



Between the Aisles

A Robertson-Wesley United Church Quarterly

WINTER 2021

**Easter is meant to be a symbol of
hope, renewal, and new life.**

Janine di Giovanni

Editors' Welcome

Our theme in this issue is Nature: observing it, cherishing it, preserving it, worrying about it, enjoying it, complaining about it, having fun with it.

We could go on with more "ings" but because we are in Nature's

amazing cycle we are nearly in Spring and we can be dreaming about being GREEN again. What has unfolded and come to life in this issue are wonderful ideas about experiences, tributes and projects. We hope they will intrigue and challenge you as much as they did us. Spring into nature with joy ... and have a wonderful Easter!

Co-editors Nancy Heule and Janet M Clark



Lenten Theme: Embodying a vision of creation healed and restored

The Season of Lent is 40 days of inner testing, starting with the story of Jesus being tested in the wilderness. Lent is the season which calls us to contemplate God's call, and to make the choice to follow Jesus and become his disciples. God calls us to live humble lives filled with justice and kindness. This extends to all creation, not just humans. What does this look like? We proclaim in the United Church that we are but one strand in the web of life. We believe that the choices we make matter. Lent is also a time of repentance and reconciliation. And so we acknowledge in this season that "The Church has not always lived up to its vision. It requires the Spirit to reorient it, helping it to live an emerging faith while honouring tradition, challenging it to live by grace rather than entitlement, for we are called to be a blessing to the earth." How will we walk the road to Jerusalem with Jesus this Lent? As we walk together may we embody a vision of creation healed and restored, and may we learn from Jesus, and strive to be faithful servants of God by choosing life, embodying hope and living in right relations.

Rev. Karen Bridges

Readers who have ideas about how we might reduce consumption are invited to send them to rwucnews@gmail.com. A list of suggestions will be published in the net issue of Between the Aisles.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION POD COORDINATOR

We are seeking a Spiritual Formation Pod Coordinator:

Role: The role of the SF Pod Coordinator is to gather and engage interested members of the congregation in conversation about how our faith is deepened, developed and expressed within the life of our Church. In keeping with our Mission statement, the SF Pod Coordinator will encourage others to nurture and care for people on their faith journey through development of events, programs, projects, resources, and practices that deepen, inform and express our faith.

Term: The SF Pod Coordinator will be a two year term. The Coordinator in conjunction with and with the support of the assigned ministry personnel will set up three to four Pod meetings per year.

Skills:

- Facilitation and diplomacy skills
 - Good listener
 - Ability to identify skills and resources in the congregation
 - Communication skills and basic computer skills
- Basic budget understanding



The Robertson Wesley's Congregation's Collection of Christmas Trees

During the December holiday season, the celebration of Christ's birth, the environmental need for forests and the relationship of humans to Christ and the environment; all seem to come together with the symbolic 'tree'.

Legend has it that a fir tree grew out of the fallen oak, which in turn became a connection with Christ. Since fir trees are triangular in shape, they can represent the trinity – and thus the tree became a symbol of new life through Christ – the Christmas Tree.



Between the Aisles is published on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples. We also acknowledge the Métis, who are of mixed Indigenous and European heritage. Edmonton is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 4.

Robertson-Wesley United Church

10209-123 Street, Edmonton AB T5N 1N3
780-482-1587 mail@rwuc.org www.rwuc.org

Follow us
online



Pagans would decorate their homes during the winter solstice fir tree branches as a symbol of spring was eminent. Fir trees were also used by the Romans to decorate their temples for festivals, while Christians used it as a sign of everlasting life.



The significance of the birth of Christ goes with the traditions of the Christmas “

Season. *1 Peter 2:24 states: “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were*

healed.” The Christmas tree is therefore a symbol of Christ, thus represents the “tree of life” of Genesis 2:9, which takes us back to the Garden of Eden.



In today's world, trees are scientifically recognized for cleansing the air of carbon dioxide, shading for temperature control, helps cleanse water, provides renewable building material and assists with human mental health. Some Psychologist claim that human expo-

sure to forests seems to reduce our stress and anxiety levels, thus improving people's moods, emotions, enjoyment and contributes to the quality of human life. Technically the trees may be the “trees of life” for humans in the future!

Because of the historical link between Christ, the Christmas tree, humans; and our current environmental situation, Robertson Wesley United Church undertook a



project of collecting photographs of peoples 2020 Christmas Trees inside and outside of their homes. The pictures are interesting to examine. The symbolisms mentioned above is abundant in the photos; but there are also signs of items that individuals relate to as having importance and/or enjoyment in their lives. Lots of shiny lights, colourful decorations, angels, artificial snow flakes and birds, sweet candy canes and even when looking closely one can find teddy bears, rocking horses and even 2020 COVID gear!

