



Sunday, October 8, 2023

Join us for Thanksgiving in-person worship on **Sunday, October 8th** at 10:30 a.m. at Riverbend United Church (14907—45 Avenue NW) or [click here](#) to join the live-streamed service on Riverbend United's YouTube channel. Previous services can also be found on our YouTube channel.

This week at Riverbend United

October 6, 2023

Dear Friends,

Can you recall the last time someone saw you? Saw *you*? Can you remember how it touched you to be seen? In this week's Gospel story, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman, and sees *her*. He sees her without the cultural conditioning of prejudice that taught that he, a Jew, shouldn't converse or connect with a woman of Samaria. He is *present* to her. She is so deeply affected by this encounter that she runs back into town and tells everyone about him, how he knew her, what he is. She overflows with gratitude.

Offering presence is part of our call as people of faith. We are called to be present to the gifts of this moment, present to our family, our friends, our neighbours, to the stranger in the street and the person sitting next to us in the pews. When we are present, we see through sacred eyes, and we see the holy in the mundane. Then *gratitude* overflows through our lives. We'll explore this on Sunday in our second week of the series "Better Together."

Also, if you have a quilt to loan, we are using them in worship through the month of October. If you, like me, forgot it last week, feel free to bring it any Sunday and thank you!

I hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving weekend as you offer *presence*.

Peace,

Valerie

IN OUR PRAYERS

- We remember Krystal Manuel, our Children's Ministry Coordinator, as she recovers at home from surgery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please [click here](#) for this week's Order of Service
- Click [here](#) for this week's Announcements
- Click [here](#) for the fall edition of The Front Pew, our quarterly newsletter.