



**Sunday, November 5, 2023**

**Reminders:**

- We set our **clocks back** one hour Saturday night!
- The **Marvelous Music concert** is this Saturday evening at 7:00 pm

Join us for Sunday worship in person at 10:30 am or online. [Click here](#) for the live-streamed service.

**This week at Riverbend United**

November 3, 2023

Dear Friends:

A year ago, RUC member Doug Spaner shared some of his thoughts with me and others about our Remembrance Day ceremony at RUC. You see Doug in the Choir and in the Ensemble singing his heart out. He is also a wise man with a heart committed to his faith, and I reflected on his thoughts, which go “against the grain” of our tradition.

I believe this is a church where we listen to one another and honour our differences, while continuing to grow together in love and compassion in such times as these.

Doug will share with us this Sunday, through “songs of grieving and stories of healing.” Let’s listen and reflect. We may move through this year’s Remembrance Day ceremonies with heightened awareness. Then on Sunday, November 12th, the day after the civic ceremonies, we will once again honour Remembrance Day in our traditional way.

Here is what Doug has to say about Sunday:

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Rituals of grieving and remembrance can offer hope and healing in today’s broken and broken-hearted world, a world that seems to be drifting ever further from God’s Shalom. The century-old Remembrance Day rituals that take place at cenotaphs and war memorials around Canada on November 11 have their place. But is that place in the United Church of Canada?

These explicitly secular and militaristic traditions can feel anachronistic, even contrary to the Jesus message. Jesus says, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” An oft-recited Remembrance Day poem says, “Take up our quarrel with the foe.” The world demands vengeance. Jesus says “I do not give to you as the world gives.”



As People of God, and followers of Jesus, perhaps we can try to find new songs to sing and new stories to tell of God's healing presence in the world of today.

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I hope you will join us on Sunday. We'll also share in Holy Communion, so those of you joining us online may want to have some bread and a cup nearby.

I also want to say thank you to Carolyn Miller for the enriching Whole Community Worship service she offered us last Sunday. It's good to engage our children and youth in our worship life and we're grateful to Carolyn for sharing her gifts.

Peace to all,

*Valerie*

## **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.