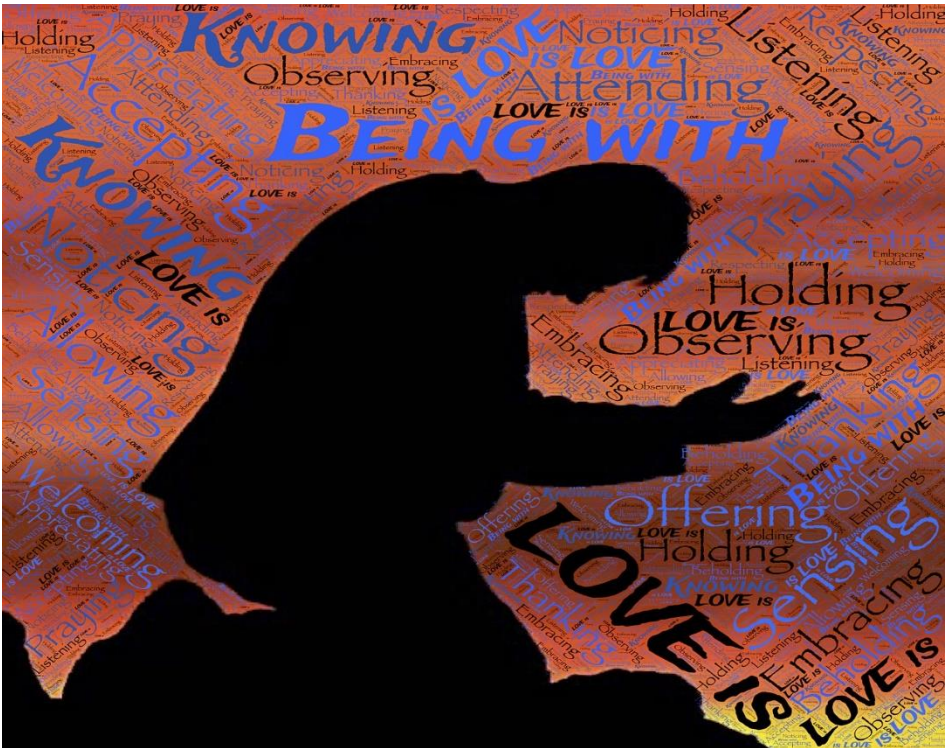




*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 October 29

Pentecost 22



### **Welcome and Inclusion**

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

# *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 on each floor located near the elevator.



For hearing assistance download the Listen Everywhere app on your cellphone and connect to the R-W network by scanning this QR code. Please bring your own headphones to listen on. Classic hearing assists headsets are still 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.



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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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Announcements at 10:15 am

Prelude: *Siyahamba* (We Are Marching), Trad. South African Song arr. by John Behnke  
Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *A Thanksgiving Prelude*, by Charles Callahan  
Jean Triscott, flute; Allan Bevan, organ

Call to Worship:

Are you ready to serve?

**To serve?**

To serve God with our hands, our thoughts, our love.

**We are ready to share with God, in this time and place,  
in all times and places.**

Then come. With all the living things of the earth, and sea and sky,  
let us praise God.

**Let us praise God. Alleluia!**<sup>1</sup>

Hymn: *Come, Children Join to Sing* **Voices United 345**

**Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!**

**Praise to our Servant-King: Hallelujah!**

**Let all with heart and voice, saved by God's gracious choice,  
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!**

**Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!**

**Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!**

**Christ calls his people friends, the helpless he defends,  
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!**

**Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!**

**Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!**

**The whole creation o'er let all God's love adore,  
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!**

Coming into God's Presence Vicky Mah, Gratitude Team

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Hymn: *The Church of Christ in Every Age* **Voices United 601**

**The church of Christ in every age**

**beset by change but Spirit led,**

**must claim and test its heritage**

**and keep on rising from the dead.**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2015, p. 25. Used with permission.

**Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live until they die.**

**Then let the servant Church arise,  
a caring Church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.**

**We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord:  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread Christ's liberating Word.**

Prayer of Illumination:

**God of the ages, we come this day seeking guidance and inspiration  
from the words and stories of the Bible. Open our hearts and minds so  
that these words may inspire, comfort, and challenge us to be a living  
gospel as your servants. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Scripture:

1 Kings 12:1-17; 25-29 • A kingdom divided.

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. When Jeroboam, son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. And they sent and called him; and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke that he placed on us, and we will serve you." He said to them, "Go away for three days, then come again to me." So the people went away. Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the older men who had attended his father Solomon while he was still alive saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" They answered him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." But he disregarded the advice that the older men gave him, and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and now attended him. He said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us'?" The young men who had grown up with him said to him,

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Beth W. Johnston, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2019, p. 41. Used with permission.

