

# the front pew



Vol. 17 No. 1 RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH 14907-45 Ave., Edmonton, AB January 2019

## Message from the Board Chair

Most of the time, being Chair of the Official Board isn't too burdensome. Over the past two years finding consensus within our congregation, with a little bit of effort, has always been achievable. An issue arose before Christmas that put this to the test. This note will be long, but as Chair and as a Board we want to be transparent on important issues.

Before we voted to expand the building, it was clear we would need to rent space in order to make ends financially meet. As a result, we have had to become a landlord, leasing out some of our space to other non-profits. These tenants contribute 20% to 25% of our annual budget. The most notable are: E2 Academy who has dedicated space in our basement, but whose growth has resulted into them spilling into our youth rooms (both old and new), and upstairs; Rogers' cell phone tower (for profit that pre-exists the expansion); our first post expansion tenant, River City Playschool who occupies dedicated space in our new basement; and, Methodist Church of Ghana in our sanctuary.

I want to share what has occurred with two of these tenants: River City and E2.

River City is a cooperative play school with four classes (M-W-F & T-Th mornings or afternoons). River City started leasing from us right after we expanded the Church with a five-year lease that ends this June 2019. At the time River City (then called Greenfield) was forced to move from their long-time space in the Greenfield community and moved in with us. Since then they have been great tenants. Unfortunately for a variety of reasons such as location, space, competition and the nature of one other of our other tenants (the nature of E2 is not endearing to River City's patrons), River City have come to the realization that they are not viable with their current business plan and location. As such they only wanted a one-year lease while they could figure out what they would need to do to make themselves viable. All of those options included moving.

E2, is a non-profit, K-12 that was started by families whose children's significant special needs could not be met by the public-school system. The children's special needs can include Autism Spectrum Disorder and

Tourette syndrome, and as such these children can be significantly disruptive. E2 receives substantial government funding, but with their target instructor to child ratio of 1 to 4, programming still requires fundraising and tuition. Starting with about 8 students, they have grown to 30 students on site with another 22 to whom they provide home-school curriculum and support. Clearly, they are providing for a need within our community. With this growth they have spilled beyond the original ~1000 sq ft of dedicated basement space to include the old youth room, and week-day use of our new youth room, boardrooms, library and family room. The leases with E2 have each been only for a single year. Many of these children that have not been well treated by the public system and our Church provides a safe non-institutional home feeling for them. However, E2 indicated, not as an ultimatum but as fact, that without more space they would be forced to look for a new location at the end of their lease in August 2019.

As a Church we didn't have more space for E2. Even as it currently stands, E2's growth has stressed our

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congregation to the point that some are beginning to feel that E2 impinges on our core purpose. Also what was to be a short-term sharing of the new youth room, has become long term precluding giving the youth their own dedicated space as was intended by the expansion.

Together E2 and River City contribute about \$50,000 (11%) of our annual budget – almost our annual mortgage payments. The loss of both of these tenants would leave a gaping hole in our budget that could result in a significant reduction in programming.

I chose to bring these issues to a resolution. It is not my nature to accept decisions forced upon me and preferred that we made the choice. In doing so we could give one of our tenants more than the legal amount of time to make alternative accommodations. You may have heard me say, “God may have use for your money, but what He really wants is your time”; well, before Christmas he got a lot of mine!

At the November Official Board meeting I raised this issue, but it was clear there would be no easy consensus and that we needed more time and information before a decision could be made. For the next month I worked with both River City and E2. It was clear to all parties that we could not accommodate both in the fall of 2019: one would have to move out. At our December Board meeting, I advanced a motion that upon River City’s lease expiring this June, their space be given to E2. The expectation was that we would sign a long-term lease with E2, allow them to renovate the basement to make better use of the space and keep almost all of their classes in the basement. A longer-term solution that met most of two of the parties wants and needs. After two hours of very respectful discussion trying to find God’s will for the world, the motion passed, but it was far from consensus.