What is common to all these decorations: they represent items that bring joy of visions and memories to people's lives. Enjoy the pictures . . . Jim Triscott





Nova Laurin



Lisa Fairweather



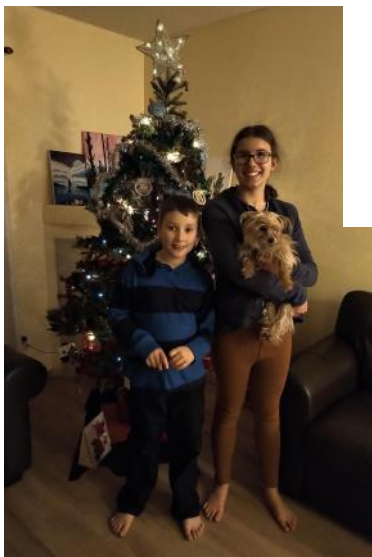
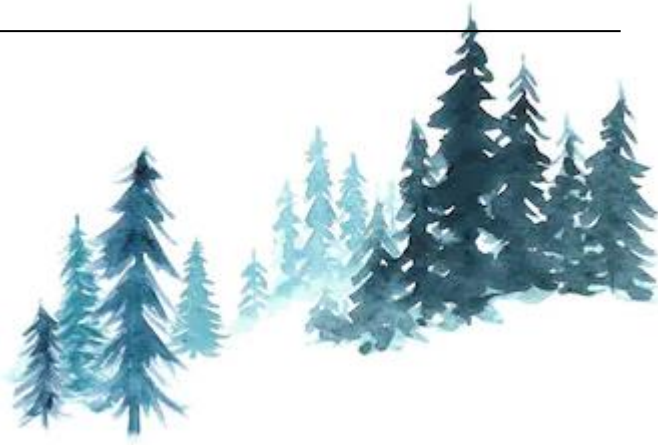
Doug Sollows



Jane Chesebrough



Tammy Farkes

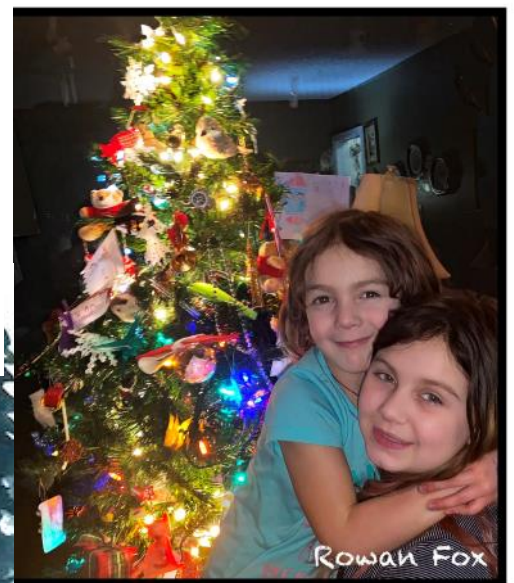




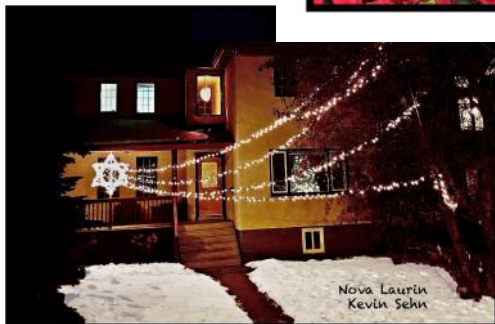
Ruth Belford



Rev. Karen Bridges



Rowan Fox



Nova Laurin
Kevin Sehn



The Living Building Challenge

The Mission and Outreach Pod selected Environmental Stewardship as a theme for the Congregation in 2021.

The environment is a vast topic. The Environment Working Group is discussing several themes to allow people to participate collectively in improving our environment.

The introduction of the Living Building Challenge as a bench-mark standard is being proposed to evaluate and understand our Church as a piece of Architecture, built in 1913 and its contribution to the environment.

Architecture plays a significant role in shaping the physical environment in which we live. Buildings consume 40% of the energy in terms of manufacturing of materials, the physical construction and ongoing use of renewable and non-renewable resources.

As the creator of the Living Building Challenge, THE INTERNATIONAL LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE'S MISSION is: *"to lead the transformation toward a civilization that is socially just, culturally rich, and ecologically restorative. We are premised on the belief that providing a compelling vision for the future is a fundamental requirement for reconciling humanity's relationship with the natural world."*

The Living Building Challenge utilizes eight concepts to guide in the development and evaluation of buildings and the built-environment. These are:

- Place
- Water
- Energy
- Health & Happiness
- Materials
- Equity and Beauty

The Property Committee is supporting this initiative.

This article is an introduction to a process of dialogue, information, education, and empowerment, to develop an informed narrative about what steps have been taken in the past, to improve environmental stewardship, and to participate in the development and the implementation of new ideas.

