



Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 June 25

Life Passages

Pentecost 3

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

Jesus teaches...



we teach
through mentorship!

Friends in Christ

*The flowers in the sanctuary are in memory of our dear mothers,
Ann deVos and Joyce MacLennan, a gift from the deVos family.*

Prelude: *Morning Has Broken*, David Lasky Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Prayer of Approach:

We draw together searching for truth

God, show us the way.

We draw together to share the Good News

Christ, show us the way.

We draw together to renew our faith

Spirit, show us the way.¹

Processional Hymn: *And on This Path*

More

Voices 8

Life Passages

Sacrament of Baptism, Reaffirmation, Blessing & Transfer

Brenda Shepard and Colleen Ouellette

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (*in unison*)

**Eternal God, your Son the Servant-Lord Jesus Christ
has commissioned us to make disciples of people of all
nations baptizing them in your name. May your Spirit
be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a
sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we
pray. Amen.**

Congregation's Promise (*standing*)

**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and
grow with you. With God's help we will live out our
baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ:
nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another
in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.**

Recommitment: *A New Creed*

Voices United 918

Please note that the last line of the creed (omitted in some of our hymn books) is:

Thanks be to God.

Blessing (*sung*)

(*Voices United 454*)

May God who creates you give you light;

May God who sustains you make you wise;

May God who protects you give you joy;

May God who surrounds you give you peace.

¹ Written by Sandy Ferguson, *Gathering Pentecost 1* 2015, p. 31. Used with permission.

God's Holy Word

Scriptures:

John Fleming

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 • Exhortations, Greetings, and Benedictions

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faith hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

This is the witness of the Church.

Thanks be to God for the power of the Holy Spirit.

Anthem: *Morning Has Broken*, Robin King

Choir of Robertson-Wesley & Matthew McGuigan, flute

Sermon: *Jesus Teaches*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Three Things I Promise*

More Voices 176

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord's Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *An Unconventional Voluntary*, Robin King

Offertory Hymn:

More Voices 187

We give our thanks to God (x4)

We give our feet to you (x3)

because you walk with us.

Prayer of Gratitude

Recessional Hymn: *Will Your Anchor Hold*

Voices United 675

Commissioning

Choral Benediction: *Peace Be With You*, Alison L. Wesley

Choir of R-W

Postlude: *Sharon Variants*, Robin King

*Following worship, all are invited to the Memorial Hall
for fellowship, and refreshments.*

Music Notes

Thanks to the choir for their participation in the service today. This is their last service before summer break! Thanks to Matthew McGuigan for playing flute this morning too. We have three pieces this morning by Robin King, who was Music Director here at R-W

from 1988-1993. He is now serving as a United Church minister in Central Alberta, and is still very active in music – especially composing and in musical theatre. Robin’s setting of the hymn “Morning Has Broken”, the Gaelic tune with poetry by Eleanor Farjeon, is simple and yet so beautiful. Lush harmonies for the middle verse and a flute descant create an elegant setting perfect for contemplation about the world around us. Known for his wit, the two organ pieces are written for two colleagues. The “An Unconventional Voluntary” was written for a former member of St. Andrew’s United Church, Darwin Pearson, when Robin worked there. The Sharon Variants (just selections, as they are about 9 mins. in total) were written for our mutual friend, Sharon Beckstead, who was for many years the Music Director at Highlands United Church before moving to Toronto to take up a position at Leaside United Church. They are variations on the hymn tune, “Sharon”, a tune which unfortunately is no longer in our current hymn books.

Cover Image

Cover images: The next generation of greeters. May 28, 2017 taken by Heather Warkentin.

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R-W REPORT June 25, 2017
Robertson-Wesley United Church

A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE

Washrooms are located by the elevator.

Baby changing facilities are available in washrooms.

If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel with nursing space in adjacent room (Millson Room).

Activity kits for children are available from the ushers.

Large print bulletins, large print hymnbooks, and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.

Next Week

July 2, 2017, 10:30 am

Pentecost 4

Children & Youth: Children and youth are encouraged to worship with their families today. Activity books are available.

Scripture:

Ephesians 3: 14-20, 6: 18-20

Sermon: *Jesus Prays*

Jesus is one who prays, alone and in company, for his followers and about his own journey with God. Paul, an early follower of Jesus wrote a lot about his prayers and what he hoped we would do with our prayers. What are some of the traditions of Christian prayer? How do our thoughts and words in prayer impact the world?

Music: Marilee Stephens, soprano soloist; Belinda Chiang, organ

After Worship: After worship all are invited to gather in the Memorial Hall for fellowship and refreshments.

Volunteer Opportunities:

The summer can be a challenging time to find volunteers. Please take a look at the many volunteer possibilities and sign up for one or many opportunities.

Scripture Readers: A new list is posted in Memorial Hall. All people are welcome to read on Sunday. This is a popular list, so please sign up for one Sunday only, this is to give other people a fair chance to sign up and participate.

Community Dinner Cook: We are looking for a volunteer cook to prepare the community dinners. A group of volunteers get together to plan and prepare a nutritious meal for the needy in the community. This meal is prepared once a month on the second Saturday of every month of the year. Numbers vary from 125 people to over 200 people for the Christmas meal. This program has been in operation for over 20 years and is self-sustaining. A trust fund was provided by a wonderful person to look after the costs these meals. We meet new friends and have a lot of fun preparing these meals. If you are interested, you may contact Robertson-Wesley at mail@rwuc.org.

Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) Service and Lunch July 23: As we have done for many years, R-W volunteers will assist with the Inner City Pastoral Ministry Service and Lunch on Sunday July 23, taking along multiple loaves of sandwiches and goodies. Please sign up to help with this worthwhile outreach project.

Magic Pantry

Responding to the need in our own neighbourhood, R-W provides a free bag lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays between 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm. Recently the lunch has been a can of pasta which everyone really enjoys! The lunch also comes with serviettes, pudding, juice, crackers and cookies.

This outreach program relies on volunteers to be available at the door with a bag lunch ready for people that come to the door. This program is a great way to connect and provide outreach in the community.

Staff

Tammy-Jo will be on study leave from July 2 to July 7 at a combined Royal Canadian College of Organists/American Guild of Organists conference in Montreal.

R-W News & Notes

WANTED: GROCERY BAGS

The R-W Food Bank is collecting grocery and store bags for the weekly Food Bank. The bags are used for clients to bag their food items. Bags can be delivered to the Food Bank donation box in the coat room.

R-W became a distributing food bank depot and has been in continuous operation for over 20 years, providing volunteers to handle the morning phone-in service and distribute the food each Wednesday afternoon to those in need in our area.

BOOK BUDDIES- The Earth's Blanket

Book Buddies' next read is Nancy J. Turner's *Earth's Blanket*. Available through the church office, the book sells for \$25. The discussion takes place on **Saturday, September 23 at 9:30 am.**

FLOWER DONATION DURING THE SUMMER

We invite you to take part in offering flowers to our sanctuary. Anyone can donate flowers to be displayed for Sunday morning worship. Flowers can be donated to celebrate any season or to mark an important day, anniversary or in memory of someone.

To donate: just bring your bouquet on Sunday morning and give it to an usher!

Remember: take it home with you or gift it to someone to take home with them.

At this time: the Church office *can* mark the occasion in the bulletin if you let them know by Wednesday at noon, before the Sunday you choose. The Church office *cannot* receive donations of flowers on your behalf.

With deep gratitude for the ministry of the Flower Group over the years, this is how we will receive flowers during the transition as we explore new ways to continue this ministry.

UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS AT ROBERTSON-WESLEY

Two projects will be completed at Robertson-Wesley this year, likely by the end of July. Those projects are:

1. Replace the present elevator. No elevator June 5-July 31
2. Upgrade the basement washrooms to make them accessible. (June 22-July 31)

Bear with us during these renovations as the lack of an elevator will inconvenience some people. The east entrance with the ramp will be used by those who can't manage the stairs.

GROCERY CARDS



Everyone buys groceries! Pay for your groceries with grocery cards purchased through Robertson-Wesley United Church and the church will receive between 4% - 8% of the proceeds. Really, we're just asking you to change your method of payment for your groceries – and it's a great way to budget! Gift cards are available in various denominations Safeway, Sobeys, Save On Foods, or Superstore/No Frills. Buy a \$100 gift card and you will get \$100 worth of groceries! We have a limited supply of gift cards available for sale after worship in Memorial Hall.

REV. KAREN BRIDGES GOES ON SABBATICAL

August 1 – October 31, 2017

In The United Church of Canada ministers are eligible to go on a three-month Sabbatical after working in a congregation for 5 years. As this is my 7th year here at Robertson-Wesley, it is time to engage a spiritual practice of Sabbath. The term sabbatical actually is derived from the biblical word Sabbath which serves an ancient human need to build periods of rest and rejuvenation into a lifetime. A sabbatical is simply

getting an extended leave from work to pursue a break from one's regular duties.

During the month of August, I will be spending my time reading, and doing some creative dramatic writing which I don't usually have space or energy to do. I hope to have some dramatic pieces to share in worship when I'm back, and perhaps a play for the theatre (I have a play that is 1/3 done, it would be nice to finish it.)

In September I plan to unplug from the world. I will be heading to Botswana and South Africa to go on Safari. I will commune with nature, while living a very simple life. I'm looking forward to seeing the animals in their own habitat while looking up at the stars at night in all their abundance. I will take lots of pictures, and I will not have my phone with me... (I may have a mild addiction).

Upon returning in October I will spend my time exploring and applying for different grants that the church might be eligible for so that we can continue to grow and explore new ministries here at Robertson-Wesley. A time of Sabbath is really an opportunity to make space for God to move in my life. In order to make space, I will need to let go of a few things that keep me busy, and instead I will also spend my time being present to the simple rituals of life, like a proper cup of tea, reading a book, playing the guitar and singing, a run in the river valley, a round of golf with my father, the preparation of food! (I never have time for this one.) It will be strange to not be around all of you, day in and day out, but know that I will look forward to returning to you all, spiritually full and ready to continue what God is calling us to do.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Sun June 25 | Worship ctte– Room 11 | 12:15 pm |
| Mon June 26 | Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio | 7:00 pm |
| Tue June 27 | Scripture Reflection Group– Chapel | 12:10 pm |
| Wed June 28 | Women's Weekend ctte– Club Room | 5:00 pm |
| Sat July 01 | CANADA DAY! | |

ON THE HORIZON

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Mon July 03 | Office closed- Statutory Holiday | |
| Tue July 04 | Scripture Reflection Group– Chapel | 12:10 pm |
| Wed July 05 | Canterbury Service– offsite | 10:30 am |

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Office hours: Tues. – Fri. 8:30 am to noon & 1 pm – 4:30 pm

We wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples.