

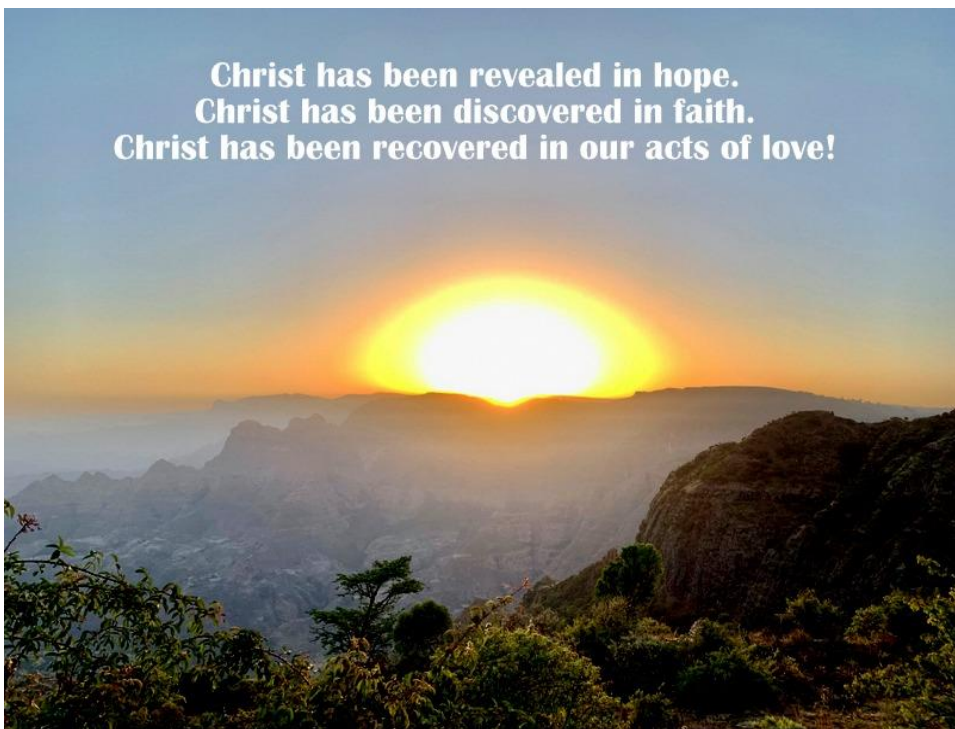


*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2024 April 7

Easter 2

**Christ has been revealed in hope.  
Christ has been discovered in faith.  
Christ has been recovered in our acts of love!**



### **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 cell phone 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: *Fantasia in C Major*, by Robert Powell

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *Accentuate the Positive*, arr. by Joy Hirokawa

Cantilon Children's Choir

Call to Worship:

Jesus told the disciples -

**“Love one another, like I have loved you.”**

Christ tells us -

**“Love one another, like I have loved you.”**

How does Christ love?

**With forgiveness. With compassion. With challenge. With strength.**

How do we love?

**With forgiveness. With compassion. With challenge. With strength.**

As Christ's people, and as we live Christ's love, we worship God:

**Creator/Love. Christ/Love. Spirit/Love. Alleluia!<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

*Voices United 400*

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**Lord, send your Spirit in this place;**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**send us love, send us power, send us grace! (3X)**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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## *God's Holy Word*

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Prayer of Illumination:

O God for whom there are no barriers, no stones too big to remove, roll away our resistance to you. Let your words fill us with new life and bring us out from the tomb of indifference, alive again in you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**<sup>2</sup>

Scripture:

Trisha-Lee Wasmund

Acts 1:1-14 • You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem,

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2019, p. 42. Used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Chris Ewing, **Celebrate God's Presence**, United Church Publishing House, 2000, p. 197. Used with permission.

but to wait there for the promise of the Creator. "This," Jesus said, "Is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kin-dom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Creator has set by the Lord's own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two people in white robes stood by them. They said, "People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas, son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *Little Innocent Lamb*, arr. By Ken Berg

Cantilon Children's Choir

Sermon: *May we be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ!*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Christ, within Us Hidden*

