



**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

Join us in person at Riverbend United Church on **Sunday, January 11th at 10:30 a.m.** or [click here](#) to see our live-streamed service.

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## Message from Riverbend United Church

January 9, 2026

Dear friends:

Before Jesus' ministry, before his 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus comes to the River Jordan to be baptized. It's a threshold moment for him. It's the moment his identity is revealed and proclaimed. If *you* saw God's spirit descending on you like a dove, and *you* heard a voice from the heavens proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son [Child], with whom I am well pleased," how would *you* respond? I can certainly understand Jesus heading for the hills for 40 days!

This Sunday, we'll join Jesus at the river, and we'll have a chance to remember our own Baptism by coming forward (in worship) — if we wish — to receive a blessing of water. We don't "re-baptize" in the United Church as that is a once in a lifetime thing. But we are invited to "remember our baptism," which we'll do on Sunday, collectively or individually, as you wish.

Let's enjoy the thaw ahead (and be careful in the morning ice!),

*Valerie*

### REMINDER — Scam Alert

Every 6 months or so, someone tries to impersonate Rev. Valerie in a sophisticated and convincing manner, through text or email, asking for money or gift cards. No one from the church will EVER ask you for help in this way. Please be careful of any request for gift cards, and watch out for scams. Please let the church office know if you receive such a scam note. And remember — if you get a call from your bank or Canada Revenue or a note from UPS etc., don't believe it. Hang up and call an independently verified number, not the one they give you if they reach you. Let's stay mindful.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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