



*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2017 October 8

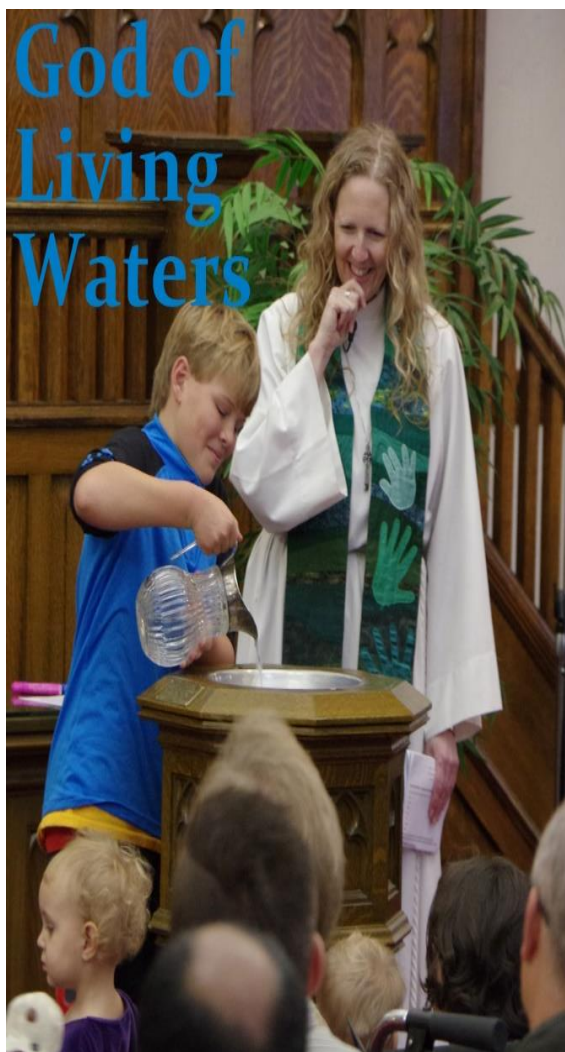
Thanksgiving, Life Passages

## Welcome and Inclusion

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

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.

# God of Living Waters



Prelude: *And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters*  
(from *Trinitas*), Eleanor Daley

## Embracing Our Spirit

### Call to Worship

God of generosity calls you to come and worship!

**We come to worship with a generous spirit.**

God of Living Water calls you to come and drink deep!

**We come to drink deeply of Christ, the Living Water.**

God of gratitude calls you to come and pray!

**We come to prayer with a grateful spirit.**

Processional Hymn: *Water Flowing from the Mountains* **More Voices 87**

Prayer of Approach, Confession and Assurance<sup>1</sup>

Introit: *Hymn for America*, Stephen Paulus

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Coming Into God's Presence

Stewardship Committee

Life Passages

Brenda Sheppard & Susan Hutson

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.**

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.**

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## God's Holy Word

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Scriptures:

Lea Callebaut

Exodus 16:1-18

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the

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<sup>1</sup> United Church of Canada's congregational resource *We Sing Thanksgiving*, 2017-2018.

second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.’” The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed. This is the witness of Israel.

### **Thanks be to God our loving Creator.**

Anthem: *Prayer of Thanksgiving*, W. H. Anderson      Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *God Provides the Harvest*      Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Hymn: *Beautiful Water, Bountiful Blessings*      *(insert)*

Pastoral Prayers<sup>2</sup>

The Lord’s Prayer      *(Voices United p. 921)*

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### *Grateful Response*

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Offering: *To the Thirsty I will give water (from Trinitas)*, Eleanor Daley

Offertory Hymn: *Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands* **Voices United 537**

Prayer of Gratitude<sup>3</sup>

We remember with thanks all the works of your hand, Holy One.

**We remember with thanks all the works of others:**

those who grow our food,

**those of us who grow food,**

those who work for peace and justice in the world,

**those who teach and organize,**

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<sup>2</sup> United Church of Canada’s congregational resource *We Sing Thanksgiving*, 2017-2018

<sup>3</sup> Robin Wardlaw, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2017.

those who heal and lead. Accept these gifts, and us,  
for the work of your realm,  
**in the name of Jesus Christ, our partner, guide, and friend.**  
**Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: *Come, You Thankful People, Come*    **Voices United 516**

Commissioning:

We go grateful to say thank you in our actions!