**More Voices 162**

**Christ, within us hidden.  
Christ, in all and each.  
Christ, who comes unbidden.  
Christ, within our reach.  
Christ, born in our stable,  
Christ, our daily bread.  
Christ, host at our table.  
Christ, the hungry fed.  
Christ, in friendship's sharing  
Christ, in stranger's face,  
Christ, reborn in caring.  
Christ, in love's embrace.  
Christ, in bodies broken,  
Love new crucified.  
Christ, the Word new spoken,  
death by love defied.  
Christ, in love recovered.  
Christ, in hope revealed.  
Christ, in faith discovered.  
Christ in tombs unsealed.**

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## Grateful Response

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Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

Rev. Karen Bridges

*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.**

Covenanting with Angela Glasel

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 by speaking to an usher, 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: *The Risen Christ*

*Voices United* 168 v. 4

**May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand  
with the oppressed in this and every land,  
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,  
restored in Christ to true humanity.**

Offering Prayer:

In words of compassion, in words of reconciliation,

**Christ is alive!**

In acts of peacemaking, in acts of peace bringing,

**Christ is alive!**

In support for those living in fear and with a sense of helplessness,

**Christ is alive!**

In gifts for the local church, in gifts for a needy world,

**Christ is alive!**

Christ is alive,

**Gracious God, may we be the evidence of his vitality. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup> Written by David Sparks, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2023, p. 50. Used with permission.

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.**

**We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
expressive love alive in every hearts.  
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,  
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,  
including all in circles of our love.**

Commissioning:

We go into God's world to share what we have. We go into God's world to share who we are. We go into God's world with God's love, Christ's peace, and the Holy Spirit's song.

**Alleluia. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**<sup>4</sup>

Postlude: *Chorale Prelude on "Vulpus"*, by Healey Willan Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

How will we share with others that Christ has been revealed in hope, discovered in faith and recovered in our acts of love?

How do others see Christ in you?

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## *R-W Report*

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### Next Sunday

**Sunday, April 14, 2024**

### **Easter 2, Communion and A Gratitude Minute**

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

**Scripture:** Acts 3:1-10 • Healing at the Beautiful Gate.

**Sermon:** But what I have, this I give to you!

It is not often someone will say to a complete stranger, "What I have, this I give to you." What was offered in this moment? Was it charity? Was it healing? Was it pity? Was it compassion? Was it a miraculous healing? Or something else? After Jesus was resurrected the disciples received the gift of

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<sup>4</sup> Written by Richard Bott, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2022, p. 50. Used with permission.

the Holy Spirit, and Peter chose to share this gift with a person who was in need. In this moment of shared humanity the Holy Spirit was encountered, bringing strength, relief and healing.

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

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sun April 7	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
Mon April 8	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues April 9	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
Wed April 10	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs April 11	Not Falling for You - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	10:00 am
	Men's Group - <b>Room 11</b>	10:00 am
	Nova Bells - <b>Lower Hall</b>	5:15 pm
	R-W Ringers - <b>Lower Hall</b>	6:45 pm
Sat April 13	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm
	Youth Group - <b>Kitchen &amp; Memorial Hall</b>	7:00 pm

### **ON THE HORIZON**

Sun April 14	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
	Newcomer Lunch - <b>Room 11</b>	11:30 am
Mon April 15	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	7:00 pm
Tues April 16	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
Wed April 17	Spirited Art Studio - <b>Art Studio</b>	1:30 pm
	R-W Choir - <b>Lower Hall &amp; Sanctuary</b>	7:30 pm
Thurs April 18	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 April 20	Spirited Art Workshop - <b>Room 11</b>	10:00 am
	Youth Group - <b>Away</b>	7:00 pm

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **SERMON TRANSCRIBER**

We are looking for someone to transcribe the sermons into a word document each week for people to read the following week. All you need is a computer, and the ability to listen to the recorded sermons on YouTube. People who have done this before have reflected on how much more they get out of the sermon by doing this. If you are interested in this job, which can be done from the comfort of your home, or have questions about this position please contact Rev. Karen Bridges at [karen.bridges@rwuc.org](mailto:karen.bridges@rwuc.org)

## COMMUNITY DINNER

We are in need of more volunteers for the Community Dinner on Saturday, **April 13**. To Sign-up visit [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer) or use the tablet in the outer office or during fellowship.

