

R-W REPORT FEBRUARY 11, 2018
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

February 18, 2018, 10:30 am

Lent One

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

Scripture: John 11:1-44

Sermon: *Rites and Rituals*

Anthropologists ponder when in the social development of the human being did we become truly "human" – different from other mammals. Many point to the early rituals and rites of passage humans used to mark our journey in relationship to age, community, birth and death. One thing that unites humans is the universal seeking for meaning and safety. Rituals and rites of passage help us transition from child to adult to elder, from dependent to independent and from life to life after death. We will be exploring today how we see these in Jesus' life, especially as he began his journey towards death.

Music: R-W Ringers; Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Nominations for Key Leadership Positions- We are seeking people for two board positions this year. Please take time to discern if you or someone you know has the gifts and passions to fulfill these roles. If you have suggestions or are interested please talk to one of the members of the nominations committee, John Fleming, Ted Blezard, Ron Soans or Rev. Karen Bridges (staff support). We are seeking a person for to be the

Secretary to the Board, who will take minutes at the monthly board meetings. It would be helpful if you are familiar with computers for this position. It is a two-year term. We are also seeking an **Incoming Chair of the Board**. If you are good at facilitating conversation and running a meeting consider taking on this role. This position is a three-year term, you would have one year to learn about things, then one year as the chair and then one year as past chair, in a supportive position. With this particular position we are seeking someone who has formalized their membership with the United Church of Canada. R-W also need one more **Presbytery Representative**. More detailed descriptions: www.rwuc.org under volunteers.

Ash Wednesday Ushers/Greeters- We require ushers for the service on Feb 14. It is a great way to meet new people and welcome people to R-W. Sign up sheet is posted in Memorial Hall.

R-W News & Notes

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Robertson-Wesley congregation will take place in Memorial Hall after the service **today**.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts are ready for pick up in Memorial Hall. Please pick your up so the church saves on mailing costs.

Note: We have a donation of \$420.00 which we cannot attribute to someone. It was on April 9, 2017. If it is yours please let us know and bring your cancelled cheque to the church.

COME TO A CABARET!

Let us entertain you! Wine and cheese, music and story. Oscar-nominated and winning songs, surprise guests, food, beverages! **Sat. evening Feb. 24**. Tickets on sale today - they're going fast!

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Tuesday, Feb 13 at 1:30 pm- We will watch a DVD of Tom Axworthy's talk "Trends & Visions in Public Policy & Global Perspective" which he gave at Epiphany Exploration in 2017. Members, guests and newcomers are welcome to share food, friendship and inspiration.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, Feb 14 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Please join us for a time of reflection, worship and ritual. During the service we will be burning the palm branches from Palm Sunday last year, turning them into ashes and then the congregation will be invited to receive the sign of the cross with

ashes on their hand or forehead. It is a very reflective and meaningful service. **Everyone is welcome.**

CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION CLASSES

2018 dates: Wednesdays, February 21 - March 21 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This five-week course is a brief survey of the foundational elements of church membership.

This year we will have an exciting program with *two parallel circles*.

The CONFIRMATION circle will be for people who seek to affirm their faith for the first time as adults (as they prepare for baptism and/or confirmation of membership). If you are new to Christian faith or to the United Church of Canada this is for you!

The REAFFIRMATION circle will be for people who have been active in a church family, Robertson-Wesley or another, who seek to explore their faith and publicly re-affirm their faith.

To register, please contact the Church office or contact Rev. Leigh. If you would be interested in being part of a circle of faith exploration but need a day-time or weekend course please let Rev. Leigh know!

SPIRITED SATURDAYS

"Saying No to say Yes"

Come and learn through listening and discussion how setting boundaries and saying no can lead us to better love of self and others. We will gather with coffee/tea/juice and our Bibles to explore how to make our "yes" count by using "no"! We will meet the third Saturday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am, Jan- May, (except April).

Come to one or all the workshops and bring friends and/or family! We will meet in the Club Room.

February 17- Exploration of how we make decisions about life and death (faithful responses to dying, grief dynamics, pre-planning funerals, caring for someone you love in palliative care).

SPIRITUAL FORMATION POD

Our first conversation in 2018 will happen **Sunday, February 18**, in the Club Room after church.

Come and let us explore together: Relationship deepening...what questions arise when we seek to deepen our relationships with God and with one another (we will create a list of topics and questions for future Bible studies and activities).

