Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Join us in person at Riverbend United Church on Sunday, November 2nd at 10:30 a.m. or click here to see our live-streamed service. Don't forget to change your clocks back one hour this morning to Mountain Standard Time (MST).

Message from Riverbend United Church

October 31, 2025

Dear friends:

Autumn is a natural time to talk about our mortality. Here in Edmonton, we are being blessed with a golden autumn - with a particular radiance that serves as a harbinger of the coming winter. We know that the falling leaves, the grass losing its verdancy, the animals finding and creating winter nests, are all signs that point to an *appearance* of death. Yet, we know the earth *will* come alive again in the Spring.

Most of us encounter mortality for the first time as children when a grandparent or a pet dies. It doesn't make sense to us, then or now, because we still experience our loved one as alive, just not present physically.

Naming our mortality offers so many gifts. Above all, it helps us to live awake to the sacred opportunity this life presents. Living with our death warmly in our hearts shows us how to live well.

I hope you'll join us for this new sermon series: **Lessons from the Setting Sun**. We begin this Sunday. We'll also share in Communion, so if you're joining us online you may want to have a cup of something and a piece of bread nearby.

Reminder - Saturday evening at 7:30 is An Evening of Marvelous Music concert, which is always an exceptional event. I have it on good authority that should there be a seventh Blue Jays game in the World Series, if it isn't quite finished by 7:30, the score will be regularly announced during the concert.

I leave you with these words from the Psalmist: *"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."* (Psalm 91: 12), and with this little Hallowe'en **call to generosity** from a child.

Peace,

Valerie

IN OUR PRAYERS

- **Jamie Bain** and his wife Megan remain in our prayers as Jamie remains in frail health in U of A Hospital.
- Please also keep **Marg Crabtree** in your hearts as she recovers at home from a medical event this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please click here for this week's Order of Service
- You can find this week's Announcements here