



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 September 24

Creation 3

Welcome and Inclusion

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



Friends in Christ

*The flowers in the sanctuary are in gratitude for the lives of **Katharina and Frank (Unrau) Dyck** and their sons **Theodore (Ted) and Cecil** and are placed there by family.*

Prelude: *Bist du Bei Mir*, J. S. Bach

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Hymn of Response: *Gather Us In*

More Voices 7

Gather us in, ground us in you. Gather us in ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.

Call to Worship

We are not alone - ever!

God is with us on this journey.

God is our companion when we feel alone,

our guide when we lose our way.

God is our provider of what we need,

our forgiving friend when we misstep.

We come to continue to learn that throughout life God is with us!

Prayer of Approach

Thank you God of the road, the Way, the footsteps that lead us here and there. Thank you that woven into each step is meaning: sacred and holy strands of your guidance and grace.

Help us to seek out these strands, even in the dark times, for Christ and through Christ, Amen.

Opening hymn: *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New* **More Voices 115**

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness¹

Celebrate God's Presence

Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Life Passages

Brenda Sheppard & Susan Hutson

Nova-Leigh Annie Walker, daughter of Chalene and Dustin Walker

Cash Donald Kelly, son of Nathan and Katrina Kelly

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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Congregation's Promise (*standing*)

¹ Lorrie Lowes and Janice Pound, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2017 (34).

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.

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.**

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Tantum Ergo*, Stephanie Martin

Belle Canto Choir

(Text: Bow down in adoration falling, lo! the sacred Host we hail,
Lo! o'er ancient forms departing newer rites of grace prevail;
Faith for all defects supplying, where the feeble senses fail.
To the everlasting Father, and the Son Who reigns on high
With the Holy Ghost proceeding forth from Each eternally,
Be salvation, honor, blessing, might and endless majesty.)

Scriptures:

Brenda Sheppard

Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23 and 28:10-17

(Genesis 28:10-17)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

This is the witness of Israel.

Thanks be to God our loving Creator.

Anthem: *Jacob's Ladder*, Spiritual, arr. Kent Newbury

Belle Canto Choir

If you wish, please join singing the last two verses:

"Rise! Shine! Give God Glory! (repeat 2 more times), soldiers of the cross.
We are climbing higher, higher (repeat 2 more times), soldiers of the cross.

Sermon: *God Promises Meaning*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Travel On, Travel On*

Voices United 647

Pastoral Prayers²

² David Lander, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2017 (40). Adapted.

Grateful Response

Offering: *Sweet Hour of Prayer*, William Bradbury, arr. Anonymous 4
Belle Canto Choir

Offertory Hymn: *For the Gift of Creation* **Voices United 538**

Prayer of Gratitude³

Closing Hymn: *Nearer, My God, to Thee* **Voices United 497**

Commissioning:

Go out as God's friends. Be unafraid to search for the truth, willing to act on what you discern and patient when the journey is rough, and joyful when you reach your goals.

And every step of the way we will proclaim and know that God is our companion. Amen.

Postlude: *Jacob's Ladder*, arr. Gary Vander Ploeg

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

Music Notes

Thanks to Cantilon's Belle Canto Women's Choir for singing in the service this morning, especially to their director, Heather Johnson. There are six choirs in the Cantilon family. They rehearse here at R-W and fill the church with beautiful music all week. We're thrilled when they can join us in worship several times a year.

Cover Image

Cover images: This is an amazing perspective of our organ!

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair
 Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges

(on sabbatical until November 2017)

Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller

Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

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³ Frances Flook, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2017 (39).

R-W REPORT September 24, 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

October 1, 2017, 10:30 am

World Wide Communion & Whole Church Family Sunday

Children & Youth: Children and youth worship with their families today. Activity kits are available.

Scripture: Exodus 2:23-25; 3:10-15; 4:10-17

Sermon: *God Provides All*

We celebrate World Wide Communion Sunday this week with an all-ages, open table, worship service. We will re-center ourselves by answering some questions: Why do we gather? Who do we remember in Communion? Why do we need to share our time, talents and tithes in our communities? (There will also be a special guest this week!)

Music: Choir of R-W; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Volunteer Opportunities:

Magic Pantry- The Magic Pantry needs a group of about 6 people to really bring the "Magic" part of the Pantry to life. Please sign up for once or twice a month as we are short a couple of people. If you have a Tuesday or a Thursday noon hour free come and meet the people who are so grateful for Robertson-Wesley's spiritual practice of providing lunches. No training required to share a lunch. Some training required so you know where the food items are kept and what goes into the lunches. Lunches are generally already made up but occasionally there are more people than pre-made lunches. Contact Sarah for more info: sarah.wiens@gmail.com

Worship Environment Group - Sunday, October 1st - This group is about more than new pulpit and communion cloths (paraments). If you are interested in enhancing worship at R-W with imagination and joy please join us Oct. 1st in Room 11 (downstairs) after church. The next liturgical seasons are Ordinary time (green - November), Advent (blue – four weeks prior to Christmas) and Christmas (white). Come and share your vision of R-W through the liturgical seasons. Let's not be limited to just fabric and thread! Talk to Colleen Ouellette, Sarah Wiens or Laura Foster and we will introduce you to the group.