Douglas Sollows, FRAIC Chair – Board of Robertson-Wesley United Church



The Green Good News

Christ's Path to Sustainable and Joyful Life

Why read this book? T. Wilson Dickinson gives us a missing link in our understanding of Jesus. He draws us into the Jesus stories by providing the context of the Roman occupation and the social conditions that resulted. He presents Jesus as fully Jewish, well-versed in the Hebrew Scriptures, and one whose understanding of the Law is much more than purity alone. He also demonstrates Jesus's understanding of the Sabbath and of Jubilee. Perhaps the author's most important contribution is that he offers many "aha" moments as the reader begins to fully appreciate the actions of Jesus.

The Green Good News is more than an opinion piece. Rather, the author cites many well-known scholars of religion, history, and anthropology who have contributed to his knowledge. In fact, this book has garnered rave reviews from renowned theologian Walter Brueggemann and the founder of 350.org Bill McKibben.

There are many "Jesus" books on the market, but this one goes the extra mile in offering actions that go far to establish a vision of justice and sustainability that includes the earth and all that is in it. It is not a "Jesus Saves" book.

Join other readers for discussion of The Green Good News on March 10 and 24 from 7pm to 9pm. If you are interested, please sign up with the church office to get the Zoom link. (mail@rwuc.org) For a copy of the book contact Nancy Heule at 780-487-9014, or nshwwc@shaw.ca.

The Green Good News is published on demand by Wipf and Stock of the US.

-Nancy Heule

A Message from the Mission and Outreach Pod

The Mission and Outreach Pod has been engaging in conversations about Environmental Stewardship over the last few months. Through this dialogue, a great deal of passion and many exciting ideas have emerged regarding how we as a faith community can engage in education and action to care for the gift of Creation. Some of the thoughts and emotions expressed include a desire to learn more about environmental issues, feeling a connection with God through nature, a sense of urgency about the environmental crisis, and a hope in God. Some of the approaches that are being considered include exploring the spiritual call to care for Creation, learning about simple and practical eco-friendly lifestyle changes, the sharing of personal stories and photos about Creation, and envisioning a future of hope. Environment-related events and activities will be gradually rolling out; we hope you are able to participate, and we encourage everyone to take some time to reflect on how we are called by God to relate to Creation.

The Mission and Outreach Pod is also considering how to best continue our work related to First Nations people. We are in the early stages of planning how we can use the arts as a means of both meaningful connection with First Nations people and education on First Nations topics. Implementation is dependent on the COVID-19 situation; keep an eye out for upcoming events!

If you are interested in Mission and Outreach work related to Environmental Stewardship or First Nations, please contact the church office to connect with the Mission and Outreach Pod.

Joni Soans, Mission and Outreach Pod Coordinator

Covet?

How many of you, as children, had a plaque of The Ten Commandments on your bedroom wall? I certainly did. In fact, the last Commandment, Thou Shall not Covet, was like an injunction against swearing. Covet was a bad word; you didn't dare think about it, and it certainly wasn't a word that was used in everyday conversation.

I was horrified to see the word COVET used in print four times in the last three weeks. Each time the verb was employed positively. It was okay to covet an item of clothing or a new sofa for the living room. Marketing professionals are now using the word to entice people to buy, buy, buy. Hmm, if we support the economy isn't that a good thing?

How the world has changed. If covet catches on, we will be even more consumer-driven than we are now. Our homes will be full to overflowing with stuff we don't need, more and more containers filled with cast-offs will travel the oceans carrying refuse to third-world garbage heaps, and we will have turned our backs on the sacred.


When I was a teenager my father would caution me against going shopping with my friends. He would say that I had to watch out or I would want something, and that I would no longer be happy.

He knew what he was talking about, having lived through a depression and a war. Us? The more the better.

How do we sever our ties to consumerism? That is the burning question for today.

Nancy Heule







The story of a man's life and death

Come hear the story of the last week of Jesus' life


Holy Week & Easter

You know the story of Jesus' birth ... but what about the rest of the story.


In the last week of Jesus' life, he entered Jerusalem with people cheering him on with a **Palm Parade**.


A few days later he had dinner with his friends - his disciples - and he gave them communion at the **Last Supper**. After dinner he went to the garden to pray. While in the garden Jesus got arrested!



On **Friday** there was a trial and Jesus was sentenced, tortured and crucified.




The disciples and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene mourned his death and held a Vigil (**a Wake**)




10209 123 Street • www.rwuc.org

Easter


Learn the story of Jesus' life and death through a variety of hour long worshipful experiences.




