

Youth & Young Adults

Sometimes you hear the statement, “Young people are the future.”

At Robertson-Wesley, we say, “young people are the present” because youth and young adults are as much a part of the congregation as older adults and seniors. Every age group is important and welcome to participate fully in the congregation.

Inclusive Theology

Openness to youth and young adults is part of our desire for R-W to be a truly welcoming church which lives out a justice-centred and inclusive theology. We therefore welcome all people regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender, ability or economic circumstance. Everyone’s gifts are celebrated. All are welcome to exercise leadership. We also welcome theological diversity.

If you have faith questions, this is the place to explore them.

Youth Programs

On Sundays, youth from Grade 7 and up meet in the chapel before going downstairs for worship where we explore the message of Jesus in engaging ways. Newcomers and visiting youth are welcome to take part. Youth also get together for a variety of activities. There’s a senior group for youth from Grades 7 to 12

that meets twice a month. Our junior group for those in Grades 5 and 6, meets once a month.

Youth and Worship

Worship is an important element in a congregation and all age groups are welcome to participate.

Several times a year, youth get together with the church school children to worship in the hall. In addition, at the beginning of each church season (for example Advent or Lent), all ages gather in the sanctuary. This “Whole Family Worship” is geared for all ages.

Confirmation

As part of the United Church of Canada, at R-W we offer baptism to adults and infants alike.

Baptism is a sacrament by which someone is received into the fellowship of the church.

While we do baptize older children and adults, quite often, people are baptized as infants or young children.

When this is the case, our parents have made a faith commitment on our behalf. Thus when we are older, we make our own commitment as followers of Jesus by being confirmed. Confirmation is a time when we publicly declare our desire to live in Christ and practice our faith

within the life and fellowship of the church. Confirmation brings full membership in the local congregation. This means that youth who have been confirmed have the same right and responsibility to vote as any other member of R-W.

Depending on numbers, confirmation is celebrated with youth (14 and up) every second year. Confirmation classes are scheduled between Christmas and Pentecost.

Young Adults

At R-W, we recognize that people between 18 and 30, have their own unique needs and interests. With that in mind, we strive to offer programs that are created by and for “young adults.” Don’t worry if you’re in the “workforce” or you’re partnered and have young children. Our programs are for you as well.

For the most part, young adults stay in the sanctuary for worship on Sundays while youth go downstairs. However, we welcome young adults who wish to join the senior high youth or want to share their gifts of leadership with their younger peers.

Just as we have rooms for youth, there is also a hang-out spot for young adults. Also in the lower hall, the Lounge is a great spot to get together, have a coffee or tea and get

to know other young adults in the congregation. Check out the bulletin board to see what's going on.

Alternative Worship and Prayer

On the first Sunday of the month, there is an alternative worship service entitled "Outside-the-box." This 7:00 pm service is led by young adults and is for anyone who would like to worship in a less formal and more theme driven way. The service is in the chapel. On the second Sunday of the month come to the chapel at 7:30 pm for "Centre," a meditation group.

Opportunities to Grow

There are many ways to get to know people at R-W. Different events and activities are always being planned. You can learn a new recipe with our "Get Cooking" group or explore theology through *The Pathways Centre*, an educational forum for cutting-edge, progressive Christian faith and theological reflection. On the first Friday of the month you can attend "God on Tap," a gathering at a neighbourhood pub for lively discussions about God, theology, religion, spirituality over a "brew."

There are also many opportunities for volunteering. Examples include the monthly Community Dinners for

those who are financially struggling, the weekly Food Bank depot, and our social justice group.

New Families

Supportive friends are important when you're a young couple or family, especially when you're a new parent. Several times a year, we hold young couple potlucks after worship, a great opportunity to get together with other couples and parents.

Childcare is provided.

As a young couple becomes a family, you may wonder about having your child baptized. Parents who bring their child for baptism promise to follow Jesus and to teach their child to do the same. Along with your home life, participation in a faith community provides a place for children to grow spiritually. If you wish to have your child baptized, at least one parent should be a member of R-W. If this isn't the case, there are courses available to take.

Contact either minister.



For more information contact James or Gillian at 482-1587 or by email: james@robertson-wesley.org and gillian@unitnetwork.com.

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At Robertson- Wesley



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