The next day I met in person with each tenant group to inform them of the Board’s decision. Over the next few

days I, with Valerie’s help, began to understand how much hurt was being inflicted. Armed with the approved December motion but without Board approval, I talked to each party’s leadership separately to set the stage, drafted up various options. Then all three of us, along with Valerie, met in the spirit of cooperation and concession-making to see if a compromise could be made. Like all compromises, no one, including us, would get what we wanted but we could all get what we needed.

The tri-party compromise agreed to by everyone’s executive leadership allowed: E2 to renovate this summer (while they wouldn’t get to use it all immediately, this does provide them a longer-term home); River City in a slightly smaller space but with an extra year to develop a business plan that works in an alternative site; and we at Riverbend United got to do the right thing while having budget security at the cost of accepting another year of potentially disruptive upstairs E2 classes, sharing the basement Sunday School room with E2 Monday to Friday, and moving Youth into new dedicated space in the old Nursery (Youth were OK with this!).

I polled the Board privately and on December 23<sup>rd</sup> we voted in favour of this option with sufficient consensus. I ask for your forgiveness for the pain I have inflicted on members of our congregation and greater community. It was not intended. In hindsight I feel that without the early December vote this compromise could not have been reached. I know this does not lessen the pain.

I want to thank Valerie for all her spiritual support to myself and numerous members our congregation during these events.

I also want to thank our stupendous Board for their different points of view, their prayerful time and consideration, and their willingness to work for the greater good of our community and our community of in faith.

*- Matthew Schoenhardt*

## RUC Movie Series

Join us for our fourth annual winter movie series, to be held Tuesday nights in the Chapel beginning at 6:45pm. The series will begin January 22, then the 29th and Feb 5. Come to one or all of the films! The evenings are led by film buffs Jack Jarvis and Lori Stuart who for several years have hosted a film course at Naramata Centre, and Lori is currently teaching a course on the Spirituality of Pop Culture at St Stephen’s College. Their choices are always entertaining, thought-provoking and lead to interesting discussion as the audience puts on their critic’s hat and rates the offering. Popcorn is provided!

## January Health Corner

Welcome to the first Health Corner of 2019! I hope last year you found these little articles informative and interesting. First up this year is Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Alzheimer's disease, or related dementia, affects an estimated 500 000 Canadians, and statistics predict that this number will double within a generation. Fortunately, for every person living with Alzheimer's disease, there are also many family members and friends providing care and support. Alzheimer's disease will eventually affect how a person thinks, feels, acts, and reacts to the environment. Symptoms will gradually increase and become more persistent. Although there is no known cure, growing research indicates that eating well and staying physically and mentally active can help reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer Society is Canada's leading nationwide health charity for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Active in communities right across Canada, the Society offers programs and services for people living with dementia. Contact your local Society to find help near you at [www.alzheimer.ab.ca](http://www.alzheimer.ab.ca).

January is home to Hot Tea Month. As the cold days of winter are upon us, don't you feel comforted coming in from the cold and enjoying a nice cup of tea? Well, tea has been helping to comfort all of us for thousands of years. All tea is derived from one bush plant called *Camellia sinensis*. The first cup of tea was discovered by Chinese Emperor Shen Nung in 2737 B.C., when a tea leaf accidentally fell into the bowl of hot water he was drinking. Today tea is the world's most popular prepared drink. There are so many varieties of tea available today but it all starts with the tea leaf that is handled differently after harvesting to produce uniquely different types of teas including white, green, oolong, black, or pu-erh tea. The key to different types of teas lies in the level of the tea's oxidation. Tea contains hundreds, if not thousands, of bioactive compounds including amino acids, caffeine, lignins, proteins, xanthines, and flavonoids. The flavonoid content of tea depends on many factors including the type and amount of tea used and the length of time it is steeped. Flavonoids are antioxidants found in many fruits and beverages, but are particularly abundant in tea. Tea flavonoids are bioactive compounds that have specific cellular targets that are related to the cardiovascular, metabolic and other health benefits. So while you are sitting back enjoying that cup of hot tea, you can also take comfort in knowing that you are also doing your heart, mind, and body some good as well. More information

about tea and its benefits can be found at [www.tea.ca](http://www.tea.ca).