“Thus you should say to this people who spoke to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you must lighten it for us’; thus you should say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s loins. Now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’” So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had said, ‘Come to me again the third day.’ The king answered the people harshly. He disregarded the advice that the older men had given him and spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.” So the king did not listen to the people, because it was a turn of affairs brought about by the Lord that he might fulfill his word, which the Lord had spoken. When all Israel saw that the king would not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What share do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, O David.” So Israel went away to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah. Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and resided there; he went out from there and built Penuel. Then Jeroboam said to himself, “Now the kingdom may well revert to the house of David. If this people continue to go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, the heart of this people will turn again to their master, King Rehoboam of Judah; they will kill me and return to King Rehoboam of Judah. So the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold. He said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *Psalm 84*, by H. H. Hopson

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Reflection: *Servant Leadership*

Rev. Karen Bridges

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### *Grateful Response*

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Hymn: *We Will Take What You Offer*

***More Voices 196***

**We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;**

**We will love one another and be fed by you, Lord.**

**We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;**

**We will love another and be fed by you Lord. (2x)**

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](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 by scanning the QR code. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for donations over \$20 if your name and address are provided.*

Offertory: *For the Gift of Creation*

*Voices United 538*

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,  
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,  
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.  
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Prayer of Gratitude:

**Here are offerings of our faith, O God: to provide resources for ministry and tools and education for abundant living. We share your gifts in hopes this will encourage others to gather and share your love and bounty. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Hymn: *For the Healing of the Nations*

*Voices United 678*

**For the healing of the nations,  
God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.  
Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release,**

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<sup>3</sup> Written by Karen Boivin, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2018, p. 40. Used with permission.

that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how, through care and goodness,  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness,  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that, by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

Commissioning:

Now the God who is both a stranger and a friend sends you forth to practice  
love, hospitality, and peace.

**We go forth to love and serve you, O God, upheld by your grace, love,  
and Spirit.<sup>4</sup>**

Postlude: *Fuge*, by Johann Christoph Bach

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Question for Reflection:

When have you turned away from God?

How are things different in your life when you turn towards God?

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

Sunday, Nov 5, 2023

### **Pentecost 23 and Act of Remembrance**

**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 Kings 18:17-39** • Elijah at Mount Carmel.

**Sermon:** Against all Odds

Having challenged King Ahab and Queen Jezebel for worshipping foreign gods,  
the prophet Elijah legitimately feared for his life and has been on the run for  
quite some time. God has spoken to Elijah in deep silence, so Elijah is now  
ready to try to convince the people to come back to worshipping the one true  
God. Elijah proposes a "battle of the prophets" whereby the winning side will

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<sup>4</sup> Written by Robin Wardlaw, **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2018, p. 41. Used with permission.

have their deity consume a sacrifice. Elijah alone is set against four hundred fifty royally-endorsed prophets of the Canaanite god Baal. The drama is compelling and the stakes are high.

When have you overcome fear to do something that had to be done? When has unwavering faith in God helped you or someone you know overcome overwhelming odds?

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; R-W Choir; Robin Doyon, trumpet

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Oct 29	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Air Room</b>	10:45 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
Mon Oct 30	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Oct 31	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
Wed Nov 1	Canterbury Worship - <b>Away</b>	10:30 am
	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - <b>Sanctuary/Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Nov 2	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat Nov 4	Pastoral Care Workshop - <b>Room 11</b>	1:00 pm

### ON THE HORIZON

Sun Nov 5	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Youth Discussion - <b>Youth Room</b>	10:30 am
	Kids' Church - <b>Air Room</b>	10:45 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:45 am
	Spiritual Formation Pod - <b>Room 11</b>	12:00 pm
Mon Nov 6	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues Nov 7	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	DEAP - <b>Club Room</b>	6:30 pm
Wed Nov 8	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - <b>Sanctuary/Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Nov 9	Men's Group - <b>Room 11</b>	10:00 am
	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat Nov 10	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm



## Volunteer Opportunities

### **HONOUR POINSETTIA COORDINATOR**

Looking for a volunteer to help coordinate the ordering, handing out and delivering of the honour Sunday poinsettias. Honour Sunday will be **November 26**, with orders taken on Nov 5, 12 and 19. The coordinating role includes organising the volunteers ensuring all poinsettias are collected on Nov 26. Elyse in the office would help to teach you the duties of the coordinating role. Please contact Elyse at mail@rwuc.org if you are interested.