## LEADERSHIP ROLES

Robertson-Wesley is seeking to fill some leadership roles. Most key leadership roles are a two year term with the possibility of renewing for another 2 years. Each year different roles become vacant after a person has severed their term. This year we are seeking the following leadership roles:

Incoming Chair of the Board

Treasurer

Chair of Ministry and Personnel

Two Northern Spirit Regional Representatives

If you want to know more please visit [www.rwuc.org/leadership-search](http://www.rwuc.org/leadership-search)

## R-W News & Notes

### NEWCOMER LUNCH

Robertson-Wesley is hosting a lunch for people who have started participating in the church in the last year. We would like to honour you and give thanks to God for this amazing gift of your presence in the Robertson-Wesley United Community of Faith, thus, you are cordially invited to attend. The lunch is being held at the church in Room 11 on **April 14**, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. Please R.S.V.P. with the church office by emailing [mail@rwuc.org](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) or calling 780-482-1587 by April 8 if you plan to attend. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

### WILD CHURCH

Wild Church will congregate next on **April 21** at 1:00 pm; in acknowledgment of Earth Day, our theme will be Earth and Our “Geobiographies.” Join us at Emily Murphy Park (look for the Wild Church sign), bring your furry friends, and pack a mug for a provided warm drink! Cancelled below -15C with windchill. All ages and faith traditions are welcome. Follow us online - Instagram @wildchurchyeg, website: [wildchurchyeg.org](http://wildchurchyeg.org)

### SPIRITED ARTS WORKSHOP: Making Space for Your Spirit

**April 20**, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. When aspects of our life no longer “bear fruit”, our energy and spirit can feel stagnant. As in nature, paring back can clear space and energy for more fruitful abundance. Using this metaphor as inspiration, we will do some reflective writing and create 3D collages to visually express that which grounds us in our most heartfelt meaning and purpose! No previous experience required. All supplies included. To register visit [rwuc.org/workshops](http://rwuc.org/workshops)



## **MEN'S GROUP**

On Thursday, **April 11th** at 10:00 am in Room 11 of Robertson-Wesley, the R-W Men's Group has organized a presentation by Louis Berlinguette regarding the second most efficient mode of hauling materials in today's world - trains. Topics will include types of railway engines, cars, size, transportation organization, etc. Coffee will be served. Everyone is welcome.

## **BETWEEN THE AISLES**

Between the Aisles is R-W's quarterly newsletter. Submissions for the next issue are due **April 28**, publication date May 19. For more information check out [rwuc.org/betweentheaisles](http://rwuc.org/betweentheaisles). Poetry, book reviews, photographs, recipes, and random articles are all accepted. The next issue would like to feature writing that is about Renewal and/or Spring. Please send submissions to [news@rwuc.org](mailto:news@rwuc.org).

## **FUNDRAISING MEETING**

Sunday, **April 21** at 12:00 pm in Room 11. We invite everyone to come and be a part of the fundraising meeting. Anyone who has an idea for an event for the 2024 fundraising year, or is planning a future event is requested to be present at this gathering. If you have questions please speak to Tom Hutchinson.

## **WORLD LABYRINTH DAY**

**May 4**, 2024 at 1:00 pm in Memorial Hall. Join a prayerful wave of energy for PEACE rolling from time zone to time zone around the globe at 1:00 pm local time. No previous Labyrinth walking experience required.

## **SPIRITED ART STUDIO**

Spirited Art Studio is a free secular community art program providing an informal, welcoming and inclusive space where we come together to nurture our creative spirit through art and craft activities. There are as many pathways to creativity as there are individuals! Come see what adventures await you as you create, learn and make new connections. **Mondays** from 7:00 - 8:30 pm and **Wednesdays** 1:30 - 3:00 pm.

## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

**Tuesdays** at 12:00 pm on Zoom and in the Club Room. Reflect on the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. We are using the practice of Lectio Divina which means we read through the scripture three times. You will be invited into some moments of silence, and if you are willing you are invited to share with the group. You don't need to be a Biblical Scholar. God speaks through the scriptures and it is wonderful to hear the diversity of messages that are received. Contact the office at [mail@rwuc.org](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) for the Zoom link. Come with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

## **NOT FALLING FOR YOU**

*Not Falling for You* is a free physical activity program for adults 50 and above, aimed at reducing the risk of falling through mobility improving exercises. RW is collaborating with Alberta Health Services to host these classes.

**Thursdays** 10:00 – 11:15 am, until April 18.

## **GREEN BITES**

Many Edmonton area gardeners are wondering how to tend our gardens in the face of climate change. Here are some suggestions:

1. Practise no-till when preparing the soil this Spring.
2. Reduce the size of lawn and replace with leafy plants that reduce CO2 levels
3. Use less artificial fertilizer on plants and gardens.
4. The more varieties of plants in a garden, the less chance of damage from extreme weather.
5. The more diverse the plant selection, the more support there is for beneficial insects and pollinators.
6. Include native plants that have been selected for their qualities and not just because they are native.

-The Environmental Stewardship Group

## **RWUC REFUGEE PROJECT TEAM UPDATE**

In June 2022, the RWUC Refugee Project Team submitted sponsorship application forms for Jael Tshoba and Bolot Mayaka to The United Church of Canada. The UCC, which is allocated a set number of refugee spots annually through its refugee sponsorship agreement with the Government of Canada, put the RWUC application on their 2023-24 submission list. The application was submitted to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) on December 8, 2023. The Resettlement Operations Centre in Ottawa (ROCO), the government agency responsible for processing privately sponsored refugee applications, approved the sponsorship application on March 13, 2024. ROCO then forwarded the refugee application for permanent residence to the IRCC office in Pretoria, South Africa where Jael and Bolot currently live. The processing time can be lengthy and, until the application has been uploaded by the Pretoria visa office, we can't monitor the application's progress online. We'll keep you posted on any updates. In the meantime, we ask for your continued prayers for Jael and Bolot, until they arrive in Canada and are reunited with their brother/brother-in-law Charles Sabu, a long-time member of our congregation. -Nova, Refugee Project Team

## **In the Community**

### **CANADIAN WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN**

*Together, Anything is Possible - Making the Right to Learn a Reality*

Edmonton Supports CW4WAfghan is delighted to present an evening of dining and music by Juno award winning musician, Maria Dunn. Friday, **May 24** from 5 - 9 pm at Robertson-Wesley. Tickets at <https://yeg-cw4wa.eventbrite.ca>

## MILLWOODS UNITED SPRING SOIRÉE

Millwoods United Church is hosting a Spring Soirée and Variety Show fundraiser on Saturday, **April 27**, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Join us for a fun evening of music, entertainment, appetizers, desserts, wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee and tea. We'll also be holding a silent auction of beautifully themed baskets during the evening. Get together with a group of friends and join us in community and friendship! We are located at 15 Grand Meadow Crescent in Millwoods, halfway between 50th and 66th Streets, south of the Whitemud. We ask that if you plan to attend, please contact our church office to confirm (mwuc1@telus.net or 780-463-2202) to help us plan accordingly.

## JAZZ AND REFLECTIONS SERIES

Spirit of Hope United Church presents *Jazz & Reflections*. A series of afternoon jazz and spiritual reflections. Sunday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00 pm, Spirit of Hope United Church, 7909 82 Ave. NW, Edmonton. Admission by donation at the door. Refreshments will be served.

Apr. 7 P.J. Perry Quartet

Apr. 14 Allen Jacobson Trio

Apr. 21 Don Berner Trio

Apr. 28 Shelley Jones Trio

May 5 Joel Cray Trio

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### *Worship Notes*

We have moved into the season of Easter which lasts for 7 weeks. The season of Easter prepares us for receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In the season of Easter we explore the stories of the various encounters with Jesus after he had risen from the tomb. In this season we are transformed for sacred friendship with Christ and one another in community. We will spend the season exploring how God is making all things new. May we see the holy in new ways and in all places and people.

A big thank you the Cantilon Children's Choir and their director Elaine Myhre

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### *Cover Image*

The cover image taken by Rev. Karen Bridges March 31, 2019 in Ethiopia.

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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

# *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