Cross of Ashes
Wednesday, Feb 17 7:00 pm
Ash Wednesday



Palm Parade
Sunday, March 28 10:30 am
Palm Sunday
Nova Bells




Last Supper
Thursday, April 1 7:00 pm
Maundy Thursday
R-W Ringers (Handbells)



At the Cross
Friday, April 2 10:30 am
Good Friday
Registration required



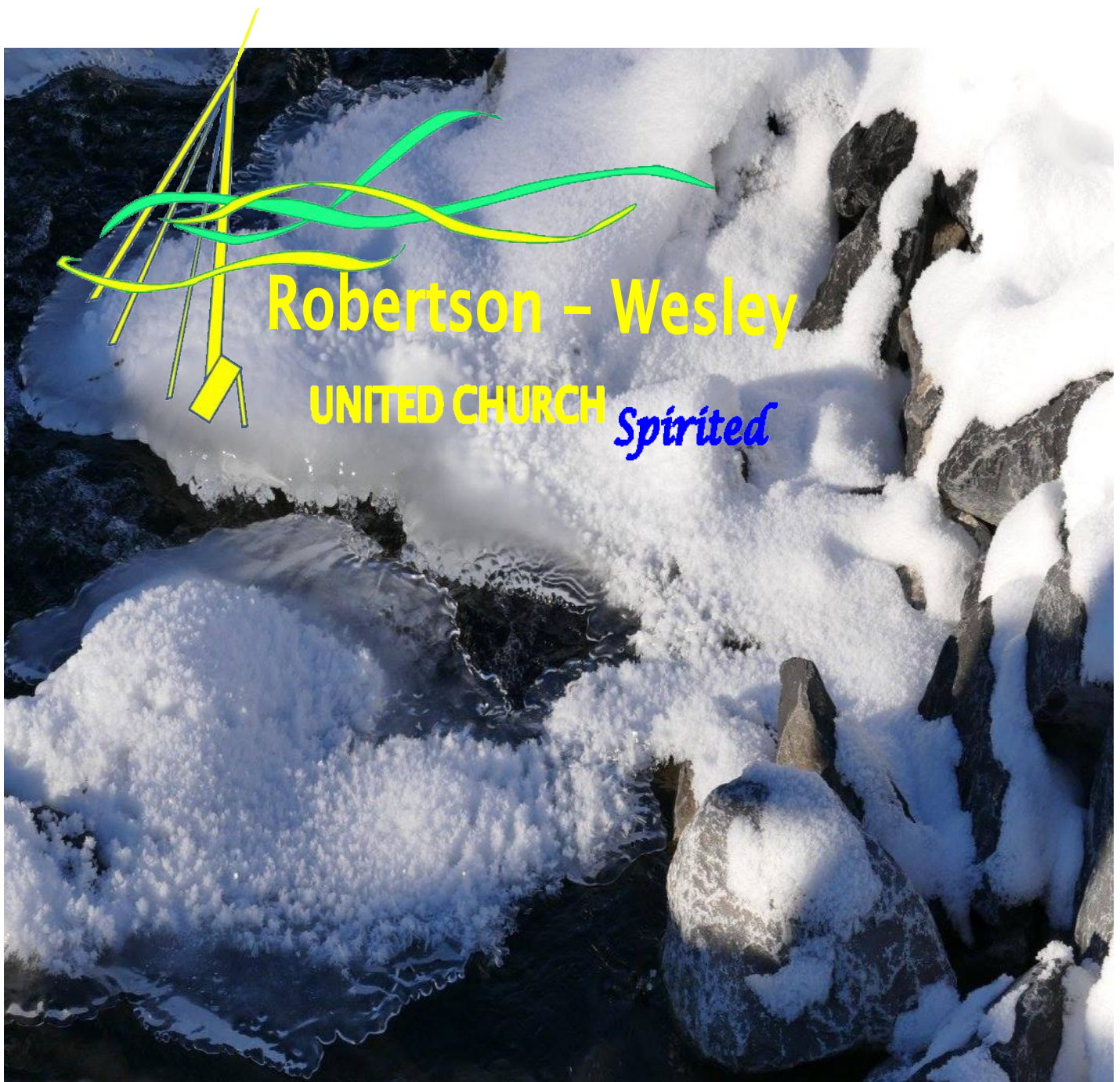
A Wake for Jesus
Saturday, April 3 7:00 pm
Easter Vigil



The Resurrection
Sunday, April 4 7:30 am
Easter Sunrise Service
Paul Kane Park
Registration required.

Services are live streamed and in person.





Easter at R-W COVID Style 2021

Both the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services will be streamed live. You will be required to register for these services. Please know this service will be recorded and can be watched at another time.

To register for this service please contact the church office by calling 780-482-1587 or emailing the office at mail@rwuc.org. Please indicate which service you would like to attend and number of people attending.

Streaming Now Online

At rwuc.org/live or facebook.com/RobertsonWesley

SPIRITED ART STUDIO

The Spirited Art studio is a place for people to explore art and connect with each other in an informal creative environment. Tune in any time and try out different art-making processes, facilitated by Laura David Foster. Visit rwuc.org/spirited-arts-movement to register for the Zoom. **Mondays** from 7:00–8:30 pm and **Wednesdays** from 1:30-3:00 pm.

ADULT STUDY GROUP

You are invited to join Sally on **Wednesdays** from 10:30-12:00 in a discussion of a variety of biblical themes. This week we will consider the theme of Exodus. The biblical story can be found in Exodus 3-15. It is a long story and full of detail. Enjoy. We will also discuss in what ways you may have been called out of slavery and into freedom in your own life. To join us contact the office and she will add you to our Zoom connection. If this time doesn't work for you, Sally is gathering a list of people to see if there is another time or day that would work and she would offer this study again. Please contact the office at mail@rwuc.org if you would like to be part of this group at a different time.

TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts are available to be picked up at the Church during regular business hours Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Sunday. The tax receipts can be picked up on or before Wednesday **February 24**; after this date they will be mailed out.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, **February 21**, after church. The Annual Congregational Meeting of Robertson-Wesley will take place in person and on zoom after the service. _

Scripture Reflections

On **Tuesdays** at 12:00 pm, we take time to reflect on the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday.

We use the practice of Lectio Divina which means we read through the scripture three times. You will be invited into some moments of silence, and if you are willing you are invited to share what the scriptures stirred in you with the group. You don't need to be a Biblical Scholar. God speaks through the scriptures and it is always wonderful to hear the diversity of messages that are received. Come watch with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

Join by visiting rwuc.org/live, on Facebook, or by requesting the Zoom link to join the discussion by speaking to Rev. Karen Bridges. There will be no Scripture Reflections on Dec 30.

AFFIRMING REFLECTIONS

Monthly on rwuc.org/live or facebook. Join Affirming Coordinator Shylo Rosborough for Affirming Reflections. Shylo discusses different faith topics through a LGBTQIA2+ lense every 3rd Monday of the month at Noon! Affirming Reflections till take a Christmas break starting Dec 14 and will resume in 2021.

Hymn

Sing



Join Erin Craig at noon on **Fridays** for Hymn Sing on rwuc.org/live or on Facebook. Tune in to listen to your favorite hymns and sing along in the comfort of your own home!

Affirming Coffee Hour

Affirming Ministries invites you to bring your coffee and join Shylo for his online Affirming Coffee Hour! On Zoom every **Thursday** from 11:00 am - Noon. Affirming Coffee Hour is a chance of connection for LGBTQIA2S+ folks and allies who are wanting to learn more, ask questions, engage in thoughtful discussions, and socialize! Email: affirming.ministries@rwuc.org for the link!

Affirming Coffee Hour will take a Christmas Break, with the last Coffee Hour on December 17, and will resume in the new year. Email: affirming.ministries@rwuc.org for the link!

EASTER HYDRANGEAS

On Easter Sunday, we love to celebrate the resurrection of Christ with flowers in the sanctuary that honour those we love. You can give in memory of loved one who has died, or like many, give to honour of an amazing friend or spouse. Please contact the office to order them at mail@rwuc.org or 780-482-1587. After worship April 4, you take the Easter hydrangea home with you (or deliver it to someone you love). The cost TBA.

BOOK BUDDIES

We will read and discuss T.Wilson Dickinson's book; The Green Good News on **March 10** and **March 24**. The discussion will take place via Zoom at 7:00pm each of these evenings. If you are interested in participating in the discussion, please contact Nancy Heule at nshwwc@shaw.ca or call 780-487-9014/780-908-3165 for pick-up or delivery of the book. Cost is \$20.00

CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

This is a non-faith based support circle that uses expressive art methods to process our thoughts and feelings around the current time. We'll start with a check in focused on how we are feeling and our thoughts, followed by a time of being creative together and then discover what we need to create hope to continue on to the next circle. We are all living through the same pandemic--"all the time same storm but with different boats". We are also living through precarious economic times, austerity plans and divisive, dangerous politics. It is my hope that we will feel less alone during this stage of the pandemic and political climate. 11:00 am - 12:30 pm on **February 20 and March 20**. To register visit: <https://>

UCW & FRIENDS

Robertson-Wesley chapter of The United Church Women (UCW) & Friends still meet on the second Tuesday every month. All are welcome to join UCW on Zoom for a time of fellowship and connection. The next UCW Zoom is Tuesday, **March 9** at 1:30 pm. For the Zoom link please email the office at mail@rwuc.org.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND REIMAGINED

The second monthly gathering of Women's Weekend Reimagined will be held via Zoom on Wednesdays starting at 5:30 pm. This will be a time of reconnection, reflection, and discussion about spiritual practices that inspire and sustain us on our faith journeys. All R-W women are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Trisha-Lee at trish.wasmund@gmail.com for a Zoom link to the event.