LENT NOON HOUR CONCERTS

Thursdays, 12:10 pm to 12:50 pm

The Robertson-Wesley Music Society is hosting a noon-hour concert series again this Lent, for five Thursdays in February and March. The concerts will run from 12:10-12:50, and admission is by freewill offering with donations for the performers and for the Robertson-Wesley Music

Society. Come and enjoy some tranquil, reflective music for the Lenten season and find an oasis in the middle of your busy day. The concerts will be Feb. 15 (Neda Yamach, violin & Tammy-Jo) Feb. 22 (Andrew Sims, piano), March 1 (Mingmei Xu, violin & Jim Findlay, guitar), March 8 (Tammy-Jo, organ), March 15 (Vaughan String Quartet), March 22 (Christine Hanson, cello & Keri-Lynn Zwicker, harp).

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Feb 11	Annual Congregational Meeting– Mem. Hall	11:30 am
	Soul OUTing– Chapel	7:00 pm
Mon Feb 12	Spirited Art Studio– Art studio	7:00 pm
Tue Feb 13	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	Spirited Art Studio– Art Studio	1:30 pm
	United Church Women meeting– Mem. Hall	1:15 pm
	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper– Mem. Hall	5:30 pm
	Property ctte– Room 11	3:30 pm
	Finance ctte– Room 11	7:00 pm
	Community Dinner meeting– Club Room	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 14	Men’s Group– Memorial Hall	9:30 am
	Messy Wednesday– Memorial Hall	5:00 pm
	Ash Wednesday– Sanctuary	7:00 pm
	Choir of Robertson-Wesley- Lower Hall	8:00 pm
Thu Feb 15	Lenten Concert Series– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
	Nova Bells– Lower Hall	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers– Lower Hall	6:45 pm
Sat Feb 17	Spirited Saturday– Club Room	9:30 am

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Feb 18	Spiritual Formation Pod– Mem. Hall	11:30 am
Mon Feb 19	Family day– closed	
Tue Feb 20	Yoga– Memorial Hall	10:00 am
	Scripture Reflection Group– Club Room	12:10 pm
	R-W Board meeting– Room 11	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 21	Membership Class– Club Room	7:00 pm
Thu Feb 22	Lenten Concert Series– Sanctuary	12:10 pm
Sat Feb 24	Choral Morphosis– Lower Hall	10:30 am
	R-W Youth Group– offsite	7:00 pm
	Choir Cabaret– Memorial Hall	7:00 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.

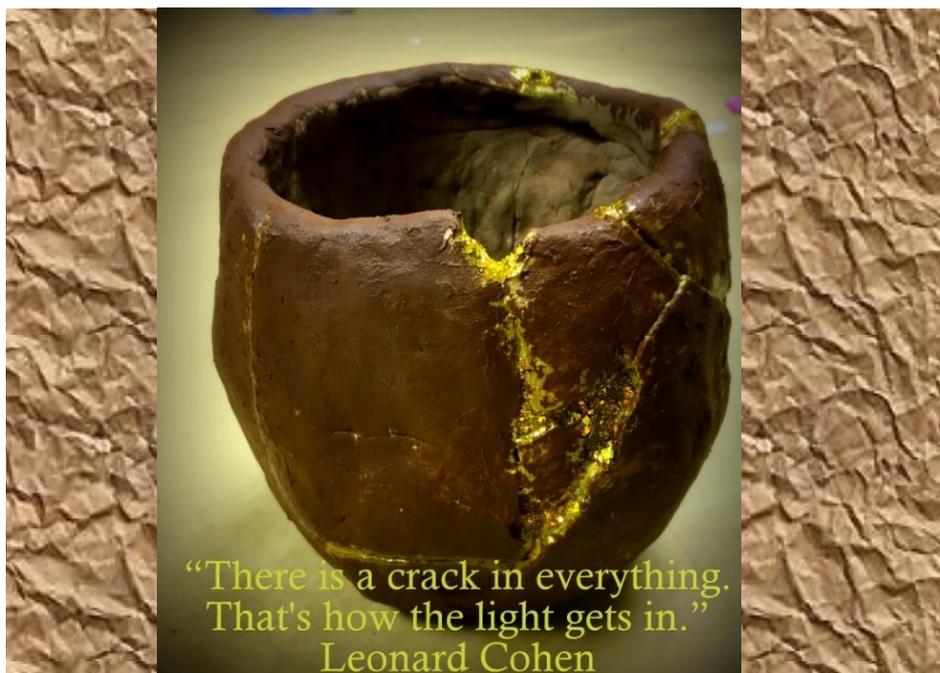


An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2018 Feb 11

Transfiguration & Life Passages

10:30 AM



Welcome and Inclusion

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

Prelude: *Be Thou My Vision (Slane)*, Gerhard Krapf Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ
Embracing Our Spirit

Call to Worship:

God calls us to open our eyes.