**We go called to be generous every day of the week.**

May God be with us as we share in the harvest of life.

**May God be with you all, in heart, mind and spirit.**

Postlude: *And I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh*, Eleanor Daley

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

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### Music Notes

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Lots of pieces about water this morning! We thought we'd honour the place of water in nurturing us and creation, and the role water plays in baptism. The introit by American composer Stephen Paulus (1949-2014) is one of his over 600 works for various instrumental and vocal genres. Although it is called "Hymn for America", it is an anthem of praise for creation including waters, prairies, mountains, stars; the gifts that we receive and share from the earth, and also a reminder for our stewardship of it. The organ pieces and anthem are all by Canadian composers.

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### Cover Image

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Cover images: Joy at the Font

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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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**R-W REPORT OCTOBER 8, 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 15, 2017, 10:30 am**

**Pentecost 19**

**Children & Youth:** Children begin in the sanctuary, then go to their Kids' Church program. Youth meet in the youth room at the beginning of the service.

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 3:1-21

**Sermon:** *God Provides the Connections*

In the times of old, oil was used to anoint leaders: kings and queens, priests and elders – a way of connecting them to the old and new, the privileges and the responsibilities of the position. What are ways today that we celebrate our connections – to the past and to the future, to our faith ancestors and to our vocation? What are our privileges and responsibilities to our communities? How is God calling you to lead?

**Music:** Cantilon Chamber Choir; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

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**Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Covenanting Service for Rev. Leigh Sinclair-** On Sunday, November 5 at 7:00 pm., we will celebrate the new relationship between our congregation and Rev. Leigh Sinclair. All are welcome to attend the covenanting service in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments in Memorial Hall. If you would like to help with the reception, please add your name to the list on the bulletin board in the hall by October 15. We will need people to set up, serve, clean up, and bring baking or desserts (see the list for details). Thank you!

## Staff

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

## R-W News & Notes

### UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Canadian Mental Health Association General presentation on the societal stigma of mental health issues. **Tuesday, Oct 10 at 1:15 pm** start to our part of the meeting; presentation at 2:15 pm.

**All are welcome.** Contact Janet M Clark 780-483-4261

### PRAYER SERVICES

The Spiritual Formation Pod is excited to host two more worship experiences this fall to help us all experience different forms of prayer. They will be 30 minute services, held the third Sundays of each month at 9 am in the Chapel. Each service we will learn about a way of engaging in prayer and then experience it together. Next one - **Oct. 15**, 9:00-9:30 am in the Chapel.

### SPIRITED ARTS MOVEMENT

Artful Responses is a year-long series of one time, art-based workshops dedicated to community building within our current political climate. Artful Responses will allow people to reflect on current injustices within our society.

**Oct 20, 2017, 7 to 9 pm - Dis/harmonies #3** - the popular dis/harmonies will continue! Participants are encouraged to come explore and express their natural voices in a variety of ways! Sessions include breath work, learning to listen and project the voice.

### GET TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH CHALLENGE

**Please join us on Sunday October 22 during Fellowship time  
in Memorial Hall**

Get to know your church & have some fun with the children and youth at the same time!

The children and youth will be gathering people of all ages and abilities into teams of 3-5 people. Each team will be given page of photos of objects/places/architecture in the church. The fun task is to try to determine what the photo is and go and find that spot in the church - **think EYE SPY!** Teams will gather back in the hall 20 minutes later and prizes will be awarded.

It's a great opportunity to get to know your fellow congregation members while exploring the church.

### CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

In the most recent edition of Between the Aisles there was an article by Nancy Heule about the Reformation and some of the history and the

changes in the church before and during the time of Martin Luther. The United Church is a church born out of the Reformed tradition, from our Methodist and Presbyterian roots. Come celebrate the past with us as we share an entire Bach cantata, look at the Reformation over the last 500 years, and look also into the future as the church continues to “reform” today.

**The 10:30 am service on October 29** will feature Bach’s Easter Cantata, BWV 4 “Christ Lag in Todesbanden”, with chamber orchestra (Strathcona String Quartet and friends) using period instruments, soloists from the choir, and a guest soloist from Calgary. We will also sing some wonderful hymns from the Reformed tradition, and hear from theologians who spoke and are still speaking about reformation.