Eco Exhaustion, anyone??

We all know the signs. We wonder will our children and grandchildren live to old age?. Will we ever hear birdsong again?, We question our friends with “When is the last time you saw a meadowlark?” Sleep comes with difficulty. Our dreams turn into nightmares. Worry about climate change has definitely taken hold. But remember:

WE ARE NOT ALONE. WE LIVE IN GOD’S WORLD.

We need help for this journey. Jeremiah, known as the Weeping Prophet, and the writer of the biblical books of Jeremiah, Kings I and II, and Lamentations, lived at the time of the fall of Jerusalem and the exile in Babylon. Jewish leaders were against Jeremiah because he held the Jews responsible for their exile. Believe it or not, Jeremiah encouraged his people to settle down in Mesopotamia!

Are we, like the people of Jerusalem, responsible for the situation in which we find ourselves? Perhaps we are, some of us more than others. Can we change our lives, settle down and accept the changes required by our “exile”?

As Christians, we know the importance of community as we struggle to live faithfully. Below are the names of organizations striving to reduce and adapt to Climate Change. Please check them out on the Internet. They do marvelous work; by joining forces with them, we can find community.

- * Eco-Justice –has -thirty years of service to Canadians regarding nature, climate change, and healthy communities.
- * Sierra Club of Canada - a finger in many pies, with online video resources for children that aim to build relationships with nature.
- * Suzuki Foundation – founded by David Suzuki, has lots of compelling resources.
- * Narwhal – has expert reporters and special webinars re climate change.
- * Transnational Institute – reports on a wide variety of interests around the world such as agrarian and environmental justice, corporate power, and war and pacification.
- * www.thebulletin.org is the website of the international atomic scientists with articles about nuclear energy, and many resources around climate change.
- * The Conversation – this online newspaper collects writings of the best researchers and international reporters.
- * The Tyee – an online newspaper headquartered in BC, with a national focus and some of the best Canadian writers.
- * Pembina Institute – its purpose is to advance a clean energy future for Canada. Who can beat that?
- * Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) – established by the world-renowned Amory Lovins in 1972 after the energy crisis that occurred about the same time. He favoured energy efficiency and renewable sources.
- * Post Carbon Institute(PCI) – an American organization founded to reduce our fossil fuel consumption. Two of PCI’s Fellows, David Hughes and Richard Heinberg, have spoken here in Edmonton.
- * ALUS – Agricultural Land Use Services– is a national organization active in six provinces that promotes ecosystem integration on farmland.
- * Cows and Fish, aka Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society, promotes healthy landscapes near sources of water.
- * Greenpeace – established decades ago, has been fighting on behalf of nature for fifty years.
- * Nature United – supports nature-based climate solutions.
- * Forest International - started in Canada in 2008, believes that climate solutions can occur where and when people work closely with forests.
- * Citizens for Public Justice is a national faith-based organization that fights poverty and

climate change as well as pursuing rights for refugees.

- * Seeds of Diversity is a national charity whose purpose is to conserve agricultural and horticultural diversity.
- * World Wildlife Fund – this renowned body works toward a world in which nature and humanity thrive.
- * Resurgence Trust – a British charity dedicated to change, publishes both Resurgence and The Ecologist. Both online newsletters are available at no cost.

There are many more organizations dedicated to fighting climate change.

WE ARE NOT ALONE. WE LIVE IN GOD'S WORLD

Submitted by Nancy Heule



Photo courtesy of Linda Capjack

The World Needs More Birders

In the year 1900 naturalist Frank Chapman established the Christmas Bird Count in response to the morbid practice called the “side hunt” in which sides competed to see which one could shoot the greatest number of birds. Chapman’s goal was to encourage people to count birds rather than shoot them. We doubt he knew that his quest for ecological justice would result in the longest running citizen science project in North America, or that it would become the access point for millions of people, young and old into the magical world of birds.

Every year people all over the Western Hemisphere organize to count birds within designated 24 km diameter circles during a 24 hour period. Lynn’s father was a feeder watcher in the Calgary Christmas Bird Count for many years and Lynn and Arnold have participated in the Edmonton Count for the past decade. For the past three years we have been the coordinators and compilers for the Edmonton Count. We organize over 450 people to count the birds seen and heard during the 24 hour period of our count day in our 24km wide circle; and we record and submit the results of all these efforts.

Why do we do this? Well, we love birds and all they teach us about the health and well-being of the earth and ourselves as humans in the grand scheme of things. These magnificent, agile, fragile creatures give us clues about how to live in the world They model practices and values that can inform our own spiritual practice and the way we live our lives.