To see our ministry and our call.

God calls us to open our lives.

To live our ministry and our call.

God calls us to open ourselves.

To be our ministry and our call.

So come, people of the world, come followers of Jesus.

We come to worship our God!¹

Processional Hymn: *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

Voices United 104

Coming Into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

Moments of Openness and Honesty

Sung Response: *We'll Find a Way to Be Honest;*

rEvolve Music

We'll find a way to be honest, a way to be free

From the wealth that divides and the prisons of greed.

The way of the promise moving out to the sea,

Changing tides with the power of the lives we will lead.²

Introit: *Down in My Heart & Do Lord*, George W. Cooke & traditional

Choral Morphosis

Life Passages

Sacrament of Baptism and Blessing

Brenda Sheppard

Baptism

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (*in unison*)

Eternal God, whose 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

¹ Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2004-5, p. 30. Used with permission.

² rEvolve Music. Used by permission. OneLicense # 606241

**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.**

God's Holy Word

Introit: *Be Thou My Vision*, Bob Chilcott

Choir of Robertson-Wesley & Robert Klakowich, piano

Scripture:

Caroline De Grave

John 9: 1-41 • A man born blind receives sight

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means sent.) Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" some were saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for

himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes? He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “you were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” and they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man? He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind. “Some of Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for Christ, the word made flesh.

Anthem: *What a Wonderful World*, Weiss & Thiele, arr. Mark A. Brymer

Choral Morphosis and Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Sermon: *The truth shall set you free!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *You, Creator God, Have Searched Me*

More Voices 131

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The Lord’s Prayer

(*Voices United* p. 921)

Grateful Response

Offering: *Prelude on Amazing Grace*, David Lasky

Offertory Hymn:

More Voices 53 v. 4

**God who raised our rolling foothills
crowned with mountain peaks beyond;
call us now to love and serve you,
joyfully will we respond.**

**God whose glory past and present
lights us on our future way,**

**now baptize us with your spirit,
build tomorrow's church today.**

Prayer of Gratitude

Recessional Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

Voices United 266

Commissioning:

We go forth in faith,

Choosing to deepen our discipleship of Jesus Christ,

Choosing to open our eyes to the needs that are around us.

Choosing to put apathy aside, willing to get involved,

Choosing to joyfully work with others in the enterprise of faith,

Choosing life. Amen.³

Question for Reflection:

If I were being honest, I have failed to notice...

Postlude: *Moderato, Op. 22*, Niels Gade

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

Music Notes

Welcome to Choral Morphosis, and their director Rebecca Parsons. This is Choral Morphosis' 10th season of getting together on Saturday mornings here at Robertson-Wesley for some singing, instruments, movement and with the addition of the Choral Arts program, they also do movement, acting, solos etc. Great to have their participation in the service this morning! When they are all downstairs, there are often around 40 people! They share a mash-up of some traditional tunes – “Down in My Heart” and “Do Lord”, and later in the service, the two choirs combine to sing the ballad “What a Wonderful World”, made popular by the first recording, done by Louis Armstrong, in 1967.

The prelude is based on the hymn tune we usually use for the text “Be Thou My Vision”, by U of A organ professor emeritus, Gerhard Krapf, who was my teacher's teacher. I love how he uses the melody in various voices in this piece.

Then as an anthem – a new setting of this same text, this time by British composer, Bob Chilcott. We sang several of his anthems in the Advent/Christmas season. Thanks to Bob Klakowich for playing the piano on this anthem!

Gade is a Danish composer who was very influenced by Mendelssohn, so I played a Mendelssohn Prelude and Fugue last week, and Gade this week! More Voices 131 is a new hymn in a calypso style. Written by George Mulrain, an ordained minister of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, it is a paraphrase of Ps. 139. “O Lord, You have Searched

³ Written by David Sparks, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2001-2, p. 30. Used with permission.

Cover Image

Cover image is a picture of the clay pot that Laura David Foster created for the season of Epiphany which Rev. Karen Bridges smashed. Laura has now put it back together to show the process of healing, and though it is whole again, there are now cracks that represent what has happened to the pot, and how the light got in. Finding a way to be honest, is not an easy process, but the cracks open our hearts to others in the way that Jesus would want. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” Remember to let the light of Christ into your hearts. Feb 2018.

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Rev. Leigh Sinclair
Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen
Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller
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