

Advent

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

December 12 to 21, 2025



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| Friday December 12 | 9:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. | E2 Academy (Lower level hall) E2 Academy (Kitchen) All Points West Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| Saturday December 13 | 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m. | Men's Discussion Group (Chapel) Ghana Methodist Church (Sanctuary) Ensemble rehearsal (Music room) All Points West concert (Sanctuary) |
| ADVENT III—JOY Sunday December 14 | 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. | RUC Worship (Sanctuary) Ghana Methodist Church (Sanctuary) Al-Anon Family Group (Boardroom) Christmas Carol Sing (Sanctuary) |
| Monday December 15 | 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. | Karate (Lower level hall) Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| Tuesday December 16 | 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. | Transitions Group (Gathering area) Reflective Crafting (Chapel) E2 Academy (Kitchen) |
| Wednesday December 17 | 10:00 a.m. | Walkers & Talkers (Gathering area) |
| Thursday December 18 | 5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. | Wellness Junkies (Lower level hall) RUC Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| Friday December 19 | 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. | RUC Youth event (Lower level hall) Ghana Methodist Church (Sanctuary) |
| Saturday December 20 | 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. | Men's Discussion Group (Chapel) Ghana Methodist Church (Sanctuary) Private rental (Lower level hall & kitchen) |
| ADVENT IV—LOVE Sunday December 21 | 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. | RUC Worship (Sanctuary) Ghana Methodist Church (Sanctuary) Al-Anon Family Group (Boardroom) |

Riverbend United Church
14907— 45 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5K8

Email:
contactus@riverbendunited.org

Website: www.riverbendunited.org

Twitter:
@riverbendunited



Facebook:
www.facebook.com/riverbendunited



Christmas Eve services

5:00 p.m. service with Choir & Handbells

6:30 p.m. service with Choir & John Tessier, soloist

8:00 p.m. Candlelight communion service

Riverbend United Church ~ News & events

Grocery cards will be available for purchase following worship services on December 14, 21 and 28. You can purchase a grocery card in \$50, \$100 or \$500 denominations to be used at a variety of grocery stores. This Church fundraiser is an easy way to help our faith community.

2026 Donation envelopes Would you like donation envelopes for 2026? If so please email the office at contactus@riverbendunited.org or call 780.430.7275 to let us know how many you would like. They will be ready for pick-up in early January.

The Front Pew The winter edition of Riverbend United Church's quarterly newsletter, The Front Pew is now available. It is always full of news, events and announcements going on in our Church community and neighbourhood. A few printed copies are available in the narthex, or find it online [here](#).

Outreach Food Pantry suggestions for December are protein items such as beans, legumes, peanut butter and canned fish/meat. We are continuing to collect items for the cold weather for those in need in the inner city. This year the Outreach committee will be supporting Operation Friendship, a 55+ seniors program for those in need. Monies will be used to purchase sweatpants/joggers, long underwear and toiletries. Financial donations can be made at the office or to Holly Ruryk or Erin James.

Contemplative Practice Series (led by Graham Gaine) Meeting in the Chapel from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. on Sundays in January, the group will be introduced to a variety of spiritual practices (see topics below). Each meeting will include 10-15 minutes of silent group meditation, audio and video recordings introducing contemplative practices, and group discussion (choir members may join from 9:30-10:00 a.m. to participate in silent meditation before choir rehearsal).

- January 4th - Christian meditation using a mantra
- January 11th - Quaker prayer and the inner light
- January 18th - Centering and welcoming prayer
- January 25th - Growth of contemplative practices at RUC

Christmas Eve services Would you like to read a part of the Christmas story on Christmas Eve at one of the services? Please let Valerie know. Thanks!

Case of mistaken identity!! Did you take home a black "puffer" jacket that wasn't yours? Please check, as Nathan (our AV technician) is missing his!! Thanks.



All Points West Choir Concert This holiday season, join All Points West Chamber Choir as they present **Constellation**, a journey through the universe of Christmas music on Saturday, **December 13th** at 7:30 p.m. at Riverbend United Church. Tickets (\$21 in advance, \$25 at the door) available from Choir members, at the door or on [online](#).

Deep Winter Song ~ A Mystical Evening of Music and Story This enchanting celebration on Friday, **December 19th** at 7:00 p.m. explores and honors the mystery of the Winter Solstice, Christmas, and the magical, contemplative beauty of the winter season. Deep Winter Song is an acoustic evening filled with traditional and modern songs of winter, heartfelt stories, poetry, angelic voices, and immersive mystical moods. Highlights include captivating projections, a sacred sound journey, and a meaningful Solstice Fire Ritual. This celebration presented by Gord Oakes and friends features songwriter/singer **Martin Kerr**, at the Centre for Spiritual Living (7621 101 Ave NW, Edmonton) and will be live-streamed. For more details please check out [Eventbrite Details & Tickets](#).