



November 23, 2025

## We Gather Together

### Gathering Music

Randy Nelson

### Welcome / Announcements

Rev. Valerie Oden

### Call to Worship

One: Come and worship-- people of faith, people of doubt,  
people who are tired, people who are energized.

**All: We come as we are, loved as we are, gathered here  
to sing and to listen, to pray and to serve.**

### Opening Prayer

**Source of life, as we hear songs of the world today,  
may we find your Spirit swirling. May the music of  
our lives be a bridge between people, a balm for the  
weary, and a celebration of the life you have given  
us. Amen.**

### \*Opening Hymn

*River*

MV 3

### Children's Time

Alec Gallant

*Children are invited forward for a special time.*

### \*Children's Hymn

*Like a Rock*

MV 92

*After this hymn, children grades K-6 and youth can go downstairs for Sunday School.  
Toddlers and infants are welcome in the Family Room adjacent to the sanctuary  
where the service can be seen and heard and a volunteer will assist you.*

## We Listen for the Spirit

### Readings

Psalm 137; Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

### Reflection

Spirituality in Pop Music Part 1

Marv Severson

### Music

*Rivers of Babylon (Boney M.)*

### Reflection

Spirituality in Pop Music Part 2

Dr. Doug Spaner

### Music

*Annie's Song (J. Denver)*

### Reflection

Spirituality in Pop Music Part 3

Dr. Ayanna Rocke

### Music

*Bridge Over Troubled Water  
(Simon and Garfunkel)*

**\*Hymn of Response** *My Love Colours Outside the Lines* MV 138

## We Respond with our Prayers and our Gifts

### Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

### Prayer of the People (Unison)

**Holy One, we give thanks for the gift of music—  
for melodies that lift our spirits,  
for rhythms that move our bodies,  
for harmonies that weave us together.**

**May our songs be instruments of justice,  
our voices echoes of compassion,  
and our listening an act of love. Amen.**

### Invitation to Offering Our Gifts

*Offering plates can be found in the foyer. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to [contactus@riverbendunited.org](mailto:contactus@riverbendunited.org) or on the church website. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in hope that peace may spread to all.*

# We Go Forth in Faith

\*Benediction

\*Hymn

*Go Make a Difference*

MV 209

\*Postlude

The Ensemble

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*\*Indicates you are invited to stand as able  
VU refers to the red hard bound hymnal, Voices United  
MV refers to the small spiral bound hymnal, More Voices*

## Welcome to Riverbend United Church!

We're glad you're here. If you're new with us, please feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pews and fill out a **Welcome Card** in the narthex (foyer) so we can get to know you. We send a weekly email with upcoming events and ministry highlights.

**Young Family Gathering** next Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> after worship. Children will have a dress rehearsal for their Christmas Program (Dec. 14) and parents will have a time of connection with each other and with Valerie.

**New Members** will be received December 7<sup>th</sup>. Let Valerie know if you want to join the church.



Riverbend United Church  
Sunday, November 23, 2025  
10:30 a.m.



## Advent: The Coming

### Advent Events 2025

See the reverse side for invitations ongoing throughout Advent.

- Sunday, Nov. 30    Advent 1 – HOPE
- **Young Family Advent Gathering** and Children's Program dress rehearsal after worship, 11:30 - 12:30.
- Sunday, Dec. 7    Advent 2 – PEACE
- **New members and Baptism.**
  - **Christmas Café** after worship - Come to the Chapel for festive goodies and warm Christmas conversation.
- Sunday, Dec. 14    Advent 3 – JOY
- **Children's Christmas Program** in worship.
  - **Community Carol Sing** at 4:00 pm with RUC musicians, the Choir and Handbells.
- Sunday, Dec. 21    Advent 4 – LOVE
- Wed., Dec. 24    **Christmas Eve**
- 5:00**    Worship with Choir and Handbells  
*Flame-free service*
- 6:30**    Worship with Choir and John Tessier, Soloist  
(See [johnntessier.com](http://johnntessier.com) for more info.)  
*Candlelight service with individual candles*
- 8:00**    Worship with Communion  
*Candlelight service with individual candles*

How will *you* prepare this year, for the birth of the one who brings light to the dark? We are invited to set aside time each day to read, reflect, pray. We're invited to create room in our hearts—to let the light find its way, to believe that the world might move a step toward peace, and to follow the star to the manger.

### Throughout Advent

*Details for each of these offerings can be found in the Front Pew Newsletter, coming soon. They are provided by the RUC Spiritual Formation Committee.  
It all begins November 30<sup>th</sup>.*

- Unwrap the gifts of the digital **Daily Advent Calendar** created specifically for Riverbend United Church by member Carolyn Miller. Go to [riverbendunited.org](http://riverbendunited.org) to follow it and be amazed!
- Look for the **Christmas Story Trail** found on posters around the church. Scan the QR Codes on the posters to reveal Lego videos of the Christmas Story.
- See the **Advent Prayer Tree** in the narthex – take a prayer, leave a prayer.
- Traditional printed weekly Advent devotionals will also be available in the narthex: *Heaven's Earthly Life: Wendell Berry and the Poetry of Advent.*