



Robertson - Wesley

UNITED CHURCH *Spirited*

An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada

2024 Aug 8

Discipleship Sunday

Pentecost 13



Discipleship

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, or age. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

Welcome to Robertson-Wesley

Please know that in the eyes of God you already belong here and you are welcome to participate in any of the activities of the community of faith.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground for Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 4.

ACCESSIBILITY

There is an elevator located inside the building with the glass door entrance. Access ramps can be found: inside leading from the lobby to the sanctuary and outside at the rear of the building, leading from the parking lot.

There are accessible washrooms on each floor located near the elevator.



For hearing assistance download the Listen Everywhere app on your cell phone and connect to the R-W network by scanning this QR code. Please bring your own headphones to listen on. Classic hearing assists headsets are available from the ushers.

Large print worship bulletins, and hymn books are available from the ushers.

Service animals are welcome, except where food is prepared.

We commit to make R-W a comfortable space for people with cognitive impairment. If you require accommodations please contact the office.

There is a sensory-friendly worship space in the Club Room every Sunday, the service is live streamed into the room with reduced lighting and volume.

BABY/ CHILDREN'S AMENITIES

People can breastfeed anywhere in the building, should you want more privacy there is designated nursing space in the Millson room. Baby changing tables are installed in all washrooms. If you wish to use it, a children's activity centre is set up in the Chapel. There are activity books available. Please ask an usher.

INFORMATION

The ushers located at the entrances are here to help should you have any questions. More information about the church and church activities can be found in the pamphlet racks outside Memorial Hall.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere in the church.



10209 123 St, Edmonton T5N 1N3 780-482-1587
mail@rwuc.org www.rwuc.org

Friends in Christ

Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude

Dr. Belinda Chiang, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Gathering Prayer:

Gather us, O God

and we will know your life that makes us one.

Gather us, O God

and we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness.

Gather us, O God

and we will give you the pain of our brokenness.

Gather us, O God

and we will share the gifts of your Spirit.

Trinity of love, bind us as one

that our brokenness be healed by you;

that our fears be held by you;

that our gifts be used by you;

that our lives be offered to you;

so may the world believe. Amen.¹

Hymn: *Love Us into Fullness*

More Voices 81

**Love us into fullness, touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy, draw us to your face.**

**Love us into fullness, hold us in your care,
cheer us with your presence here and everywhere.**

**Love us into fullness, and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us, fill our hearts with song.**

Coming into God's Presence:

Gratitude Team

Here at Robertson-Wesley United Church all people are called by God to be disciples of Jesus. To dare to dream of a world where love reigns. To be a hope filled Community of Faith, united in deep spirituality.

Spritely has invited the Pastoral Care team to come to the table.

Hymn of Invitation: *What Can I Do?*

More Voices 191

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

¹ Ali Newell, *Holy Ground; Liturgies and worship resources for an engaged spirituality*, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publication, 2005), p. 278.

Learning about Pastoral Care:

What does your group do at R-W?

Why have you chosen to do this?

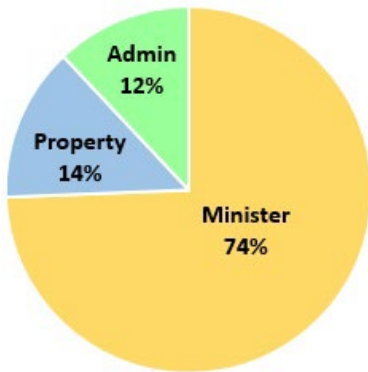
How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in what you do?

Giving Thanks:

The sharing of PIE

Congregational Blessing:

We are grateful for your commitment and dedication to living out the call of R-W through the ministry and outreach you do. We thank you for giving us what we need to be grateful. Without you, the body of Christ is incomplete. We recognize that we are all needed. Wanted. Loved! We thank you God for these beloved people. We have been blessed.



Pastoral Care Costs

This total of this pie chart is \$132,661 which is the Pastoral Care cost.

The slices of the pie represent the areas in which the Pastoral Care cost is spent.

Property \$18,063.25

This is based on the hours of facility usage, used by Pastoral Care and includes the cost of Facility staff time doing Pastoral Care.

Admin \$15,923.10

These is the cost of administrative costs of Pastoral Care, this includes printing, photocopying, materials, postage, etc. and includes the cost of the Office Administrators time doing Pastoral Care.

Minister \$98,674.70

This is the cost of the Ministers time doing Pastoral Care.

All of the staff costs are part of the current wages staff are paid, and these numbers represent the part of the wages allocated to Pastoral Care work done in the year.



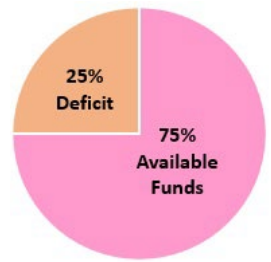
Volunteer & Staff Time

This pie chart represents the hours worked by staff and volunteers for Pastoral Care in a year.

Staff:	1736 hours
Volunteers:	6240 hours
Total:	7976 hours/year

Deficit & Available Funds

The budget for 2024 includes a significant deficit. We have divided the deficit up proportionately to the various groups. This chart represents the expenditure percentages that will be covered by projected 2024 givings, along with what we predict the deficit will be.



Deficit: \$33,165.26

Available Funds: \$99,495.79

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we gather before you to open our hearts. We struggle to be honest. We know the brokenness within us. Yet we are fearful of being open. We worry that people will think less of us. And yes, we worry that you will think less of us. Loving God, we ask: listen to us. Be with us, even as we know you already are. (Silence)

This we pray, **amen.**²

Words of Assurance:

Receive this good news: God listens and celebrates our willingness to be open to God. So with grace we are touched and healed, so we may have the courage and compassion to be open with others. Amen.³

God's Holy Word

Prayer of Illumination:

Living God, as we listen to these old texts, inspired by you, may we listen with inquisitive minds and compassionate hearts.

May your words of wisdom speak to us in unexpected ways and unexpected places in our lives in today's world.

May your wisdom move, illuminate, deepen, inspire, and motivate us to act in your world, of which we are part. Amen.⁴

Scriptures:

Vicky Mah

Psalms 130 • Out of the depths, I cry to God.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in God's word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who wait for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

² Written by Sandy Ferguson, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2021, p. 47. Used with permission.

³ Written by Sandy Ferguson, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1, 2021, p. 48. Used with permission.

⁴ Written by Sheryl McLeod, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2021, p. 50. Used with permission.

Ephesians 4:22-5:2 • Do not let the sun go down on your anger. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love as Christ loves us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Musical Reflection

Dr. Belinda Chiang, organ

Sermon: *Anger acknowledged and affirmed.*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Psalm 130 Up from the Depths I Cry to God*

Voices United 852

Up from the depths I cry to God:

O listen, Lord, to me;

**O hear my voice in this distress,
this mire of misery.**

**I wait for God with all my heart,
my hope is in his word;**

**and more than watchers for the dawn
I'm longing for the Lord.**

**If you, my God, should measure guilt
Who then could ever stand?**

**But those who fear your name will find
forgiveness from your hand.**

**I wait for God with all my heart,
my hope is in his word;**

**and more than watchers for the dawn
I'm longing for the Lord.**

**O Israel, set your hope on God
whose mercy is supreme:**

**the nation mourning for its sin
he surely will redeem.
I wait for God with all my heart,
my hope is in his word;
and more than watchers for the dawn
I'm longing for the Lord.**

Grateful Response

Pastoral Prayers

Lord's Prayer:

Voices United p. 921

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kin-dom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Offering:

Your donations today support R-W Church programs and operations, as well as outreach projects and programs in the city and around the world. You can donate by e-transfer to pay@rwuc.org, cheque, debit/credit by speaking to an usher, pre-authorized remittance, or PayPal by scanning the QR code. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for donations over \$20 if your name and address are provided.



Offertory: *For the Gift of Creation*

Voices United 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Offering Prayer:

Take these gifts, Loving God, and receive them as treasures of our commitment to you; take our lives and transform them into your healing power.

May we be empowered to bring wholeness to those who need your healing touch. May we lose ourselves in serving others, not counting the cost, but knowing that you reveal yourself in each gift. May we remember that serving others and sharing what we have is a way of

life, our grateful response rooted in our life-giving faith. Bless our givings and our actions, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.⁵

Hymn: *Healer of Our Every Ill*

Voices United 619

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.**

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**In the pain and joy beholding,
how your grace is still unfolding,
Give us all your vision, God of love.**

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother.
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.**

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.**

**Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

Commissioning:

Just as Jesus sent the disciples out to proclaim the Good News,
so we are sent.

Just as they were equipped to be disciples,

⁵ Written by Bill Steadman, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2023, p. 51. Used with permission.

we received what we need.

