

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**

Join us in person at Riverbend United Church on **Sunday, February 1st at 10:30 a.m.** or [click here](#) to see our live-streamed service.

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## Message from Rev. Valerie

January 30, 2026

Dear friends:

This Sunday we explore [The Beatitudes](#) from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The Jesus Seminar group of scholars discerned that these are very likely actual words of Jesus. The poetic beauty of them may make us pause and listen, and the message may leave us both perplexed and comforted.

We'll also share in the sacrament of Communion. All are welcome to receive Communion in the United Church of Canada, no matter what. If you're joining us online, you can have a piece of bread and a cup of something nearby if you'd like to participate.

We have now received some copies of the new United Church hymnal called *Then Let Us Sing*. We'll be singing a hymn from it on Sunday, so if you prefer to look at music rather than the screen, you can pick up a hymnal from the narthex. The Memorial Fund has paid for these, and we're grateful to all who have been honoured through gifts to that fund. The ripple of their lives keeps giving.

Thank you to Jill Spaner and The Ensemble for leading an excellent service of worship last Sunday. We are so blessed to have such gifted lay leaders! If you missed it, you can find the service [here](#), along with all past services of RUC.

Peace to all,

*valerie*

## IN OUR PRAYERS

- Please keep in your hearts Joanne Little and Matthew Schoenhardt and their adult children, Isaac, Annika and Nathan as they attend the Memorial Service for [Janet Little](#), Joanne's mom, in Saskatchewan on Saturday.
- Please keep Grace Bowditch and family in your hearts as we prepare to celebrate the life of her husband [Rev. Ray Olsen](#) on Saturday, February 7 at 11:00 a.m. at our church. Ray was an ordained minister of the United Church and he and Grace have been part of our congregation for several years. We will miss Ray's ready smile and bright spirit.

## Note:

Mark your calendars now for "Pancakes and Ashes" on Shrove Tuesday, February 17. Pancakes will be served thanks to the Turkey Team and our Youth, and a Service of Ashes will follow at 6:30. Lent begins the next day, Ash Wednesday.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please click [here](#) for this week's [Order of Service](#)
- You can find this week's Announcements [here](#)