



*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2023 November 5

Remembrance Sunday

Pentecost 23



### **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 are: 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: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*, by John B. Dykes, arr. By Nigel Williams  
Robin Doyon, trumpet; Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *World Peace Canon*, Trad. melody arr. by Donald Moore

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Call to Worship:

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

In a world of war...

**We search for peace.**

In a world of confusion...

**we search for calm.**

In a world of pain...

**we search for healing.**

In a world of isolation...

**we search for communion.**

Communion with each other..

**and communion with God.**

Let us search together...

**and let us worship God.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *How Firm a Foundation*

*Voices United 660*

**How firm a foundation, you servants of God,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!**

**What more can be said than to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!**

**For I am your God and will still give you aid;**

**I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.**

**"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**

**"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you, I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.**

**"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not -- I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never -- no, never -- no, never forsake!"**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by **Richard Bott**, Vancouver B.C., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2022, p. 47. Used with permission.

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## *Act of Remembrance*

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Invocation Prayer:

**God of grace and God of wonder, we yearn for peace - the kind of peace where justice flows down like a mighty and ever-flowing stream, the kind where there is not merely an absence of war but the sincere recognition of a harmony where all have a part. May this time help to bring peace to the world and goodwill amongst even the most fractious of people. From the rising up of the sun to its setting may we be ambassadors of peace and harmony, goodwill and hope. This we pray as siblings of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

*(Please join/stand as you are able)*

The Last Post

Robin Doyon, trumpet

Silence

The Rouse

The Act of Remembrance

Rev. Larry Wright

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning we will remember them. We will remember them.

**We will remember them.**

The Laying of the Wreath

National Anthem:

*Voices United 524 v.1*

**O Canada! Our home and native land!**

**True patriot love in all of us command.**

**Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,**

**Il sait porter la croix!**

**Ton histoire est une épopée des plus brillants exploits.**

**God keep our land glorious and free!**

**O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

**O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Hymn: *In You There Is a Refuge*

*More Voices 84*

**In you there is a refuge, in you we find our peace.**

**When all we know is chaos may our trust in you increase.**

**In you there is a silence, in you our minds are clear.**

**When all we hear is discord may your quiet draw us near.**

**In you there is a vision, in you we learn to dream.**

**When all we see is desert may you be our living stream.**

**In you there is a future, in you we find our way.**

**When hope has shed its brightness may you show us a new day.**

Prayer of Illumination:

**When we receive your word, O God, may we savour it as we ponder it. May it provide leavening for our spirit and enfold us into living your compassionate love. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Scripture:

John Kilduff

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

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” He answered, “I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father’s house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred fifty prophets at Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.” So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.’” The people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal’s prophets number four hundred fifty. Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it into pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God.” All the people answered, “Well spoken!” Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it.” So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.’ Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response. Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come closer to me”; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, “Israel shall be your name”; with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, ‘Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.’” Then he said, “Do it a second time”; and they did it a second time. Again he said, “Do it a third time”; and they did it a third time, so that the water ran all around the

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<sup>2</sup> Written by **Jim McKean**, while at Severn Shores U.C., Severn, Ont., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2022, p. 39. Used with permission.

altar, and filled the trench also with water. At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O Lord, Answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, ‘The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God.’

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *God Give Us Peace*, by Jan Sibelius arr. by Lani Smith

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Reflection: *Against all Odds*

Rev. Dirk Jessen

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## *Grateful Response*

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Meditation: *Bist Du Bei Mir*, by Stolzel/Bach arr. by M. Rondeau

Robin Doyon, trumpet; Allan Bevan, organ

Pastoral Prayers

Brian Webb

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.*



**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:

As missiles are aimed and fired,  
**we pray for peace.**

As the rhetoric of retaliation grows louder, the cries of suffering rise to  
you, O God. For the fear-filled and the fearsome,  
**we pray.**

For those who know too all too well the realities of war,  
**we pray.**

**We pray for peace and for the justice that comes with all true  
peace. Hear our prayer, God of peace, and receive these offerings  
that they in some way might work for your peace. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

Hymn: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*Voices United p. 806*

**O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:**

**under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages, in thy sight,  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.**

**Time like an ever-rolling stream  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guide while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.**

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<sup>3</sup> Written by **Beth W. Johnston**, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask., **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 48. Used with permission.

Commissioning:

**Let us go trusting in God's never-ending care.**

**Let us go seeking to be God's people.**

**Let us go enfolded in praise and prayer.**

**Let us go to be people of peace, justice and right relationships.**

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

Benediction

Postlude: *A Mighty Fortress*, by Martin Luther arr. by Christina Harmon

Robin Doyon, trumpet, Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

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?

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, Nov 12, 2023**

**Pentecost 24**

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

**Hosea 11:1-9** • God's compassion despite Israel's ingratitude.

**Sermon:** God's unending compassion.

We often associate prophets with people who are enraged and who call out the people on what they are doing wrong. In the passage from the prophet Hosea we do not hear anger. Instead we hear compassion and the unending love of God. In this passage God is portrayed as a loving parent, one that would do anything for the children, and yet they turn away. How will this prophetic passage encourage us to return to our spiritual home in God?