### **KOINONIA- Blanket Exercise**

**Sunday, October 29, potluck at 5:00 pm**

The group will meet at 5:00 for potluck. After dinner the group will be led by an elder through a Blanket Exercise.

Blanket Exercise participants take on the roles of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Standing on blankets that represent the land, they walk through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance.

**RSVP to the office by October 15.** Contact: [mail@rwuc.org](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) or phone: 780-482-1587, ext 221. \$5 at the door. All funds will go to KAIROS.

### **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.

### **CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES**

Are you seeking an escape from the world, an oasis in your crazy life? Are you seeking some quiet? Are you seeking time for yourself or inspiration? Then we invite you to engage in **contemplative practices** at R-W in Memorial Hall. When you enter Memorial Hall you will find pockets of inspiration that will clear your mind, open your heart, and bring your spirit into connection with the sacred and the world. Throughout Memorial Hall there will be different spaces with different contemplative practices that invite you to meditate, pray, while engaging in some artistic exercises. Drop by anytime between the hours of 7-8:30 pm. Stay for as long as you would like. Invite your friends, family and

neighbours to enter this oasis and emerge inspired, enlightened, grounded and feeling nourished.

**Nov 12, 2017 Remembrance** – remember loved ones, remembering our companions and pets, remembering those who came before.

### SoulOUTing!

The monthly SoulOUTing service takes place this evening in the chapel at 7 pm. This service is for the LGBTQ community and their allies. This month the theme of the gathering is “Gratitude”. Want to improve your physical health, your mental health, your relationships, your self-esteem, and sleep better? Then come practice GRATITUDE!

Studies are showing the huge benefits an attitude of gratitude can have. Fortunately, as spiritual people, we have a wealth of great spiritual practices at our fingertips that can help. This Sunday, one of the leaders will walk us through some exercises that will strengthen your gratitude muscles.

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Oct 8	SoulOUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
Mon Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day- no events	
Tue Oct 10	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	United Church Women– Memorial Hall	1:15 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
	Legacy Team– Club Room	6:00 pm
	Finance ctte– Accounting room	6:30 pm
	Property ctte– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Oct 11	Men’s Group– Memorial Hall	9:30 am
	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	Choir of R-W– Lower Hall	7:30 pm
Thu Oct 12	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Oct 14	Community Dinner– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:00 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.



Listen to the wisdom of their ancestors. Feel their connection to Mother Earth.

Stand with these extraordinary “Bridgewalkers” around the Sacred Fire as they bridge the mind to the heart, the heart to the land, and the land to the one human family!

## **The Mission and Outreach Pod**

Invites you to join us

For the viewing of

# **BRIDGEWALKERS**

An award-winning film by

**One River Productions (2014)**

As our relationship to earth travels down a dangerous path, it has become clear that we cannot sustain the stress of our modern ways.

On a quest to restore balance Tribal leaders from around the world gather in Greenland, Canada, and throughout the Americas, sharing ancient prophecies and their deep connections to our Beloved Earth.

**Date: Monday, October 23**

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Place: Room 11, R-W UC



# PASTORAL VISITING WORKSHOP

We are excited to host an interactive workshop to enhance the ways we care by listening to one another in our church community.

We invite you to come explore "pastoral visiting": listening from our faith perspective.

We will cover how to pray with others and ask good questions as well as the reporting, referring and self-care needed in visiting.

Pastoral conversation ...is a deep human encounter in which people are willing to put their own faith and doubt, their own hope and despair, their own light and darkness at the disposal of others who want to find a way through their confusion and touch the solid core of life.

*-Howard Stone*

No matter your church or care experience you are invited!

This 2 day workshop will be offered in the setting of a weekend retreat held in Memorial Hall.

**Friday, Nov. 3**

from 7-9 PM  
(potluck of desserts)

**Saturday, Nov 4**

12 pm to 4 pm  
Lunch will be provided

If you have any questions and to RSVP for this event,

please contact

**Rev. Leigh Sinclair**

[leigh.sinclair@rwuc.org](mailto:leigh.sinclair@rwuc.org)

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