



February 6 to 16, 2026

Friday February 6	6:00 p.m.	Memorial luncheon set-up (Lower level hall)
Saturday February 7	11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Rev. Ray Olsen Memorial Service & Luncheon (Sanctuary & Lower level hall) RUC Youth (Lower level hall)
Sunday February 8	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	RUC Worship (Sanctuary) RUC Pop-up Choir Meeting (Sanctuary) Ghana Methodist Church (Sanctuary) Al-Anon Family Group (Boardroom)
Monday February 9	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Karate Class (Lower level hall) Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Tuesday February 10	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Private rental (Boardroom) Transitions Group (Gathering area) Reflective Crafting (Chapel) Elite Dance (Lower level hall) All Point West Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) RUC Official Board Meeting (Boardroom)
Wednesday February 11	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Walkers & Talkers (Gathering area) Yoga class (Lower level hall) E2 Academy (Kitchen) Elite Dance (Lower level hall)
Thursday February 12	4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	E2 Academy Open House RUC Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Friday February 13		
Saturday February 14	10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Men's Discussion Group (Chapel) Ghana Methodist Church (Sanctuary)
Sunday February 15	10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	RUC Worship (Sanctuary) Ghana Methodist Church (Sanctuary) Al-Anon Family Group (Boardroom)
Monday February 16		Family day (Office closed)

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Have questions
about
the church?
Look for people
with the red
"Ask Me"
stickers on their
name tags.

Save the Date

"Pancakes & Ashes"
Shrove Tuesday, February 17
5:30 p.m. Pancake dinner
6:30 p.m. Service of Ashes

Riverbend United Church ~ News & events

RUC Pop-up Choir Yes! It's happening! Our Pop-Up Choir is back to welcome ALL RUC singers on Sunday, **February 15th**. If you are interested please add your name, voice part (if you know it), and your email address to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Meet in the Sanctuary on:

- Sunday, February 8 following worship (Meeting)
- Thursday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m. (Rehearsal)
- Sunday, February 15 at 9:45 a.m. (Sunday's anthem!)

Pancakes and Ashes To acknowledge the beginning of Lent, please join us on Tuesday **February 17th** for a pancake supper followed by a Service of Ashes. In collaboration with the youth group, the Turkey Team will serve a family friendly pancake meal, and immediately following, Reverend Valerie and Doug Spaner will lead a brief service to commence our Lenten journey. No dinner tickets are required - a freewill offering opportunity will be provided at the door.

- Pancakes at 5:30 p.m. in lower level hall
- Service of Ashes at 6:30 p.m. in Sanctuary

Uncharted senior youth retreat: February 14-16, Kananaskis "Uncharted" is a retreat for youth ages 16-17, and this year it's at Camp Chief Hector in Kananaskis. Registration has been extended, so there's still time to sign up, but it will be closing soon. Bursaries are available and we encourage you to use them! Enter CHART25 or CHART50 for 25% or 50% off, or send us an email at firstthird-ministry@united-church.ca for the 75% and 100% codes. Don't let money be the barrier to attending! For more information, or to register, you can e-mail [Kevin Guenther Trautwein](mailto:Kevin.Guenther.Trautwein) or [check the website here](#). Please share with your communities!

Sing with Love on **February 14th** at 2:30 p.m. is a big, noisy, songful show of love and solidarity for Alberta's 2SLGBTQ+ community. This event at Robertson-Wesley United Church (10209—123 Street NW, Edmonton) is a collaborative performance from Edmonton's choral groups. The concert is a warm blanket of love and trans solidarity.

Dress code will be casual, colourful clothing, pride gear and drag encouraged. Proceeds from this event support the life saving programs offered by the Firefly Institute for Gender & Sexual Diversity, housed within the University of Alberta. For information and tickets please check: [Sing with Love](#).

Handel's Hercules at Convocation Hall Join us on Saturday, **February 28th** at 7:30 p.m. for an exclusive performance of G. F. Handel's rarely performed oratorio, **Hercules**. Presented by Riverbend United congregation member Arnold Rumbold, this special event at the University of Alberta's Convocation Hall features an incredible cast including tenor John Tessier as Hyllus. John is the husband of our accompanist Sherry Steele and has sung at our Christmas Eve Services. The performance will also showcase the Blue Crown Baroque Ensemble on period instruments. Tickets are available starting at \$10 at www.showpass.com/hercules/.

Cosmopolitan Music Society is offering 6 one-hour classes beginning Wednesday, **March 4th** to learn the basics of handbell ringing and music reading. For more information contact their office at info@cosmopolitanmusic.org.

Imagine Children's Retreat 2026 There is an exciting opportunity coming up for children ages 8 to 11 to attend a United Church-sponsored event called Imagine Children's Retreat 2026.

- Vision: Participants form a multi-age, inter-cultural community that shares play, meals, worship, music, drama, storytelling, and faith exploration in a safe and welcoming space.
- Date: April 17 – 19, 2026
- Location: Kasota East Camp, Sylvan Lake
- Chaperone: Our Children's Ministry Coordinator will attend the weekend as a chaperone if children from Riverbend United are attending.
- Cost: \$300.00 includes transportation, meals, and all supplies. Discounts and bursaries available.

[Click here](#) for more details.