How will we share the love of God with others so that they too will return to God?

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

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
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

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



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
<b>ON THE HORIZON</b>		
Sun Nov 12	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 Nov 13	Church Closed	
Tues Nov 14	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	UCW- <b>Memorial Hall</b>	1:15 pm
	Property Committee Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	1:00 pm
	Finance Meeting - <b>Room 11</b>	7:00 pm
Wed Nov 15	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir Rehearsal - <b>Sanctuary/Lower Hall</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs Nov 16	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 18	Youth Group - <b>Youth Room</b>	7:00 pm

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **COMMUNITY DINNER**

We are in need of some more folks to volunteer for the Thanksgiving Community Dinner on Saturday, **November 11**. To Sign-up visit [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer) or use the tablet in the outer office or during fellowship.

#### **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](mailto:julie.joline@gmail.com) by **November 30** to learn more and express interest in this leadership opportunity.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS**

With the Christmas Day Service (Monday, **Dec 25**) just around the corner we are seeking a team of people to organize and lead the service, as the staff are given this day off. This would be done with the help of the ministers. We are also seeking some people who can help with musical support. If you are musical and play an instrument and or sing, we would love for you to share your talents at the service that day. This service will not be live streamed. We will sing some Christmas carols and would love for them to be accompanied by music. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions please contact Karen at [karen.bridges@rwuc.org](mailto:karen.bridges@rwuc.org)

## **COMMUNITY DINNER KEY LEADERSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

R-W's Community Dinners are hugely successful. It's 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.

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

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped hang the Christmas lights outdoors. - Richard Kennedy

### **HONOUR SUNDAY POINSETTIAS**

Order a Poinsettia for Honour Sunday, **November 26** and following the service you can take it home or have it delivered! You can choose to honour a family member who has passed away or perhaps a best friend who is always there for you! We will be taking orders for Poinsettias in Memorial Hall following the service, and on Sundays, **November 5, 12** and **19**. If you aren't attending church physically and would like to order, please contact Elyse in the office at 780-482-1587 or [mail@rwuc.org](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) to order and arrange delivery.

### **BETWEEN THE AISLES**

The theme for our next issue of *Between the Aisles* is *Advent in a Time of War*. We can request articles on how we deal with war today; meditative practices we have, music we listen to, friends we talk to. We encourage submissions around the theme of Christmas eg. family recipes, recollections of previous Christmas seasons, poetry that reflects the mood. Submissions can be sent to [news@rwuc.org](mailto:news@rwuc.org) and are due **Nov 12**.

### **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.

## **EXTRA CANDY WELCOME**

Do you have too much leftover Halloween candy? If you'd like you can bring it to the church and it will get handed out with R-Ws weekly lunch program, Magic Pantry, and Community Dinner.

## **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.

## **MEN'S GROUP**

The Robertson-Wesley United Church Men's Group meeting will be held at 10:00 am, **November 9th**, in the Church Basement in Room 11. Coffee will be provided. The agenda for this meeting will be a continuation of discussions regarding proposals for possible tours in the first half of 2024. Presently eleven are being considered. Any questions contact Jim Triscott : Phone # 780-991-8837.

## **GREEN BITE**

Are you losing sleep over the climate crisis? Do you worry about the future that faces your children and grandchildren? If so, why not check out [www.greenenergyfutures.ca](http://www.greenenergyfutures.ca)? The website offers dozens of stories, in both podcast and video format, about transitioning to clean energy, retrofitting buildings, and solutions that involve nature. You will also find good news about technological solutions like heat pumps and geothermal energy, as well as sustainable business investments...and the list goes on. - The Environmental Stewardship Group

## **SPIRITED ARTS WORKSHOP: BODY MAPPING**

**Nov 20**, 2023 7:00 - 9:00 pm in Room 11 at Robertson-Wesley Brooke Leifso will lead a simple experience using basic art supplies to tell the stories of our physical bodies. We will move our bodies, draw and share. Visit [rwuc.org/workshops](http://rwuc.org/workshops) for more info or to register.

## **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 at 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](mailto:destiny.desjarlais@efrynorthernalberta.com) or call 780-784-2206

## **CROWNS FOR KIDS FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, **November 25** at Robertson-Wesley. Crowns for kids is an annual dinner and drag show fundraiser presented by drag queen Dee Luv. This event raises funds for various children's charities, the charities this year are Ronald McDonald House, Kids Kottage, and MS Canada. Doors open 5:00 pm with dinner served at 6:00 pm and the show starting at 7:15 pm. Tickets are \$20.00 for dinner and a show or \$10.00 for dessert and a show. Dinner Tickets must be purchased in advance by contacting Dee Luv at Ddiamonds\_44@hotmail.com. They also ask that you please bring a new unwrapped toy for a child in need!

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### *Worship Notes*

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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 share in the community that R-W serves?

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### *Cover Image*

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The cover image is of a collaborative picture of artwork by school children.

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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