



**Sunday,
October 4, 2026**

Join us in person at Riverbend United Church on Sunday, **October 4th** at 10:30 a.m. or
click [here](#) to see our live-streamed service.
For the Fall Edition of The Front Pew, [click here](#)

Message from Rev. Valerie

October 2, 2026

Dear Friends,

One hundred and fifty generations have come and gone since Moses climbed Mount Sinai and received the [Ten Commandments](#) on stone tablets. You may recall that he broke the first set, smashing them in anger at seeing the people's unfaithfulness, and God had a little re-do. The second set was preserved in the now elusive Ark of the Covenant.

Most of us learned these Commandments as hard and fast rules from on high, do's and don'ts that we must adhere to as people of faith. As a child, I pictured God with a baton, waving it at us harshly as we learned these rules. It brought a heavy sense and a fair bit of trembling.

I think there's another way to see them. I believe the Ten Commandments call us into right relationship. I believe they name what's necessary for us to live in community with one another and even with the Earth. Is it not our "coveting" of the Earth's resources in greed that has brought us to this point of climate crisis? (The tenth commandment.)

This Sunday we will honour the **40th Anniversary of the United Church's Apology to Indigenous Peoples**, along with UC congregations all over the nation. We can't help but recognize our violation of several of the Commandments, stealing foremost among them-- lands, traditions, lives.

This is also **World Communion Sunday**. What better day to explore how God calls us into right relationship, especially in this polarized time? If you're worshipping with us online, you might want to have a piece of bread and a cup nearby if you want to participate.

I cannot close without expressing profound gratitude for the leadership team (Jacqueline Hunt, Holly Ruryk, Sherry Steele, Diane Trenn) and the *many* volunteers who worked for months to make last Sunday's **Community Connect Picnic** such a glorious afternoon. It was an incredible outreach to the community, simply saying, "We are here for you." And not one thing could have gone better.

Thank you also to Carolyn Miller and the Ensemble for leading last week's excellent Whole Community Worship. You can find the service on our YouTube channel if you missed it.

Have a blessed weekend and see you Sunday,

Valerie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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