



**Sunday, February 15, 2026**

Join us for worship on **Sunday, February 15th at 10:30 a.m.**, or [click here](#) for the live-streamed services. The new Spring edition of **The Front Pew** church newsletter can be found [here](#).

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### Message from Rev. Valerie

February 13, 2026

Dear friends:

Transfiguration Sunday is always the last Sunday before Lent. Three disciples (Peter, James and John) experience Jesus in brilliant light, with "dazzling white" clothes. Their vision includes Moses and Elijah, and Jesus's face is "transfigured" before them. In short, they see his "glory."

The experience occurs on a mountain top, an exclamation point on Jesus's identity before they all return to the valley, and before we enter Lent. People of faith are not called to remain on the mountain top. We're called into the valleys of life where love made manifest is most needed.

Have you had a "mountain top" experience of some sort in your life? How long did its imprint last once you returned to your daily living? What would it mean for us to live by the glorious mountain tops even in our humdrum lives?

The Spring edition of the Front Pew Newsletter is now out. [Click here](#) to see it or pick up a hard copy in the narthex. There's so much happening around here as we enter Lent. Our journey begins this coming Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> with Pancakes and Ashes. See the announcements for details.

Peace to all,

valerie

#### IN OUR PRAYERS

- Please continue to remember Ruth Bowes and family on the death of her husband Ken last week. Ken and Ruth have been part of RUC since its formation, and he will be missed. You can find Ken's obituary [here](#).
- We are sad to let you know that Ben Severson's wife Shellie has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Many of you know Ben from his childhood in the church, from being a musician in The Ensemble, or from when he served as our Youth Coordinator. Ben and Shellie have three little girls, and the youngest is 3 months old. Shellie's treatment journey will likely include surgery at the end of March. Please keep Ben and Shellie and their families in your hearts. Ben's parents, Marv Severson and Christine Ens, have been active leaders in our congregation for many years.
- RUC member Richard Pawsey needs help finding a medical specialist, specifically a Urologist, from a condition that persists following a recent serious illness. If you have any connections or ideas, please reach out to the church or to him. We lift up both Richard and Brent in our prayers as they have been in a difficult season these last few months.
- All of our hearts are heavy with news of the school shooting in Tumbler Ridge. The general United Church has released a statement [found here](#). It begins with these words:

*"The United Church of Canada laments the tragic violence in Tumbler Ridge and holds in prayer the families, loved ones, and entire community who are now living with shock, trauma, and profound loss. With deep compassion, we stand alongside the community of Tumbler Ridge and all Canadians, praying for peace and healing, and affirming with clarity and conviction that violence is unspeakably wrong. It is in moments such as this, we are reminded of our deepest calling as followers of Jesus: to care for one another, to protect the vulnerable, and to seek justice rooted in compassion." With the suspect being a trans person, discriminatory comments are running rampant. As an Affirming Ministry, we at Riverbend United Church join the Northern Spirit Regional Council and other church-based Affirming Connections in rejecting "all attempts to exploit this tragedy by harming our beloved Two Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse communities. Weaponizing grief is morally reprehensible and extremely dangerous."*

Our hearts remain in compassion for those directly affected and in commitment to a way of peace, because all are affected by violence.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please click here for this week's [Order of Service](#)
- You can find this week's Announcements [here](#)
- For the Spring Edition of our Quarterly Newsletter, The Front Pew, click [here](#)