National Non-Smoking Week is January 20-26 National Non-Smoking Week (NNSW) has been observed during the third week in January for close to 40 years. With a wide variety of activities and participants across the country, National Non-Smoking Week is one of the most important events in Canada's ongoing public education efforts on controlling tobacco-use. National Non-Smoking Week is truly a national endeavour, involving agencies and individuals working at the federal, provincial/territorial, regional and local levels. Every year, thousands of people across Canada take part in various NNSW activities sponsored by local health units, local and provincial/territorial councils on smoking and health, health charities such as the Canadian Cancer Society, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, the Canadian Lung Association, and provincial, territorial and federal Ministries of Health. The goals of NNSW are to:

- educate Canadians about the dangers of smoking;
- prevent non-smokers from starting to smoke and becoming addicted to tobacco;
- help smokers quit;
- promote the right of individuals to breathe air unpolluted by tobacco smoke;
- denormalize tobacco products and tobacco-use;
- assist in the attainment of a smoke-free society in Canada.

During this week, Weedless Wednesday is observed on January 23. Weedless Wednesday focusses on the benefits of cessation and promotes the community resources available to help smokers quit. It takes a "one day at a time" approach to quitting smoking, a concept appealing to many smokers who may be discouraged at the thought of an entire week -- or lifetime -- without cigarettes, but who may be able to cope with one smoke-free day. More information is found at [www.gosmokefree.gc.ca](http://www.gosmokefree.gc.ca).

World Braille Day is celebrated on Friday, January 4. It is feted on the birthday of Louis Braille, inventor of the reading and writing system used by millions of blind and partially sighted people all over the globe. World Braille Day provides an opportunity for teachers, charities, and non-government organizations to raise awareness about issues facing the blind and the importance of continuing to produce works in Braille, providing the blind with access to the same reading and learning opportunities as the sighted.



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Please visit [www.brailleliteracycanada.ca](http://www.brailleliteracycanada.ca) for more information.

Family Literacy Day is January 27. Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development. Even just 15 minutes a day can improve a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well. Please visit [www.abclifeliteracy.ca](http://www.abclifeliteracy.ca) for more information.

Finally, Bell Let's Talk Day is January 30. One in five Canadians will suffer from mental illness at some point in their lifetime. One of the biggest hurdles for anyone suffering from mental illness is overcoming the stigma. It is the number one reason why two-thirds of those living with a mental illness do not seek help. In September 2010, Bell Let's Talk began a new conversation about Canada's

mental health. At that time, most people were not talking about mental illness, but the numbers spoke volumes about the urgent need for action. Millions of Canadians, including leading personalities engaged in an open discussion about mental illness, offering new ideas and hope for those who struggle, with numbers growing each year. On Bell Let's Talk Day, Bell contributes 5¢ towards mental health initiatives by counting every text, call, tweet, Instagram post, Facebook video view, and Snapchat geofilter. As a result, institutions and organizations large and small in every region received new funding for access, care and research, from Bell Let's Talk and from governments and corporations that have joined the cause. Dedicated to moving mental health forward in Canada, Bell Let's Talk promotes awareness and action with a strategy built on four key pillars: Please visit <https://letstalk.bell.ca/en> for more information.

Wishing you all many blessings as we step gingerly into 2019.

*Dawn Power*

## Children's Ministry

Happy New Year to all!

