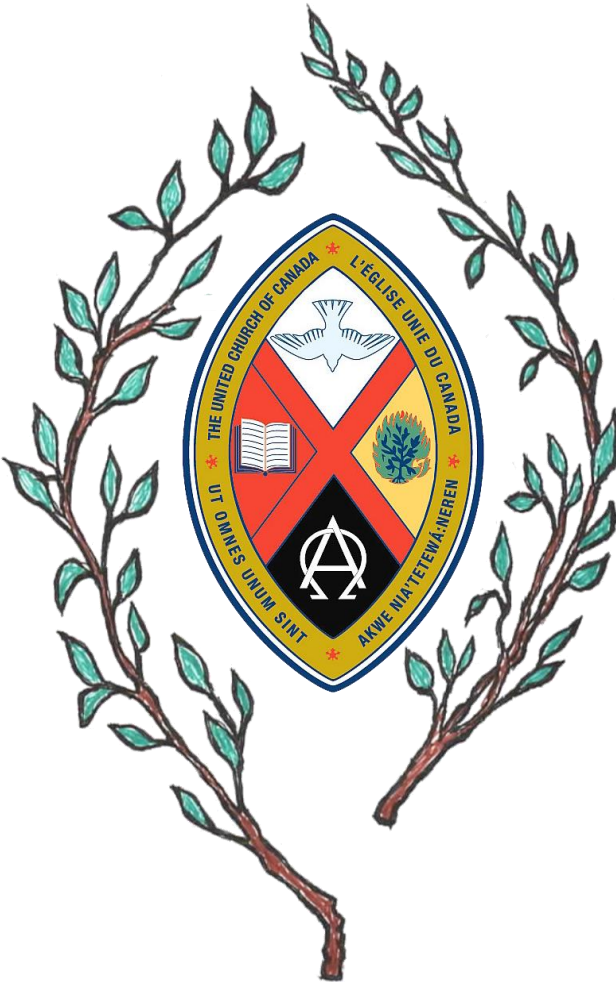




*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 April 23

Easter 3



### 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 identity, 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.

# *Welcome to Robertson-Wesley*

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*Please know that in the eyes of God you already belong here and you are welcome to participate in any of the activities of the congregation.*

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground for Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 4, who are of mixed Indigenous & European heritage.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

There is an elevator located inside the building with the glass door entrance.

Access ramps can be found: inside leading from the lobby to the sanctuary and outside at the rear of the building, leading from the parking lot.

There are accessible washrooms located in the lobby near the elevator.

Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.

Large print worship bulletins, and hymn books are available from the ushers.

Service animals are welcome, except where food is prepared.

We commit to make R-W a comfortable space for people with cognitive impairment. If you require accommodations related to cognitive functioning please contact the office.

## **BABY/ CHILDREN'S AMENITIES**

People can breastfeed anywhere in the building, should you want more privacy there is designated nursing space in the Millson room, located by the grand piano. Baby changing tables are installed in all washrooms. If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel. There are also activity books available for children. Please ask the usher.

## **INFORMATION**

The ushers located at the entrances are here to help should you have any questions. More information about the church and church activities can be found in the pamphlet racks outside Memorial Hall.

## **PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.



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

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Prelude: *All Creatures of Our God and King*, arr. by David N. Johnson

Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Sung Invocation: *Hallelujah*

*Voices United 717*

**Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.  
Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

Call to Worship:

Jesus began his ministry out in the wild, where he prayed and reflected on his call.

**May we boldly walk with Jesus into the wild.**

Jesus went out into creation to find solace, guidance and grounding.

**May we find solace, guidance and grounding as we worship the Creator.**

In this season of resurrection may our spirit be re-awakened to all the gifts that God offers us.

**May we give thanks for all we have been given.**

Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.

**May we be more attuned to recognize the presence of God,  
Jesus and the Holy Spirit in all our relations.**

Introit: *Christ, Mighty Saviour*, by David Hurd

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Prayer of Confession:

O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,  
**open our eyes to see.**

O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,  
**open our eyes to see.**

O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,  
**open our eyes to see.**

O God, your creatures are slowly dying and  
your people are suffering,  
**open our eyes to see.**

God our maker, so move us by the wonder of your creation,

**that we repent and care more deeply.**

So move us to grieve the loss of life,

**that we learn to walk with gentle footfall upon your world.**

**Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Neil Paynter & Helen Boothroyd, **Holy Ground; Liturgies and worship resources for an engaged spirituality**, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2005), p. 251.

**In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Lynn Maki & Rev. Karen Bridges

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*God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways: in the song of a bird, in the babbling of a brook, in the voices of our friends, in the hug from our loved ones, in the songs we sing, and in the stories of the Bible.

**Speak to us now through the reading of scripture. Help us to hear your voice and follow the way of Jesus. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Anthem: *God So Loved the World*, by Bob Chilcott

Choir of Robertson-Wesley; Jacqueline Hernandez, soloist

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<sup>2</sup> *Celebrate God's Presence*, 0M003.

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 • What shall I return to the Lord?

I love you, O God, for you have heard my cry for mercy. You have listened to me; I will call on you all my days. The bands of Death encircled me; the messengers of Sheol ambushed me, I was overcome with trouble and sorrow. Then I called your name, God - "Help, O God, save me!" How can I repay you, O God, for all your goodness to me? I raise the cup of deliverance and call on the name of the Creator. I will fulfill my vows to you in the presence of all your people. The death of your faithful is precious in your sight. O God, I am your faithful one - I am faithful to you alone. You have freed me from my chains. I will offer you the sacrifice of praise, and call on the Name of God. I will fulfill my vows to you in the presence of all your people, in the courts of the house of God, in the midst of Jerusalem. Alleluia!<sup>3</sup>

Luke 24:13-35 • The road to Emmaus.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And Jesus said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there these days?" Jesus asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women in our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then Jesus said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into God's glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So Jesus went in to stay with them. When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and Jesus vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while

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<sup>3</sup> Bible Translation is from *The Inclusive Bible; The First Egalitarian Translation*. 2007.

he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they shared what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reflection: *The blessing of all our relations.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *O Beautiful Gaia*

**More Voices 41**

**O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.**

**O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.**

**Soil yielding its harvest, O Gaia calling us home.**

**Soil yielding its harvest, calling us on.**

**O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.**

**O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.**

**Waves crashing on granite, O Gaia, calling us home.**

**Waves crashing on granite, calling us on.**

**O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.**

**O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.**

**Pine bending in windstorm, O Gaia, calling us home.**

**Pine bending in windstorm, calling us on.**

**O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.**

**O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.**

**Loon nesting in marshland, O Gaia, calling us home.**

**Loon nesting in marshland, calling us on.**

**O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.**

**O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.**

Pastoral Prayers

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Lord's Prayer:

**Voices United p. 921**

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**thy kin-dom come,**

**thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

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## Grateful Response

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### Offering:

Your donations today support R-W Church programs and operations, as well as outreach projects and programs in the city and around the world.

You can donate by e-transfer to [pay@rwuc.org](mailto:pay@rwuc.org), cheque, debit/credit at the terminal located at the Grocery Card table in Memorial Hall during fellowship after worship, pre-authorized remittance, or PayPal on the website. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for donations over \$20 if your name and address are provided.

### Offertory: *When We Are Living*

*Voices United 581 v. 2*

**Through all our living, we our fruits must give.**

**Good works of service are for offering.**

**When we are giving, or when receiving,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

### Prayer of Gratitude:

Gifts from our hands, gifts from the creation, gifts from our abundance, we bring to you, O God.

**Bless this abundance. Bless our beautiful land. Bless the hands that gave and those that will receive. Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

### Hymn: *Let all Things Now Living*

*Voices United 242*

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into Light.**

**By law God enforces, the stars in their courses and  
sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing with  
glad adoration a song let us raise:  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

### Blessing:

**Bless to us, O God, the Earth beneath our feet.**

**Bless to us, O God, the path whereon we go.**

**Bless to us, O God, the people whom we meet.<sup>5</sup>**

Postlude: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, by L.V. Beethoven arr. by John Carter  
Allan Bevan and Raydene Koch, piano

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<sup>4</sup> Written by Kate Crawford, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2013, p. 44. Used with permission.

<sup>5</sup> Neil Paynter & Helen Boothroyd, **Holy Ground; Liturgies and worship resources for an engaged spirituality**, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2005), p. 253.

Questions for Reflection:

Think of a moment on your faith journey where you were astounded by what transpired.

Where have you recognized Jesus in the world?

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*R-W Report*

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Next Sunday

**Sunday, April 30, 2023**

**Easter 4 and Life Passages**

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

**1 Peter 2:19-25** • Our example in suffering

**John 10: 1-10** • Jesus as shepherd—and gate

**Sermon:** Who Do You Follow?

As Jesus speaks, we learn that even in the apparently simpler times of Palestine two thousand years ago, there was more than one group and individuals vying for followers. Like then, we need to hone our listening so that we can better choose which voices we respond to. The Epistle today talks about the almost inevitable difficult consequences of, like Jesus, following God's voice. Who have you chosen to follow? Why have you chosen to follow them? What has this meant for you, both positively and negatively?

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist, Robertson-Wesley Choir

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun April 23	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Garden Patch and Air Room</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
	Membership Class - <b>Club Room</b>	12:30 pm
	Koinonia - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:30 pm
Mon April 24	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
	M&P Meeting - <b>Online</b>	7:00 pm
Tues April 25	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
Wed April 26	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	Gratitude Team Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	3:00 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur April 27	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm

**ON THE HORIZON**

Sun April 30	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Garden Patch and Air Room</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am



	Fellowship & Bake Sale - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
Mon May 1	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues May 2	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>	5:30 pm
Wed May 3	Canterbury Worship - <b>Away</b>	10:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	Spirited Arts Writing Workshop - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thur May 4	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat May 6	Trash to Treasure Sale - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	9:00 am

### **R-W News & Notes**

#### **KOINONIA**

You are invited to the April gathering of Koinonia **tonight**. The gathering will begin with a potluck at 5:30 pm. Dinner will be followed by a time of reflection, meditation, music and prayer in the style of the Taizé community. All are welcome.

#### **BETWEEN THE AISLES**

The next issue of Between the Aisles. Robertson-Wesley's quarterly newsletter, is dedicated to our wonderful church volunteers. If there is someone in the past or the present who has made an outstanding contribution to our church's activities or faith journey, please write about that person and submit to news@rwuc.org by **May 7**. Articles do not have to be lengthy; instead the editors are looking for special stories about special people.

#### **BAKE SALE**

There will be a bake sale during fellowship on Sunday, **April 30**. Proceeds to the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund.

#### **SPIRITED ARTS WRITING WORKSHOP: Laughter Medicine**

**May 3**, 7-9 pm in the Club Room. What kind of sense of humour do you have? Do you enjoy puns, dark humour, quirky jokes, or absurd situations? Or does physical humour make you giggle? In this writing workshop, we'll play with techniques to write short funny monologues and dialogues. Bring your own unique sense of humour, and we'll see if we can make each other laugh. Facilitated by Beth Janzen.

#### **FROM TRASH TO TREASURE**

Robertson-Wesley will be holding its first mini-rummage sale of the year on Saturday, **May 6**. The sale will feature kitchen items only, such as gadgets, small appliances, tea towels, cookbooks, sets of carving knives, baking sheets etc. Donations of kitchen items will be accepted at the church beginning on Sunday, **April 30**.

## **WEBSITE LAUNCH FOR THE COMMUNITY & CONNECTION 2SLGBTQIA+ ADVOCACY CONFERENCE**

We are excited to share the website and registration for the conference. The website features the program schedule and all the information pertaining to the conference. The website also has the registration link. Be sure to check it out at [www.communityandconnection.com](http://www.communityandconnection.com)

### **SILENT TALENT AUCTION**

A fun community building fundraiser where RWUC congregants myriad of talents are silently auctioned off for RWUC. Can you give a one hour singing lesson? Can you take a senior grocery shopping a couple of times in a month? How about helping out with some spring cleaning? Whether you can make a couple of meals, or host a themed dinner, you have a talent! We bet there are lots of congregants willing to bid on these wonderful gifts. If you have a talent that you would like to offer, please pick up a registration form in Memorial Hall on Sundays. It's that simple. If you need help in trying to figure out what "talent" you might have, come and see Tamara Wright or Andrew Hopkyns at Fellowship! Every week until May 17, as the list grows, we will post all the exciting talents! Bidding will begin on Sunday **May 20** when the final list of talent offerings will be posted in Memorial Hall and continue for one week. The auction on **May 28th** will start right after worship, with the auction frenzy ending at 1:00 pm!

### **In the Community**

#### **EARTH WEEK**

During Earth Week (**April 16–23**), The United Church of Canada has joined with numerous sibling denominations and faith organisations under one banner, *Together for the Love of Creation*. During Earth Week, we invite you to hold events to pray, learn, and act for climate justice. For Earth Week, Moderator The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne writes about actions and choices for climate justice that may preserve our future. Read her blog here:  
<https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/end-world-we-know-it>

#### **WOMEN'S INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM**

**April 26** at 6:30 pm hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association. This annual multi-faith event brings together the world's religions to speak on a common topic from the point of view of their respective religious traditions. This year's symposium's theme is 'The Empowerment of Women Through their Faith'. Rev. Karen Bridges will speak at this event along with a few other women from different faith traditions. For more information and tickets visit:  
[eventbrite.ca/e/interfaith-symposium-empowerment-of-women-through-their-faith-tickets-568964256407](http://eventbrite.ca/e/interfaith-symposium-empowerment-of-women-through-their-faith-tickets-568964256407)

## **EDMONTON LUTHERAN MIXED SLO-PITCH LEAGUE**

Join the fun and fellowship of playing slo-pitch. The 2023 slo-pitch season will be starting in early May. Teams consist of a minimum of 10 players, including at least 3 women and 3 men. All players must be at least 14 years old. Teams generally play one game per week, with game days varying between Monday and Thursday. League fees are \$475 per year, plus a \$100 refundable deposit per new team. You can gather folks into a team for your congregation, join with another congregation, or use this as an outreach opportunity by adding friends to your team. If you would like to play, you can sign your team up through their website [www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=elmsp](http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=elmsp) (deadline is April 30). If you have any questions, please email Warren at [elmsp.president@gmail.com](mailto:elmsp.president@gmail.com)

## **CHALMERS-CASTLE DOWNS UC SPRING CRAFT MARKET**

Saturday, **May 13** from 10 am to 3 pm. Browse the handiwork of local artisans and home-based businesses as we welcome Spring's arrival. There will be a café offering coffee and tea, and a yummy homemade dessert. This fundraiser supports the life & work of Chalmers-Castle Downs United Church in North West Edmonton.

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### *Worship Notes*

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What is Earth Day? This is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first held on April 22, 1970. This of course happened on Saturday, but why not consider the Earth each and every day? In the United Church we believe that we are called to live with respect in creation. How will you do this today? Will you plant something? Will you go for a walk to appreciate the beauty of nature? Will you not use your indoor light for a day? How will you play your part in caring for all of God's creation?

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### *Cover Image*

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Cover image is the crest of The United Church of Canada, embraced by the logo for Wild Church.

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Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Vacant

Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges

Bridging Minister: Rev. Dirk Jessen

Music Director: Dr. Allan Bevan

Office Administrator: Elyse Munro

Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

Financial Manager: Garth van Herwaarden

# *Welcome to Robertson-Wesley*

If you would like you can fill out this page, tear it off, and place it in the offering plates at the exits. This form is also available to fill out online at [rwuc.org/infocard](http://rwuc.org/infocard)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred gender pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to subscribe to the email newsletter

Yes  No

I am new in the community

I am a visitor

I am interested in speaking with a minister

I am considering making this my church

Please put in the offering plate. Thank you