### **COMMUNITY DINNER KEY LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

R-W's Community Dinners are hugely successful. It is a fulfilling act of service and connection. We welcome one time volunteers and regulars with open arms on a sign up basis. At this time what we require are 2-3 people able to commit to join our leadership group. Attending the dinner once per month for approximately 5 hours and occasional email communication. Tasks include kitchen work, volunteer liaison and supporting tasks needed on the day of the dinner.

### **TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PROJECT**

There is a new initiative unfolding at Robertson-Wesley focused on Truth and Reconciliation. This emerging project aims to offer workshops, education, conversation, and artistic expression leading to the creation of a communal quilt - a powerful visual representation of the ongoing personal and collective journey towards reconciliation. For those feeling called to this journey, we are seeking a team to deliver this project. Roles could include but are not limited to: building relationships with Indigenous and interfaith spiritual leaders, coordinating workshops, leading conversations and artistic expression, and creating the communal quilt. Please consider reaching out to Julie, Mission + Outreach Pod Coordinator, at julie.joline@gmail.com by **November 30** to learn more and express interest in this leadership opportunity.

### **NOMINATIONS TEAM**

The Board of R-W is working on creating a new team of people (3-5) that will form the Nomination Committee. The nomination committee is responsible for seeking people to fill the elected roles on the R-W Board. Each year there are 1 - 4 roles that need to be filled. The team also updates the job descriptions when necessary. This is a great way to get to know people in the community of faith and the goal is to help people discover where their gifts from God would best be suited. The work of this team happens primarily from November until the Annual Meeting in March. The Board is seeking people who are willing to talk to others and ask questions. It is helpful if you are a good listener that can match skills with roles. If you are interested in learning more about this role please contact Rev. Karen Bridges: karen.bridges@rwuc.org. To Sign-up visit rwuc.org/volunteer or use the tablet in the outer office or during fellowship.

## R-W News & Notes

### **THANK YOU**

Thanks so much for supporting the bake sale last Sunday. We raised an amazing \$615.15 for the R-W Anniversary Legacy Fund! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.- Sylvia Post

### **PASTORAL CARE VISITING WORKSHOP**

Saturday **November 4** from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Lay leaders who are involved in visiting with parishioners or who are interested in joining the visiting team are invited to an afternoon of reflection and learning about best practices and the joy and purpose of this important ministry. Guest speakers will share stories and learn from their perspectives in hopes of inspiring us to live out our faith caring for people who are unable to attend church regularly or who are in hospital, long term care of palliative care. This workshop is free and open to all people of faith. Coffee/Tea/Juice and refreshments will be served. If you have any questions or would like to register for this event please contact Rev. Karen Bridges at [karen.bridges@rwuc.org](mailto:karen.bridges@rwuc.org)

### **EMAIL SAFETY TIPS**

Recently a few folks from the church have been experiencing scam emails, using a method called spoofing. Email spoofing is when a scammer forges (spoofs) the emails *from* address, so the sent message appears to have been sent from someone you know with the intention of infecting your computer with malware, asking for money or stealing information. These addresses can either be created by using alternative numbers or letters to look slightly different than the original, or by disguising the '*from*' field to be the exact email address of someone in your network. If you receive an email that looks like it is from someone you know, requesting gift cards or help and asking for secrecy, please feel free to call Elyse in the church office or the person who sent it to confirm legitimacy, do not reply to the email because the reply will get sent to the scammer.

What to do if your email has been spoofed:

- Don't panic, spoofing does not mean that the scammer has access to your account, they are only making it appear as though they do. You have not been hacked. Spoofing is a temporary issue that will often be resolved in a few weeks when the scammer will move on.
- Email everyone in your contacts to let them know to disregard any suspicious emails from you.
- Just to be safe, run a full virus scan on your computer. This ensures that you have not experienced a malware or virus infection and helps eliminate the possibility that you have a compromised account.
- Update your email password

## **TOILET PAPER NEEDED FOR FOOD BANK**

Quite often we are asked by Food Bank clients if we have toilet paper, while it is available by request from the Food Bank, people don't always remember to request it in advance. If you can help with donations of toilet paper, you can drop it off anytime during office hours 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday or on Sundays. Thanks so much.