I am looking forward to another great year of working with our incredible young people. On December 16, the children of RUC showcased their many talents in our 2018 Christmas Pageant. The play was entitled "Don't Freak Out" by Katherine Willis Pershey, and it took a more modern, comedic lens to the classic Christmas story we all know so well. Our children showcased their acting talents as well as their musical talents. Lukas Bucerius amazed with his cello playing for "See Amid the Winter's Snow", joined by a small group of our talented singers. Morgan Byl and Annika Schoenhardt beautifully sang "Mary Did You Know", and later, Morgan played and sang "Silent Night" on the guitar.

Personally, I am so proud of all our the children who were involved, as they all stepped up and took on their various roles with the perfect blend of diligence and laughter. We can all be proud of the incredible children we have among us at RUC, and I look forward to seeing them continue to grow.

All the best in 2019,

*Emily Severson, Children's Ministry Coordinator.*



## Valerie's Reveries January, 2019 *A Song of Faith* Lenten Focus

Lent is the 40 days of preparation for Easter. I am starting early this year, asking us to consider being *intentional* this Lent. We have all sorts of time to work out the excuses and be ready to give it a *real* go this year... whatever that looks like for each of us.

In 2006, the United Church of Canada published a new "Statement of Faith." It is a beautiful, poetic piece that pulls us into the heart of our faith with language relevant for our time. It's somewhere between a creed and a treatise.

We will be exploring this as our Lenten focus this year, both as a sermon series and as a Lenten Study.

On Sunday mornings 9:15 - 10:00, you are invited to share in a discussion of *Singing a Song of Faith*, written as a Lenten Study of this new poetic theological statement of our general church. Then in worship each week we will explore it liturgically (that's just a fancy word for "in acts of worship").

We begin on Sunday March 17th and meet for 5 weeks, through Palm Sunday on April 14th. Copies of the book will be available beginning March 5 for \$12 from the church office. (If you cannot attend a Sunday morning group and would like to see an additional Wednesday evening session please let Valerie know.)

I hope by sharing in this way we might enter the river at its bend— where we look both directions exploring where we came from and where we're going, individually, as a congregation, as followers of Jesus in the United Church of Canada.

*Warmly,  
Valerie*

## Welcome Teams

Thank you very much for those of you who have already been serving on a welcome team! Visitors or new members of RUC often comment on how welcome they felt upon arrival, and to ensure that sentiment continues, we would like to increase our welcome team roster. The goal is to have at least four teams of 4-6 people that would serve on a rotating schedule, with each group taking on a month of welcoming a few times a year. There is no need to attend every Sunday of your assigned month - we hope to have alternate members available to fill in. Duties include greeting at the front door, sharing bulletins/ushering, the collection of offering, and attending to the welcome table.

If you would like to volunteer, there will be a short orientation to review and answer any questions. All you need is a smile, and you will be a great addition to the group!

Please contact Christine Ens for more details:  
780.435.0302 or [ens.christine@gmail.com](mailto:ens.christine@gmail.com)

## Thank you from the Outreach Committee

The women in the two group homes that our congregation supports were delighted with the generous gift bags that we were able to take to share with them on December 21 when some of us joined them for dinner.

We are also grateful for all the donations to the Bissell Centre and other inner city charities - people clearly put a lot of thought into what they bought!



## RUC: An Affirming Congregation

Please mark your calendars for our Celebration of Affirming Service on March 3 at our regular 10:30am time. The congregation will be presented with a certificate from Affirm United and we hope to involve as many elements of our diverse and affirmed community as possible in this special service.



## Having Trouble Hearing Our Services?



Have you noticed the hearing loop signs as you enter the sanctuary? Our new hearing loop system is now installed and functioning throughout **ALL** of the pews in the sanctuary. This system is helping many in our congregation to hear the wonderful sounds of our ministry, directly capturing the feed from our sound system to t-coil enabled hearing aids, reducing and/or eliminating interference from background noise.

**But this system is NOT just for those of us with “t-coil enabled hearing aids”!** The system can also help those of us that do not have a t-coil enabled hearing aid **AND/OR** those that might just be wishing that the sound in the service was **“a wee bit louder”**. If you happen to be one of those in our midst, we have something for you that might help. We currently have 2 (and if we need to get more we can get more!) portable receivers that can be used for our services with earbuds or a headset to capture the loop feed. These receivers can be used **WITH OR WITHOUT** an existing hearing aid to capture and amplify the sound feed from our services. If you would like to try one of these receivers during a service, please ask for one at the sound booth.

**AND...**perhaps you've already tried a portable receiver, and/or you would like to have your own receiver to keep for personal use. We also have a few portable receivers for sale, one version at a cost of \$25, and one at a cost of \$40. As the hearing loop “system” adheres to a standard protocol, these receivers are compatible not only with our system but with systems at other public facilities throughout the world. Many, many public spaces in Canada, US, Europe and elsewhere now have these systems. The City of St. Albert has installed it in many of their public facilities, the Citadel Theatre is raising funds to install it at the Shoctor, several other churches and public places in Edmonton now have it, and many more are coming. We are also considering options to expand hearing assistance with this system to include other areas of our church as well, i.e. perhaps the chapel and meeting rooms.

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL** that have made the hearing system possible through your generous contributions and pledges. If you have yet to complete your pledge, please remember to do so in accordance with your pledge. And should you have any questions regarding the system, its capabilities or possibilities, please contact Ray Hawrelak or David Galbraith.

## WECAN Food Basket Society

**WECAN Food Basket Society** is a not-for-profit co-operative dedicated to providing quality food to families at a reasonable cost, with more than 30 Depots in & around Edmonton. This month, a team from RUC took over coordination of the Riverbend / Terwillegar Depot from Rev. Dan Wold of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, who ran the program for many years with lots of help from local volunteers.

WECAN harnesses the power of bulk buying to offer produce baskets (3 types of fresh vegetables + 3 kinds of seasonal fruit = \$10) and meat baskets (2 -3 cuts of freshly frozen meat = \$15; pork-free available) for sale each month. The official 'order' and 'pickup' days are typically the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays each month, but we are able to extend ordering/pickup to the following Sundays (after service). Members of our congregation are encouraged to give WECAN a try—the food quality is excellent, and a co-op thrives with lots of community participation!

Your generous financial donations also allow us to purchase additional baskets for distribution to families of limited means in our neighbourhood. Watch for the WECAN donation can to appear occasionally to help you deal with your loose change!

Helpers are welcome! For more information, call/text/email Irene Meglis at 780-289-8894 or [imeglis@shaw.ca](mailto:imeglis@shaw.ca)

Upcoming 2019 order/pickup Fridays are:

**February 8 / 22** and **March 8 / 22** – look for the order table in church on the Sundays immediately following these dates.



## An Update from your Facilities Team

Your Facilities Team is busy these days and we welcome new members at any time! Currently the team includes David Galbraith, Geoff Halferdahl, Tom LaPointe, and Matthew Schoenhardt. We are developing plans and schedules to accommodate the planned changes in the use of our fabulous facility. Some may not be aware of the very wide range of groups that use our facility throughout the week; up to 25 groups at last count.

Some of our plans include working with the Youth Group (Junior and Senior High School ages) led by Joel and Alex, to move into a dedicated space in the former basement nursery room by September (earlier if possible). This space is on your left at the bottom of the main stairs and is currently being used temporarily as storage. The Family Room on the main floor, with a window into the sanctuary, will be 'warmed up' to accommodate the nursery on Sunday mornings, as well as continue to be used for funerals, weddings and

occasionally other meetings.

Several initiatives regarding storage space are underway: New cabinets will be built on the right side of the folding doors in the basement for permanent storage including the lovely new Christmas sanctuary decorations. The old furnace/utility room, beside the basement kitchen, was re-organized last summer to better accommodate janitorial supplies and equipment, as well as provide improved storage. Recently the Banner closet, beside the Music room, has been reconfigured to better manage new and existing seasonal banners for the sanctuary. New cupboards outside the Music room are planned to enable the Ghana congregation who also use our sanctuary, to store their musical equipment and neaten up the sanctuary. In the basement kitchen, the counter, cupboard and heat shield for the dish sanitizer will be fixed.