Birds show us the value and strength of smallness and the importance of tenacity and patience. They show us how to live in our particular circumstances. This is particularly true of what birders call the “accidental” birds - those birds found outside their normal habitats, like the Yellow-Rumped Warbler that was seen in our count this year- the first time any warbler was seen during an Edmonton Christ-

mas Bird Count. Warblers have no business being in Edmonton in the winter. However this one got here, it was using its wits, feeding on suet at a backyard feeder.

Watching birds moves us away from self absorption. Iris Murdoch (A Year of Birds) tells how a Kestrel cured her of her "writerly" ego, Bertolt Brecht found solace in birds as he lay dying in hospital. He dedicated his last poem to a blackbird he watched through the window as, through this lovely bird, he recognized how life goes on even after death.

To be a good birder, one needs to learn patience and the gifts that come from waiting, no matter the outcome - by this we mean the gifts that come simply from act of waiting, without expectation, wide open to surprise.

Birds and birding can help to free us to live with expansive joy, a generous heart, a trust in God's abundance. What could be better?
Submitted by Lynn and Arnold Maki

Lenten Environmental Challenge

The Mission and Outreach Pod presents an Environmental Challenge this Lenten season! With each day of Lent, there is an activity to help us recognize Creation as a gift from God and explore ways of caring for Creation. Please email photos or updates of your progress to the church office for inclusion in the weekly E-News!

PLEASE NOTE: As you participate in this challenge, start thinking of yourself more as a member of a collective than as an indi-

vidual. Why not ask friends to take part in this challenge with you?

February 17: Take a picture of something you see in nature

February 18: Read Psalm 104

February 19: Reduce your typical screen time by 1 hour **today**

February 20: Cook at home instead of eating out

February 21: Say a prayer thanking God for all the forms of water on Earth

February 22: Have one vegetarian meal in the next week

February 23: Watch the sunrise or sunset

February 24: Identify overlooked items that could be recycled rather than thrown out

February 25: Read a book or watch a documentary about nature

February 26: Reduce your thermostat and water heater temperatures

February 27: Reuse plastic bags

February 28: Say a prayer thanking God for the soil, rocks, earth, and mountains

March 1: Take a shorter shower

March 2: Check out the Nature Conservancy of Canada website and make a donation, if able

March 3: Identify the species of a bird that you see **today**

March 4: Use reusable lids instead of plastic wrap

March 5: Use the library instead of purchasing paper books

March 6: Check out a farmer's market

March 7: Say a prayer thanking God for the air, wind, and sky

March 8: Use reusable fabric bags when shopping

March 9: Get a compost bin

March 10: Check out the EcoJustice website and make a donation, if able

March 11: Install a birdfeeder

March 12: Make a meal using only locally sourced ingredients or whole foods (unpackaged/unprocessed) in the next week

March 13: Take items to the EcoStation for safe disposal

March 14: Say a prayer thanking God for the sun, stars, and fire

March 15: Check out a store that refills bulk products to reduce disposable packaging (e.g. Bulk Barn, Carbon, Re:Plenish)

March 16: Spend time among the trees ("forest bathing")

March 17: Use reusable water bottles instead of buying bottled water

March 18: Check out the Canada Wildlife Federation website and make a donation, if able

March 19: Reduce any unnecessary shopping

March 20: Hang your laundry to dry

March 21: Say a prayer thanking God for all the animals

March 22: Plant something that you can eat

March 23: Carry reusable lunch utensils to

work or school

March 24: Check out the Ducks Unlimited website and make a donation, if able

March 25: Write a letter to your MP about reducing greenhouse gas emissions

March 26: Bring your own container to carry home leftovers the next time you eat out

March 27: Take used items to the Bissell Centre

March 28: Say a prayer thanking God for all the trees and plants

March 29: Make an Easter card for someone using supplies you already have

March 30: Pick up garbage in your neighborhood

March 31: Read Genesis 1

April 1: Walk/bike instead of drive

April 2: Turn off electronics that are not in us

April 3: Listen to birdsong

Mission and Outreach Pod Environmental group

RACE AGAINST TIME

Environment versus Humanity

Genesis 2:15 states: The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. *Well we know the outcome of that arrangement.*

Man messed up and got evicted . . . déjà vu, we've done it again!

I read an article from the British Broadcasting Corporation dated October 2018, entitled "Final Call to

Save the World from 'Climate Catastrophe'. The subject of the article was a dramatic report produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*. The conclusion of the report stated that humans are loosing the goal of keeping the earths atmospheric temperature under a gain of 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels of the 1800's, therefore is now completely off track and heading instead towards 3C. The report says that going past 1.5C is dic-ing with the planet's livability, and going past the 1.5C 'guard rail' could be exceeded by 2030!

After reading Isaiah 23:5-6**, I initially came to the conclusion we are all 'toast'!