Staff

Rev. Karen Bridges is on sabbatical Aug 1 to Oct 31.

R-W News & Notes

RIBBON CUTTING AND FREE BBQ AT NOON

Today! MLA David Shepherd will be joining us for the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of our new elevator at Robertson-Wesley United Church which was made possible because of the Provincial CFEP (Community Facility Enhancement Program) Grant that we received. **Join us for a free BBQ in celebration where we will be serving smokies and lemonade to the community.**

KOINONIA - POTLUCK & SERVICE

Koinonia is a worship group that meets once a month for food, fellowship and an alternative worship service. Their next gathering is **tonight** at 5:30 pm for supper and a 7:00 service on the theme of “Renewal.” All are welcome.

MESSY WEDNESDAYS

Starting on **September 27, 2017**, in Memorial Hall on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 5pm – 7pm**, families with children gather for dinner, activities and discussion. The families gather to eat a meal together at no cost to the family, which is served around 5:45pm. We have a couple of volunteers who do the cooking for us, so it is night off for parents! This is part of our outreach ministry and a way to welcome all families to gather together for a time of fellowship. There are activities for the children before and after dinner and adults take the opportunity engage in conversation during the evening. Don't worry if you can't make it right at 5pm. Families are invited to help with clean up and children's activities. Grandparents are welcome to join us! This is a wonderful way to get to know other families in the church and the neighbourhood. It is a messy and fun time for all!

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Come get your picture taken for the R-W Photo Directory. **Next photo session is Sunday, Oct. 1.** Pop in the Club Room before or after the service. Anyone who feels a part of R-W is invited to have their photo

included in our directory. No photos to purchase, as they are done by one of our in-house volunteer photographers, Hal Thiessen.

FLOWER DONATIONS

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: Bring your bouquet Sunday morning & give it to an usher!

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

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. This is how we will receive flowers during the transition as we explore new ways to continue this ministry. **We will celebrate** the amazing ministry of the Flower Group on **October 15**.

R-W IS ACCEPTING ARTWORK!

Art Sale: November 18, 2017, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

R-W's annual Art Sale needs your art donations. Art is "in the eyes of the beholder" - so we accept art of every kind - oils, drawings, wood working, pottery, and jewelry, etc.. **You will receive a tax receipt for the actual cost of the article at the sale. WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF ART.** If you have any art or wish information, please contact Sheila or Pat at 780-481-0056 or leave a message at the Church Office. All the money from the Art Sale stays within the church for future community projects and activities.

ART STUDIO

Mondays, 7:00–8:30 pm, and Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00pm

The studio is a place for people to explore art and connect with each other in an informal creative environment. People are welcome to drop in any time and try out these different art-making processes. Some people like to work on their own ongoing projects, and this is encouraged as well. The studio's purpose is to bring people together, to enjoy art, and be in community. For more information, please contact facilitator, Laura David Foster at spiritedartstudio@rwuc.org

SPIRITED ARTS MOVEMENT - GENDERED? JUST HUMAN?

Is your spirit gendered? First workshop on Tues. Sept. 26 from 7-9 pm here at Robertson-Wesley. See poster for more info.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE - CALLING ONE NEW RINGER!

The **Nova Bells** handbell choir is comprised of people of various age categories and various musical backgrounds. We are looking for one new ringer for Nova Bells. We would accept youth from nine years old and up or an adult who is interested in handbells. No prior experience is required, but some music reading ability is a great asset. The Nova Bells

rehearse weekly from mid-September to mid-June on Thursday evenings from 5:15-6:15 here at R-W. This group does not perform often (low stress!) and there is very minimal cost to join this group as this group is supported by the church.

We are also looking for one new ringer for the **R-W Ringers**, an advanced handbell group. Strong music reading skills are essential, but handbell experience is not necessary. They rehearse weekly from mid-September to mid-June on Thursday evenings from 6:45-8:45 here at R-W, and play about six times per year in church and a couple of times in the community. For more info. contact Tammy-Jo (780-482-1587 or music@rwuc.org) soon!

HOMELESS CONNECT– Collecting clothing donations by Oct. 6 at various locations in Edmonton. See bulletin boards for more info.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Sept 24	Ribbon cutting/BBQ– front lawn	11:30 am
	Koinonia– Memorial Hall	5:30 pm
Mon Sep 25	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tue Sep 26	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Spirited Arts Movement Gathering– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Sep 27	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	Choir of R-W– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Sep 28	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Sep 30	Choral Morphosis- Lower Hall	10:00 am
	R-W Youth Group– Offsite	7:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Oct 1	R-W Photo Shoot– Club Room	9:30 am
	All ages Stewardship & Communion Worship	10:30 am
	Worship Environment Group– Room 11	11:30 am
Mon Oct 2	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	7:00 pm
Tue Oct 3	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Stewardship ctte– Room 11	2:00 pm
	DEAP– Club Room	5:00 pm

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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.