There is a plan to replace the warped front doors, complete with new 'windowed' doors. As part of the Affirm Initiative, we plan to remove part of one pew to better accommodate those with restricted

mobility and also install a handrail on the steps at the front of the sanctuary.

This list of projects is not comprehensive; there are other things in the works. We'd love to hear from anyone who has ideas, comments, or skills and a bit of time for 'routine maintenance'. Working together in keeping the facility in super shape for all the activities that go on around here is fun (and educational) and a great way to get to know people and what goes on around this busy place! Talk to me, Geoff Halferdahl, or David Galbraith.

### Snow Removal

We are very grateful for the volunteer time of Tyler, a student from E2, who has offered to clear the church sidewalks during the week. As well Eshan, a youth volunteer from Brander Gardens, has agreed to assist with snow removal as needed on the weekends. However, you may arrive at church and see that some work needs to be done. There are snow shovels, broom and ice melt located just inside every door, and a shovel outside the back door if the door are locked. Help yourself!

## 2018 Cookie Walk Wrap-Up

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverbend United Church Cookie Walk was held on Saturday November 24, and thanks to the super-human efforts of 50 bakers in our congregation, close to 700 dozen beautiful and tasty cookies were donated—100 dozen more than in the previous year. What we hadn't counted on was that our Cookie Walk would be the same day as the Grey Cup Parade here in Edmonton! Typically we sell out by 11 am, yet this time we didn't wrap things up until close to noon, and we still had lots and lots (and lots) of wonderful cookies left... Our resourceful and hardworking volunteers formed an assembly line, and packed up all the remaining goodies into containers, wrapped them in plastic, and laid them out for sale after service Sunday morning. Every box sold, save for the few we put aside to offer at the December Community Carol Sing. Many of us left church on Sunday with our

festive treats baked and ready to serve over the following weeks. This year, the total proceeds amounted to more than \$3000--all of which goes directly to Riverbend United Church. Bakers were entered into a draw for a thank-you gift of a pedicure. The prize this year went to Sandy LaPointe, who baked 30 dozen cookies and was also a tireless volunteer for both setup and sale days. This event is not only a beloved tradition to start the festive season, it is the embodiment of the giving spirit of dozens of volunteers—bakers, helpers, choir members who serenade the waiting buyers--and of course the loyal cookie-lovers who come year after year to support the church with their purchases. Happy New Year and thank you to all!

## A View From the Rear Pew

by Brent Skinner

I am a big fan of western adventure movies from the 1940's and 1950's. Favourites include "The Searchers" starring John Wayne and "They died with their boots on" starring Errol Flynn. The plots were uncomplicated and the social/political messages quite clear. These movies were made to entertain and promote white male dominance while avoiding social issues beyond bringing rustlers to justice and falling in love with the colonel's beautiful daughter.

Maybe they were products of simpler times before we had fast food or social media and America was the dominant economic power and promoted democracy liberty and human rights around the world while choosing to ignore some of it's own civil rights issues at home. This was the world order of my childhood – a long gone world that seems to have a renewed appeal to many Americans including President Trump.

Now as a mature, some would say cantankerous, old man, I still enjoy watching these old movies but do so with a more critical eye.