No, but wait . . . in the same article the authors indicated there is an outside chance of winning, knowing we have somewhere between 30 to 50 years before the ecosystem passes the 'point of no return'! Humanity on a global scale could stop carbon (thus atmospheric temperature increases) by people around the world demanding urgent and large-scale changes from governments and other identities to take corrective action in areas of green energy, better land use, more efficient city design, plus constant improvements of our industrial/personnal energy use and waste handling systems. Combine with large scale changes with lifestyle innovation by individuals, such as using less meat, local seasonal foods, hybrid and electric cars, use of cycle – transit – train - bus systems, continued videoconferencing systems instead of travel, upgrade building insulation systems (especially in Canada) and the use of low carbon consumer products. Do keep in mind when combining

these large and small scale transformations of behavior, we will only stop the temperature increases, and will have to use air purifying machines, organic trees and plants as well as 'carbon capture'*** techniques etc, to maintain the 1.5C goal. Maybe after a few hundred years humans may be able to reverse the damage. Who knows . . .

Hum . . . this game is not over yet . . . **but timing is everything !**

So everybody, we are in a survival race. So lets get going and upgrade or make changes to our life styles ASP, plus let our industrial/product suppliers and politicians know about our desire to have a livable planet via our money expenditures, votes and yes - voices . . . Much Success . . .

Jim Triscott



Iseltwald

June 2020

*The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations that is dedicated to providing the world with objective, scientific information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of the risk of human-induced^[3] climate change, its natural, political, and economic impacts and risks, and possible response options. *The IPCC includes the United Nations (UN) and its specialized agencies, the World Health Organization, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).*

**Isaiah 24:5-6 - The earth also is defiled under its inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken

the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and **they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitant of the earth are burned, and few men left.**

***Carbon Capture Facilities in Western Canada:

Existing Major Projects: Alberta Carbon Trunk Line (Redwater to Lacombe), Boundary Dam (Saskatchewan – USA border), Fort Nelson Gas Processing Plant Retrofit (underdevelopment in northern BC).

Minor Projects: Alberta Zama Gas Processing Plant Retrofit, Saskatchewan's Pikes Peak Pilot Project

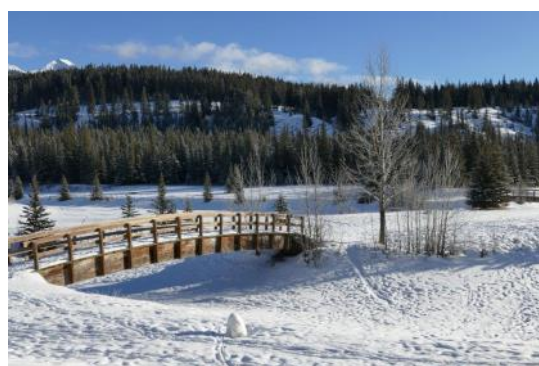


COVID COMPOST Adventures

It's so exciting — I just finished grinding up, very finely, my vegetable/fruit garbage for the week. But first I have to sort through it to make sure no-one has thrown in a spoon or avocado pit. Soon it will be poured over a chunk of one of my gardens, this time a flower bed, I think. Will it work as compost? I will know this spring! If so, the flowers might be sunflowers, seeds having fallen from my five new bird feeders. Birds are messy eaters. Those have been two of my GREEN projects for this Covid winter. Melisa Guilbeault got me started last spring with "paying attention to my garden" projects that did involve buying compost on sale last fall, the first I have done in 30 odd years. I do have a compost container in my vegetable garden BUT it is useless for me

except for shoving in rhubarb leaves. Another Covid Compost story: Behind my house is a huge forest of trees and bramble and deadfall and mess, much of it as a result of a FIRE a few years ago. We came home from church to find three fire engines and every neighbour in the area with hoses out, some of them watering down my garden shed. Great neighbourhood, incidentally. The fire supervisor told me later that if the wind had changed, my place would have been in trouble. "Get a metal roof," he said. So I did, needing a new roof anyway. The dead forest story: I look out on it across my yard, the back alley, a few acres of dandelions and various grasses in the summer and now SNOW. The snow has lots of tracks in it that look like someone has dragged branches across it. TRUE. We (mainly Max and Winni) have been hauling deadfall trees for months now to burn in our summer out door fire pit and winter indoor fire place. Chopping, sawing, piling — this is our winter conservation effort. My grandparents did the same out of necessity and we save on heating bills, a big deal these days. Also interesting is that the view has changed somewhat. Until the big windstorm a few days ago, we could not see many deadfall limbs! So what's the Green aspect of this? Well, in the summer there will be more green to see in the vista out back and maybe in our yard. We sprinkle the fireplace ash where, apparently, it will do the most good in our yard and garden. I am also thinking of painting our house — a new shade of green, of course.

Respectfully submitted by Janet M. Clark



**"Wait. Be patient.
The storm will pass.
The spring will come.
Robert H. Schuller**

The Covid Christmas

