

Robertson - Wesley UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

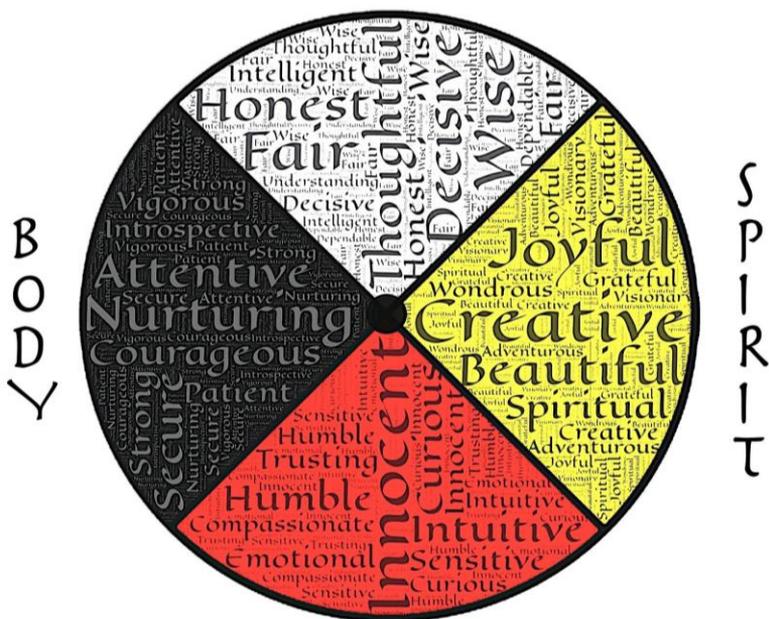
An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 June 16

Indigenous Sunday

Pentecost 5

MIND



EMOTION

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.

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.



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

Friends in Christ

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *On Eagle's Wings*, by Michael Joncas arr. by Douglas Wagner

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *The Water Song*, Traditional

Iiona Bevan, Jacqueline Hernandez, soloists

Call to Worship:

Creator has placed each and every one of us here with purpose!

Let us praise Creator for the earth below our feet. For Mother Earth sustains us, and all creation cries out for justice.

Creator has given us the eastern direction: the direction of vision, children, and the sun that rises on us each day.

Let us view the world with child-like wonder - full of awe and humility. Thankful for the new day that dawns on us each and every morning, we give thanks for God who gives us new mercies every day.

Creator has given us the southern direction: the direction of honesty, adolescence, and growth.

Help us speak only the truth, and open our hearts to hear the stories of others. Inspire us to grow in the image of Christ who teaches us to walk the good path.

Creator has given us the western direction: the direction of adulthood, harvesting, and deep spiritual understanding.

Give us the tools we need to act on the knowledge we are gathering, allowing us to act with maturity and grace.

Creator has given us the northern direction: the direction of Elders, achievement, and a deep connection to spirituality.

Empower us to learn from the past, and to move forward to create your companionship of empowerment here on Mother Earth. Holy Spirit, give us the teachings we need to correct any wrongs, and to live lives full of love, peace, and hope. Be with us now, Creator, as we worship you in awe-filled praise. Amen.¹

Hymn: *I Am Walking a Path of Peace*

More Voices 221

**I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
lead me home, lead me home.**

¹ This Call to Worship comes for the service entitled **Living on the Path of Respect: Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery**. Used with permission.

**I am walking a path of love,
I am walking a path of love,
I am walking a path of love,
lead me home, lead me home.**

**I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
lead me home, lead me home.**

**I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
lead me home, lead me home.**

Prayer of Hope:

Our friend and teacher Jesus walked many dusty paths around Lake Galilee. He journeyed with good friends and with those of no account. He cared for those who were left behind, the sacred, and the forgotten. Jesus taught us about being good stewards of creation, to be kind to others and ourselves, and that there is a time to take a stand. When he taught in crowds, people didn't always know who he was. He would share that he was the light. (light candle)

That beautiful light shone everywhere Jesus went and it shines bright everywhere we go.

**That glorious light follows us to work, to church, and to the park.
It is a light that supports us and reminds us in good times and in bad that we are loved, cared for, and always belong.**

The stunning light also represents the importance of balance in all of creation: Fire represents the masculine, the feminine is represented by water, and for there to be life there must be both. May it be so. **Amen.**²

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

God's Holy Word

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.³

² Written by Kimberly Roy and Rev. Wayne Monague for Indigenous Day of Prayer 2024: We Are All Spirits First, United Church of Canada.

³ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2017, p. 37. Used with permission.

Scriptures:

Isaiah 43:1-7 • Restoration Promised

Lisa Lane

But now thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, the Lord who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my children from far away and from the ends of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Matthew 5:14-16 • You are Light

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Creator in heaven.

Loving God,

**we listened; we received insight; we will act on what we heard.
Amen.⁴**

Moment of Holy Honesty

Linda Gordon

Anthem: *Day by Day*, by Martin How

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *The Path of Respect*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Spirit of Life*

Voices United 381

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea,

move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free,

Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

⁴ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2017, p. 37. Used with permission p. 37

Grateful Response

Pastoral Prayers

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, 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:

With open hearts and open spirits, we come to you, God most holy.
With all that we have and all that we are, we bring our offerings and
we lift our voices in prayer and celebration that you are our all.
**May your Spirit fill our words. May your Spirit fill our actions.
May your Spirit fill our lives. In Christ's name, we ask these
things. Amen.**⁵

⁵ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2024, p. 38. Used with permission.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,
the wash of love again.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.
called by earth and sky.

