Thank you God!**

Green is the colour of cucumber and pine, calm and growth.

**Restful and abundant, colour of nature: green. Thank you God!**

Blue is the colour of sky and mountain ridge, depth and inspiration.

**Soaring and fluent, colour of harmony: blue. Thank you God!**

Purple is the colour of grape and lilac, strength and dignity.

**Profound and majestic, colour of spirit: purple. Thank you God!**

In God's sight, all humanity is a rainbow people. Come let us worship together.<sup>1</sup>

Hymn: *Draw the Circle Wide*

*More Voices 145*

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.**

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

**God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms.**

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.**

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

**Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call.**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by the worship team at Gaetz United Church in Red Deer. Used with permission.

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

**Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door.**

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Prayer of Affirmation:

In the knowledge that our human frailty is a gift from you, O God:

**Open up our minds to greater understanding of each other and of you.**

Open up our hearts to greater wisdom in our prayers and in our actions.

**Remove from us that fear that keeps us closed to new encounters.**

Release us from the pain of all that we have done and failed to do.

**For we are your people, God, and we seek to do your will. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

As we hear the scriptures, two questions arise: What is God's intention? What is our response? As we listen deeply to the reading, as we reflect on what we hear, there will be inspiration, there will be understanding, there will be action. Let us hear the Word.<sup>3</sup>

Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 • For everything there is a season      Richard Kennedy  
For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Neil Paynter & Helen Boothroyd, **Holy Ground**, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2005), p. 237.

<sup>3&4</sup> Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2017, p. 37. Used with permission.

## Scripture:

Acts 8:26-40 • The baptism of a Eunuch Jaiydn Mayahi-Murdoch  
 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So Philip got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. The eunuch had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard the eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The eunuch replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And the eunuch invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that the eunuch was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with the scripture, he proclaimed to the eunuch the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” The eunuch commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized the eunuch. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, Philip proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Loving God,

**we listened; we received insight; we will act on what we heard.  
 Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

Anthem: *Ubi Caritas*, by Michael John Trotta

Claire Rolheiser, soloist; Choir of Robertson-Wesley

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

*Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.*

*Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.*

*Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.*

*Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Christ's love has gathered us into one.

Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Dramatic Reflection: *"It's not about you"*

Jay Ferguson

Hymn: *O for a World*

*Voices United 697*

**O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.**

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### *Grateful Response*

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Pastoral Prayers

Angela Glasel

Lord's Prayer:

*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.**

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:

Bless these gifts, O God, for they are part of your story. These gifts represent our reaching out into the world,

**To tell your story in loving-kindness, to tell your story in giving of ourselves, to tell your story in the ways we live for you. Bless us in our giving, that we may live the story. Amen.<sup>5</sup>**

Rededication of Affirming Ministry:

In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship with each other and with God.

**We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life. We can grow in wisdom and compassion. We can recognize all people as kin.**

We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place. And so we proclaim together our statement of welcome and inclusion:

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

We recognize that 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.**

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<sup>5</sup> Written by Gord Dunbar, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2018, p. 45. Used with permission.

Carrying a vision of creation healed and restored, we welcome all in the name of Christ.<sup>6</sup>

Hymn: *We Are Marching*

*Voices United 646*

**We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God.  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, marching, we are marching,  
oo, we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, marching, we are marching,  
oo, we are marching in the light of God.**

**Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos',  
si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos',  
Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos',  
si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos',  
Si-ya-hamba hamba, si-ya-hamba, oo,  
si-ya-hamb', e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.  
Si-ya-hamba hamba, si-ya-hamba, oo,  
si-ya-hamb', e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.**

Commissioning:

Those whom the world scorns, God loves.

Those whom society casts away, God gathers up.

Those whom our culture ignores, God gives places of honour.

Go from here in the spirit of the risen Christ and go about God's work with humility, joy, and good humour, knowing that you, too, are loved, gathered in, and honoured.

**By the power of the Spirit, we will go to the world God loves.**

**Amen.**<sup>7</sup>

Postlude: *Celebration*, by Charles Callahan

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

What do we mean when we say we are welcoming and inclusive in our diversity?

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<sup>6</sup> The words are excerpts from *A Song of Faith*, the 2006 Creedal statement of The United Church of Canada, and Robertson-Wesley United Church's statement of Welcome and Inclusion.

<sup>7</sup> Written by Robin Wardlaw, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2021, p. 35. Used with permission.



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# R-W Report

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## Next Sunday

Sunday, June 16, 2024

### Pentecost 5 & Indigenous 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:** Isaiah 43:1-7 • Restoration Promised.

Matthew 5:14-16 • You are Light.