- Indians or First Nations people are always portrayed as threats to the hard working rancher. They steal his horses, shoot arrows into innocent Wells Fargo pony express riders, and peer from distant hills in full war regalia including magnificent eagle feather headdresses. Of course, we now know better. The ranchers were taking over first nations lands, often in defiance of existing treaties, nobody had yet invented the baseball cap, and the ones stealing money from innocent people these days work for Wells Fargo.
- Indians were bad tacticians and even worse shots. They would charge their horses at palisaded forts with apparently no idea of what they would do once they reached the fort walls. No grappling hooks, battering rams, or buffalo hide trampolines were ever present. First Nations people were also portrayed as terrible shots with cavalry troopers charging into a veritable typhoon of gun and arrow fire and emerging unscathed except for the very occasional arm or shoulder wound allowing the hero to say something like "don't worry, it's only a flesh wound" before collapsing off his horse and being nursed back to good health by the colonel's beautiful daughter.
- People in the old western movies were not plagued by such mundane matters as flu shots, income taxes or medical appointments. Their worries and energies were confined to really big issues like an upstream neighbour blocking up the creek, the evil saloon owner calling in a loan after running off all your cattle or playing poker with a bunch of heavily armed cheats.
- Characters in the old western movies were always well dressed in clean and neatly pressed clothes thanks to the local Chinese laundry and restaurant owned by a loveable pig tailed character who chased people with a meat cleaver while screaming in pigeon English. Clothes helped to identify key characters such as the evil saloon owner with his black hat and brocaded vest, the hero with his white hat and fancy gun belt, the saloon girl with her low cut silk dress and black net stockings and the heroine with her prim little hat with netting in front. Soldiers were much easier to identify with their blue uniforms, crossed Sabre badges and dusty clothing. Something that I recently learned was that only sergeants and officers were allowed to have yellow stripes on their pant legs. I don't really know why except that it maybe saved a bit of tailoring.
- Much of the old movies were shot in Hollywood studio lots but some were filmed in the magnificent monument valley on the Arizona/ Utah border. There were no computerized special effects other than speeding up the film during charge scenes. Professional stunt people did the falling – usually from saloon roofs or stumbling horses. Movie credits never included the phrase "no horses were injured in the course of this filming", leading me to believe that the stunt horse mortality was probably pretty high.
- Movie plots were predictable. Each movie started with a problem like an Indian raid, a kindly sheep farmer being thrown down the well or the heroine being forced to marry the evil saloon owner because he has acquired the mortgage on her father's ranch. Next, the hero rode into town, frequently a federal marshal in disguise, and lost some initial fist fights and shoot outs with the bad guys until the final showdown gunfight on the Main Street, often with the help of the local blacksmith, hotel owner and laundry person who have been inspired to stand up for the rule of law, just before the movie's ending. The big advantage of these highly predictable



**Calendar:**

Sunday January 20th	9:15 am	Explore the Parables of Jesus with Reverend Valerie
Tuesday, January 22nd	6:45 pm	RUC Movie Series
Sunday January 27th	9:15 am	Explore the Parables of Jesus with Reverend Valerie
Tuesday, January 29th	6:45 pm	RUC Movie Series
Tuesday, February 5th	6:45 pm	RUC Movie Series
Tuesday, February 12th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Friday, February 22nd		FRONT PEW DEADLINE
Sunday, March 3rd	10:30 am	Celebration of Affirming Service
Wednesday, March 6th	5:30 pm	Pancake Supper followed by Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 13th	7:00 pm	Lenten Book Study (5 weeks)

**Weekly Events**

- Mondays 7:00 pm— Handbell Rehearsal
- Tuesdays 12:30 pm Restorative Yoga and 1:30 pm Reflective Crafting
- Wednesdays 9:00 am— Walking Group, Reflective Crafting 6:30 pm
- Thursdays 7:30 pm— Choir Rehearsal; new singers welcome!
- Weekly Sunday Worship-10:30 am (Sunday School and Youth Discussion)

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plots was that you could join the matinee showing any time in the afternoon and immediately recognize the plot position.

- For little boys, the Hollywood western of the 1940's and 1950's portrayed a male dominated world of "us" versus "them" which probably accounts for the difficulty that old white guys like me have in adapting to modern times. I am quite certain that the 35% of Americans who support President Trump are also big fans of John Wayne and Errol Flynn.

**the front pew**



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**March deadline: Friday, February 22, 2019**