Commissioning:

Let us go forth, called to God's holy covenant.

God continues to guide us: attending to our stories,
healing us as siblings, showing us how to live in right relations.

God promised to bless and encourage us on the path of respect.

So go with the peace and promise of God, the energy of the Spirit of love, and the passion of Jesus. Amen.⁶

Postlude: *All Creatures of Our God and King*, 17th C. hymn melody arr. by Paul Thurmond
Dr. Allan Bevan, piano

Questions for Reflection:

What does it feel like to walk a path of respect with others?

How is God calling us to act in justice?

How are we participating in the work of Truth and Reconciliation?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, June 23, 2024

Pentecost 6 & Sacrament of Communion

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: Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Dead Bones Rising

Sermon: The Path of Discovery

The prophet Ezekiel is known for being eccentric and bizarre. Ezekiel is a prophet who warns those in Jerusalem of what will happen to them, and he also tells them that God will forgive the people and bring them home. We are all on a path that seeks a sense of home, a sense of belonging and purpose, a place that feels safe. The world as we know it does not seem all that safe these days, and there is a sense of disconnection. In this vision of the valley of dry bones, Ezekiel wants people to know that their sense of hopelessness symbolized in the dead bones will be revived. God will bring the people back to life, God will bring us back to life! God's life force will revive even the weariest of us and we like the bones will feel the spirit moving within us causing us to stand up and live! How will God revive your weariest spirit? In what ways has God already done this?

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

⁶ This benediction comes for the service entitled **Living on the Path of Respect: Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery**. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun June 16	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:00 pm
	Wild Church - Away	12:30 pm
Mon June 17	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues June 18	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Parent Support Group - Club Room	4:00 pm
	Finance Meeting - Club Room	7:00 pm
Wed June 19	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
Thurs June 20	Not Falling For You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am
Sat June 22	Spirited Arts Workshop - Art Studio	10:00 am

ON THE HORIZON

Sun June 23	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Book & Art Sale - Lawn	10:00 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Membership Class - Club Room	12:00 pm
	Koinonia - Away	5:30 pm
Mon June 24	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tues June 25	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm
	Parent Support Group - Club Room	4:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed June 26	Spirited Art Studio - Art Studio	1:30 pm
Thurs June 27	Not Falling For You - Memorial Hall	10:00 am

Volunteer Opportunities

BOOK & ART SALE

The annual book & art sale fundraisers are going to be combined this year and will take place on Sunday, **June 23** on the lawn of R-W (weather permitting) We are looking for volunteers to help set-up and work the sale. Visit rwuc.org/volunteer to sign-up.

R-W News & Notes

WILD CHURCH

Join Wild Church **today** 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 (wildchurchyeg.org) for more info and updates.

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.

GREEN BITES

More than one hundred and fifty years ago, the English economist William Jevons observed that improved efficiency due to the progress of technology lead to increased use, rather than decreased use, of resources. Jevons' observation is now known as the Jevons Paradox or the Jevons effect. Think of our use of water. Nowadays we shower or bathe frequently, each load of laundry uses fresh water, and we don't always rely on rainwater to keep our lawns green. Think too about our use of plastic. After the City of Edmonton introduced plastic recycling, our use increased drastically. Little did we realize that less than ten percent of plastic has a second life. The Jevons paradox is an interesting way of looking at the world. It helps us understand more fully the true cost of technological advances and whether or not we can live meaningful and simpler lives. Food for thought! - The Environmental Stewardship Group

KOINONIA

It is that time of the year again - time for our annual Koinonia Barbeque! Sunday, **June 23** at 5:30 pm at Joy and Garnet's house, please ask the office for the address before Friday, June 21 or email Rev. Karen after Friday. Hamburgers (buns and "fixings" as well) will be provided (if you prefer something other than a hamburger please feel free to bring and Garnet will bbq for you). Please bring a side dish/salad or dessert to share. Please bring a lawn chair (if you are able) - we do have outdoor seating for at least 20 and plenty of indoor seating should we have inclement weather. To ensure we have enough hamburgers to go around. Please RSVP by June 21 at garnetstronach@hotmail.com. The theme will be: Friendship.

BOOK & ART SALE

The annual book & art sale fundraisers are going to be combined this year and will take place on Sunday, **June 23** on the lawn of R-W (weather permitting) from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. We are still accepting book donations! Fiction, non-fiction, adult, childrens, cookbooks, comics, magazines, CDs, DVDs are all welcome! You can drop them off at your convenience. There will be a second sale in August.

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.

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

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

UNITED CHURCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday, June 9, The United Church of Canada kicked off its Centennial celebrations with a special service at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. Hundreds attended in person and online. The service featured diverse music, a reading in Mohawk, and a special message from the Moderator. The full service is available to watch on the UC YouTube channel at youtube.com/watch?v=L0Zwd8Y5SI8

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 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/

NEW PARKING AREA

The Parkade in the new Mercury Block building across the street from R-W is open to public parking and until October 13, they are reducing the daytime parking rate to \$5.00 flat from 5:00 am - 6:00 pm.

Worship Notes

On this Sunday we gather in worship for Indigenous Day of Prayer which is the Sunday before National Indigenous Day (June 21). This is a service to celebrate First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples' values, customs, language, and culture. We are grateful to Linda Gordon for sharing her story today with us.

Cover Image

Cover image is by John Hain from Pixabay.

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

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

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