**Sermon:** The Path of Respect

The passage from Isaiah speaks to the people who have been exiled. In this passage the prophet Isaiah declares that the exiled people are a people valued and honoured by God. In *A New Creed*, we as a community of faith in The United Church of Canada proclaim that we believe that God has come in Jesus, the word made flesh to reconcile and make new. On Indigenous Sunday we take time to honour and intentionally act on reconciliation. The path of respect means that we walk with each other, that we silently listen, that we ask for forgiveness, and that we seek justice for all people. How is God calling us to act in justice this day?

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

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
	Parent Support Group - <b>Club Room</b>	4:00 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

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun June 16	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
	Wild Church - <b>Away</b>	1:00 pm
Mon June 17	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues June 18	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Parent Support Group - <b>Club Room</b>	4:00 pm
	Finance Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
Wed June 19	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
Thurs June 20	Not Falling For You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
Sat June 22	Spirited Arts Workshop - <b>Art Studio</b>	10:00 am

## **R-W News & Notes**

### **THANK YOU**

A big R-W thank you to all who participated in and attended our Talent Show on June 1. A great time was had by all and, on top of that, the event raised a total of \$935 in support of the church. Special thanks to our talented vocal and handbell choirs, our gifted soloists, and to our wonderful Emcee Renée Englot. Thanks also to the Robertson-Wesley Music Society, our kitchen help, to those who worked behind the scenes, and to our set-up and take-down team. Thank you everyone!

### **GREEN BITES**

Many of us when travelling have used small bottles of toiletries provided by the hotels in which we stay. Many of us have cast a thought to the waste created by individual containers, and we make sure we take home our unfinished bottles of toiletries. It is believed that several thousand such bottles are discarded every year by each of many hundreds of hotels. That does not include the bottles that are taken home by individual guests. At first thought, we imagine that when hotels supply refillable containers, they do so to reduce waste. However, research shows that some hotel guests will add alcohol, urine, bleach, hair dye, and numerous other liquids, to the containers. So much for waste reduction! Perhaps the solution is to travel with our own toiletries, and by doing so, we are reducing the amount of waste created by us as guests. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

### **R-W MEN'S GROUP**

The Robertson Wesley Men's Group is having its annual 'Spring Brunch' at Albert's Family Restaurant on 124th Street and 106 Avenue; at 10:00 am until noon on Thursday, **June 13th**. All people regardless of gender identity are welcome to attend, meals paid for by the individuals attending.

### **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **WILD CHURCH**

Join Wild Church on **June 16th** for a potluck lunch at 12:30 and a service at 1:15. We will gather at picnic site #3 at the east end of Emily Murphy Park. Our worship theme will be "The Tastes of Summer". All are welcome! Rain or shine - cancelled if air quality index is higher than 7. Check out our website ([wildchurchofeg.org](http://wildchurchofeg.org)) for more info and updates.

## **UCW & FRIENDS**

The June meeting of UCW and Friends, which would have been on Tuesday, June 11, has been cancelled due to the number of members who are unable to attend. The next meeting will be Tuesday, **September 10** at 1:30 pm in Memorial Hall. Best wishes for a healthy, happy summer!

## **WASHING MACHINE**

We recently purchased a new dryer, and as it seems to go, our washing machine soon followed, and so we had to purchase a new washing machine for the church. This was an unexpected expense in the Property budget, but is an essential appliance for washing the rags, towels, and mops that keep R-W clean. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the washing machine please make a note on your donation that it is for the washing machine.

## **In the Community**

### **QUEER FAMILY RETREAT**

It's back! The Queer Family Retreat is back at Naramata Centre this summer, **August 26 - 30** and it's going to be the perfect ending to your summer! A week in Queer community of all ages, featuring Friends and

Family, Amazing Workshops (Celebrating Our Queerness! Prayer Beads! Loving Beyond The Binary! Remember Your Childhood! Soul Collage! Yoga Chapel! and more!), lots of time to play at the Beach, wander the Village, and hang out with some really cool people. Register Online at [naramatacentre.secure.retreat.guru/program/queer-family-retreat-august-26-30](http://naramatacentre.secure.retreat.guru/program/queer-family-retreat-august-26-30)

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### *Worship Notes*

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On this Sunday we celebrate the 15th Anniversary of becoming an Affirming Ministry. 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. Thank you to Angela, Loathar, Colleen, Kyra and Jaidyn, and Jay for helping to plan this service.

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### *Cover Image*

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Cover photo is from Facebook.

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Lead Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges  
Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: Vacant  
Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant  
Music Director: Dr. Allan Bevan  
Office Administrator: Elyse Munro  
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell