

The logo features a stylized brown sailboat on the left, with three wavy lines in blue and green above it. To the right, the text "Robertson - Wesley" is in a large, brown, sans-serif font. Below it, "UNITED CHURCH" is in a smaller, brown, sans-serif font. To the right of "UNITED CHURCH", the word "Spirited" is written in a green, cursive font.

# Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 June 11

Pride Sunday

Pentecost 2



### Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstances. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

# *Welcome to Robertson-Wesley*

*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 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: *Prelude and Fugue in G Major*, by Felix Mendelssohn

Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Spring Carol (Fairest Lord Jesus)*, arr. by Russell Schulz-Widmar

Choir of Robertson-Wesley; Nova Bells

Opening Prayer:

Grounded in who we are, O God, people come to know you as Creator, people come to know you as Redeemer, people come to know you as Sustainer, and so, we open ourselves to you.

**In that opening, we turn to our neighbours - acknowledging the diversity of beliefs and ways of life found among us - and we offer your love.**

God-of-All, may your love always be made tangible in our words and in our actions, day by day.

God-of-All, help others to know your love through us.

**Help us be a safe space; help us be a safe people - for all. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *Come All You People*

*More Voices 2*

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come now and worship the Lord.**

**Uyai mose, tinamate Mwari,  
uyai mose, tinamate Mwari,  
uyai mose, tinamate Mwari,  
uyai mose zvino.**

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come now and worship the Lord.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Dirk Jessen

Prayer of Confession:

God of mercy, we confess that we are often confused about what it means to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus. Sometimes, we tell ourselves that it's mostly about being nice, doing the best we can, not being any worse than the next person. We get upset if anyone suggests that we aren't doing it right. We'll define this thing for ourselves, by ourselves. In our more honest moments, we realize how shallow we may seem, how shallow we can be.

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2022, p. 31. Used with permission.

**Forgive us. Help us seek and follow the path of true discipleship.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, in whom you lived among us.  
Amen.**

Word of Assurance:

We are not alone. Whatever our struggles, whatever our failings, whatever our sins, God stays with us and bears with us. The hands of the Potter are always working the clay that we are. We are becoming what God wants us to be.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Anthem: *O Love*, by Elaine Hagenberg

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Prayer of Illumination:

Encouraging God, open our hearts to hard words and deep truths. Nudge us with your Spirit to recognize the message you have for us today. Inspire us, with your love, to take your message into our hearts and into our lives. **Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Scriptures:

Raydene Koch

Genesis 12:1-9 • Call of Abraham.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

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<sup>2</sup> Written by John Moses, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 45. Used with permission.

<sup>3</sup> Written by Gill Le Fevre, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2023, p. 49. Used with permission.

Matthew 9:9-13 • The call of Matthew.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to Matthew “Follow me.” And Matthew got up and followed Jesus. And as Jesus sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when Jesus heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *An Emmanuel Problem*

Rev. Blaine Gregg

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*Grateful Response*

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Hymn: *I Have Called You by Your Name*

**More Voices 161**

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

**I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.**

**I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

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.**

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, 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: *Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us*      *Voices United 198 v. 1*

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, come with pentecostal power;  
give the church a stronger vision, help us face each crucial hour.  
Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,  
still the church is called to mission  
that God's love shall be made known.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

**Generous God, whose love knows no boundaries, work in us to  
remove the limits of your love. Bless this offering that it may  
bring healing to those who have been repelled as untouchable,  
rejected as undeserving, and dismissed as incomprehensible.  
Expand our love and our offering so that others may experience  
your love in the world and we may serve you in our lives. Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

Hymn: *Quirky, Queer and Wonderful*, by Adam M. L. Tice

*Tune: "Royal Oak" VU 291*

**Quirky, queer, and wonderful, distinct, unique, and odd...  
All of our humanity reveals the face of God.**

**No "normal" can encompass or comprehend the range  
of all the kinds of people that God created strange!**

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<sup>4</sup> Written by Gill Le Fevre, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2023, p. 32. Used with permission.

**Quirky, queer, and wonderful, distinct, unique, and odd...  
All of our humanity reveals the face of God.**

**From Jesus we learn riddles; he said the last are first.  
He tweaked received religion with roles that he reversed.**

**Quirky, queer, and wonderful, distinct, unique, and odd...  
All of our humanity reveals the face of God.**

**To Peter, God presented untouchable cuisine  
and said “Do not call dirty what I declare is clean.”**

**Quirky, queer, and wonderful, distinct, unique, and odd...  
All of our humanity reveals the face of God.**

**In Christ the false divisions of gender, class, and race,  
can never separate us from God’s abundant grace.**

**Quirky, queer, and wonderful, distinct, unique, and odd...  
All of our humanity reveals the face of God.**

**The many parts that form us each serve a different role.  
In Christ, we are one body, made holy, good, and whole.**

**Quirky, queer, and wonderful, distinct, unique, and odd...  
All of our humanity reveals the face of God.<sup>5</sup>**

Commissioning:

God calls us all beloved.

**We go to love what God loves.**

Accepting your calling to love, to heal, to seek justice,  
and to reconcile.

**We answer God’s call in all we say and do.**

The courage of Christ attend you.

The love of God surround you.

The Holy Spirit guide you.

**Amen.<sup>6</sup>**

Postlude: *Voluntary on “Hyfrodol” (Alleluia! Sing to Jesus)*, by Charles Callahan  
Allan Bevan, organ

Question for Reflection:

How is Robertson-Wesley a safe space for all?

As an affirming congregation, how are we called to support and advocate for all of God’s people?

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<sup>5</sup> Written by Adam M. L. Tic, 2015 GIA Publications Inc. Onelicense # 606241

<sup>6</sup> Written by Witaskiwin Writers, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2023, p.32. Used with permission.

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, June 18, 2023**

### **Indigenous Prayer Sunday Pentecost 3**

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

**Romans 5:1-5** • Suffering will happen, and...

**Matthew 9:35-10:8** • Jesus chooses those who would first share in his mission

**Sermon:** As You Go

In his letter to a community of faith in Rome, Paul acknowledges that a life of faith in God will not be easy, but can be bearable and even, eventually, hopeful. Jesus began his work toward the renewed kingdom of God and, even while he was still alive, he brought together a rag-tag group of people who would share in his mission. He sent them out with the message he was sharing, a message of good news that was to be both spoken and enacted.

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

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun June 11	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
	Spiritual Formation Conversation - <b>Room 11</b>	12:00 pm
Mon June 12	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues June 13	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Property Committee Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	1:00 pm
	UCW - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	1:30 pm
	DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>	5:30 pm
Wed June 14	Finance Committee Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm

### **ON THE HORIZON**

Sun June 18	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
	Wild Church - <b>Away</b>	12:30 pm
Tues June 20	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	R-W Board Meeting - <b>Club Room</b>	7:00 pm
June 22-24	Community & Connection Conference	



## Volunteer Opportunities

### **COMMUNITY & CONNECTION 2SLGBTQIA+ ADVOCACY CONFERENCE**

We are looking for volunteers to help out on **June 22, 23 and 24**. Roles include the following: Greeters, registration table, beverage servers, and workshop presenter support. If any of these roles interest you and you want to help out with the conference you can sign-up in Memorial hall.

### R-W News & Notes

#### **SPIRITUAL FORMATION POD CONVERSATION**

The Spiritual Formation Pod Coordinator is hosting a conversation on Sunday, **Today** after church from 12:00 to 1:30 in Room 11. This conversation is to explore fellowship and ways to make people feel more welcome at coffee hour. All who want to share their thoughts (including you) are welcome to attend.

#### **BOOK SALE: BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED**

We are holding a book sale fundraiser on the church lawn **July 8 & 9**. We need books hardcover and paperbacks, magazines, and anything you think is appropriate for the books sale. We can pick it up if you can't drop off at the church. Sheila & Pat 780-481-0056. If possible, please bring books in low boxes with spines facing upwards so they can be set right out. CD's also welcome.

#### **WILD CHURCH**

Fun in the sun at Emily Murphy Park (Picnic Site #3)! All ages - and pets - are invited to the Wild Church potluck picnic at 12:30 on **June 18**, followed by a Summer Solstice Wild Church Service at 1:15. Feel free to join one or both activities. Food will be provided. We encourage you, if able, to bring a potluck item and plates/utensils for yourself; if unable, come anyway! Rain or shine, barring unsafe conditions. For questions/transportation arrangements, contact [wildchurch@rwuc.org](mailto:wildchurch@rwuc.org). Follow us @wildchurchyeg

#### **COMMUNITY OF FAITH PROFILE**

Last Sunday at the Robertson-Wesley Congregational Meeting the Community of Faith Profile was approved by the congregation. The Profile is the story of who R-W is, what we feel God is calling R-W to do and be, as well as the ministry model that will help us get there. The next step is for R-W to report the approval to the Pastoral Relations Commission of Northern Spirit Regional Council (our region of The United Church of Canada) and with their initial assistance begin the search for the permanent minister(s). The report including ministers' job descriptions can still be found on the website at [rwuc.org/cofp](http://rwuc.org/cofp).

## **SPIRITED ART STUDIO**

The Spirited Art Studio will take a summer break, with the last Art Studios happening this week, on **June 12 & 14** and will resume in September.

## **COMMUNITY & CONNECTION 2SLGBTQIA+ ADVOCACY CONFERENCE**

The Community & Connection 2SLGBTQIA+ Advocacy Conference is **June 22, 23** and **24**. This conference will bring together individuals and agencies in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to share their experiences, challenges and hopes. Through this coming together we hope to learn what is currently happening in the queer community and what needs are not being met. Visit [www.communityandconnection.com](http://www.communityandconnection.com) for more info or to register. Register quickly to guarantee you get your first choice of workshops.

## **COMMUNITY & CONNECTION CONCERT**

*From Hiding to Healing* with Alt-Folk singer Emmet Michael, **Friday, June 23** at 7:15 pm. Introspective and enthralling, with equal parts grit and grace, Emmet Michael is a musician who was built on his trials. Turning to music in his darkest times, he found solace in his ability to share his heart with others through his lyrics. Drawing on his experience as a transgender man, living with mental illness, and battling addiction, his songs carry a tone of desperation and triumph. With soulful melodies and heart-wrenching lyrics, his music conveys a message that is both powerful and vulnerable. Entirely unique, yet familiar. This arts evening concert is included in the 3 day conference pass and can also be purchased separately through Tix on the Square. If you are unable to get tickets online please speak to Angela at 780-482-1587 ext 300.

## **GREEN BITES**

In Canada and throughout the world, there are people working hard to preserve historic buildings. Often heard are the words “Demolition through neglect” and “The greenest building is one already built.” However, there is more to preservation than meets the eye. Several organizations now talk about CARE, which stands for Carbon Avoided: Retrofit Estimator. CARE is a program that helps people to make decisions regarding retrofitting existing buildings, their reuse, and whether or not a new building should be constructed. Although the City of Edmonton hasn’t yet developed a CARE tool\*, there is a program to provide a rebate for retrofitting commercial buildings. As well, an Energy Tool Kit is available through Edmonton Public Library which assists the householder in determining energy use. \*See [Caretool.org](http://Caretool.org) for more information. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

## **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN**

Do you have spare change weighing down your pockets? If so, you can donate that change in the *Pennies from Heaven* jar in the office. The coins that are donated are rolled-up and the funds are forwarded to Mission & Service.

### **In the Community**

#### **ALBERTA WILDFIRES: DONATIONS AND PRAYERS**

Almost the entirety of Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regional Councils are under a blanket of smoke, or dealing with out of control fires, or both. Visit [northernspiritrc.ca/letter-from-the-regional-council-chair-re-wildfires/](http://northernspiritrc.ca/letter-from-the-regional-council-chair-re-wildfires/) read a letter from the Northern Spirit Chair, with various funding links for those evacuated or facing destruction of homes and businesses. Rev. Catherine Faith MacLean in Northern Spirit wrote a prayer in response to the fire crisis, which can be read at [northernspiritrc.ca/the-burnt-prayer-a-prayer-of-lament/](http://northernspiritrc.ca/the-burnt-prayer-a-prayer-of-lament/)

#### **124 STREET GRAND MARKET**

We are excited to welcome back to our sunny street corner the 124 Grand Market! The market will run Sundays from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm from June - September. Bring a blanket, buy some local produce, crafts, or food and have a picnic on the lawn after church to soak up the atmosphere!

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### *Worship Notes*

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On this Pride Sunday, we give thanks that as a community we strive to be welcoming and inclusive of all, believing that we all have a part to play and we work together to ensure all people know that their gifts are valued and appreciated.

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### *Cover Image*

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The cover image was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges in June 2022 on Pride Sunday. After church we did blessings and rainbow tattoos! The words come from Matthew 9:13.

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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