## **WILD CHURCH**

You are invited to the next Wild Church gathering **Nov 19** at 1:00 pm at Emily Murphy Park, Fire Circle at Picnic Site #3. We will explore the theme, "The Wonder of Wandering". All are welcome, including pets and folks of all faith traditions. Dress for the weather; cancelled below -15°C with windchill. For questions or transportation support, contact wildchurch@rwuc.org

## **GREEN BITES**

*little tidbits to whet your appetite for change*

Eco-anxiety. Many of us experience this when we think about climate change. We all have the facts; the rapid decline in animal species, changes in weather, an increase in forest fires, fear of the unknown, to name a few. But how can we reclaim an emotional attachment to the land that will somehow fortify us for the work of healing that lies ahead? Many of us try to escape to sunnier climes once the snow falls. We hear plenty of "Ughs" and "Darns" when winter settles in. Is there a way we can approach winter without sounding grumpy? How about we harken back to our childhood when the first snowfall called us outdoors to play Fox and Goose? How many of us remember the backyard skating rinks lovingly built for us by our fathers? And don't forget the snow angels that graced our walks home from school. Or the winter boots that we pulled on over our shoes before clumping over the snow? Beautiful memories that come alive with the first snowfall, memories that ignite a love for the outdoors. Let's hope that our re-ignited love can help us act in a way that permits us to accept the changes that are needed to restore our relationship with Mother Earth. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

## **In the Community**

### **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Grace United Church, 6215-104 Ave, Saturday **Nov 18**, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
New and "new to you" gifts, crafts, Christmas items, baking, preserves, food products. Santa will arrive 11:00 am.

### **SEWING MACHINE DONATIONS**

Calling all sewing enthusiasts! Elizabeth Fry Society of Northern Alberta is on a mission to empower through sewing, but they need your help. Donate a sewing machine or contribute towards one, and together they'll stitch a brighter future! Email destiny.desjarlais@efrynorthernalberta.com or call 780-784-2206.

## THANK YOU

Kindred Hearts Cambodia Foundation had a very successful Wine and Cheese event, and raised nearly \$21,000! This is 2/3 of the annual operating budget! All funds will go directly to the medical clinic and mental health programs and will improve the lives of people in Cambodia. Thank-you for your support! Leanne & Patrik Foff.

### **CANTILON FALL FUNDRAISER CONCERT: OPEN THE WINDOW**

**Today** at 3:00 pm at R-W, the four children/youth choirs of Cantilon will be entertaining an audience with a delightful program packed with family friendly, crowd-pleasing tunes. This is a fundraising concert in support of Cantilon's bursary program. Admission is by donation. In addition, Cantilon is creating a "library" that is good enough to eat! Cantilon families will be bringing in a box of cereal, disguised as their favourite book. After the concert, these boxes will be donated to the Edmonton Food Bank for breakfast programs for kids in need. If you would also like to bring a box of cereal/granola bars (no need to transform it to a book!), they would be happy to include it in this initiative.

### **PRAYERS FOR PEACE**

We are sometimes reminded that our community includes the rest of the world. Recent events in the Middle East are one example of this. The following link will take you to a website with statements from The United Church of Canada and the World Council of Churches: <https://northernspiritr.ca/oct-17-fast-and-pray-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel/>

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### *Worship Notes*

The Gratitude Team will be leading the community of faith in an exploration of the theme: Hidden Abundance Revealed. God has provided each and everyone of us with all that we need to live out our call in the world. Our call is to love and serve others with all that we have and all that we are. Everyone has skills and resources they can share. During the next month people are asked to consider their financial contribution to the life and work of Robertson-Wesley. Spiritely, the spirit of gratitude, is a seeker of spiritual gifts. Spiritely sees what we humans sometimes miss. Spiritely sees the potential in the collective community of faith. How will this shared abundance be revealed and shared in the community that R-W serves?

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### *Cover Image*

The cover image is by John Hain from Pixabay.

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Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: Vacant

Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant

Lead 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