Just as he called them to live in trust,

so we are called to trust that our needs will be met.

We go,

We go,

as disciples,

as disciples,

as bearers of the Good News.

as bearers of the Good News.

and God's blessing goes with us. Amen.⁶

Postlude

Dr. Belinda Chiang, organ

Question for reflection:

What actions are worthy of imitating?

R-W Report

Next Sunday

Sunday, Aug 18, 2024

Communion and A Gratitude Minute Pentecost 14

Children and Youth: Children and Youth are invited to worship with their families in the sanctuary.

Scriptures: 1 Kings 3:3-14 • David's death; Solomons' prayer.

Ephesians 5:15-20 • With thanksgiving, sing songs!

Sermon: All I ask is for a discerning heart!

We are all called by God to often do things that we do not believe we are capable of. After King David's death, Solomon was fearful that as the new king he was not qualified, that he lacked experience. How many times have we thought to ourselves, "I don't know enough about the Bible or Christianity to take on a leadership role in the community of faith? Solomon asks God for a discerning heart, so that he may serve the world as God intended. God not only grants this request for a discerning heart, but God also grants Solomon wisdom. Who among us has been granted the spiritual gift of wisdom and discernment? As we discern the path of Robertson-Wesley over the next 10 years, where is God's Spirit at work? How have we moved from being a welcoming community of faith to a loving community of faith? What practices do we need to transform in order to live out Jesus' greatest commandment to the fullest?

Music: Dr. Belinda Chiang, guest organist

⁶ Written by Beth W Johnston, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2018, p. 46. Used with permission.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Aug 11	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Bake Sale - Memorial Hall	12:00 pm
Tues Aug 13	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm

ON THE HORIZON

Sun Aug 18	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary & Online	10:30 am
	Fellowship - Memorial Hall	11:30 am
	Pet Blessing - Lawn	12:00 pm
	Wild Church - Away	1:00 pm
Tues Aug 20	Scripture Reflections - Club Room & Zoom	12:00 pm

R-W News & Notes

THANK YOU

Dr. Allan Bevan, Musical Director is on vacation from August 5-25. Thanks to Dr. Belinda Chiang for helping out at the organ today.

BAKE SALE

There will be a Bake Sale **today**, after church in Memorial Hall. All proceeds will go to the 100th Anniversary Legacy Fund.

MUSIC PROGRAMS

R-W Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, **September 4**, at 7:30. This is a good time to become a member! Nova Bells (5:30) and R-W Ringers (7pm) rehearsals resume on Thursday, **September 12**.

More information at: music@rwuc.org

ART & BOOK SALE

We will have another Book & Art Sale fundraiser on **August 25th**. Please drop off any books and art donations at the church.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm on Zoom and in the Club Room. Reflect on the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. We are using the practice of Lectio Divina which means we read through the scripture three times. You will be invited into some moments of silence, and if you are willing you are invited to share with the group. You don't need to be a Biblical Scholar. God speaks through the scriptures and it is wonderful to hear the diversity of messages that are received. Contact the office at mail@rwuc.org for the Zoom link. Come with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

WRITE FOR BETWEEN THE AISLES

Last chance for Fall Edition submissions is **today**, Published: Sept 1. For guidelines and publication requirements, see www.rwuc.org/between-the-aisles.

LABYRINTH: TAKE TIME FOR RENEWAL

The Labyrinth walk originally scheduled for this Saturday **August 24** has been **cancelled**. Thank you for your interest and support in this practice.

In the Community

SUPPORT FOR JASPER

As some of you know, Jasper United Church burnt down in the wildfires. Should you wish to contribute financial support to relief efforts, you are welcome to do so by donating to the emergency relief fund of the Northern Spirit Regional Council by e-transfer to **northernspirit@united-church.ca** or via cheque sent to the Northern Spirit office: 8510 95 ave NW, Edmonton, AB, T6C 1Y7. Please indicate in the memo line that the money is being sent for wildfire emergency relief, and include your contact information (name, address, and phone number) for tax receipt purposes.

NARAMATA CENTRE

The Naramata Centre, founded in 1947, is a registered ministry of The United Church of Canada. Naramata offers courses, retreats, and intergenerational summer programming. Open to people of all ages, Naramata Centre is an inclusive, welcoming place to connect and deepen in mind, body and spirit. You can find more info on naramatacentresociety.org or check out the pamphlets in the rack near the kitchen.

Worship Notes

As we move forward in the new ministry model at the church we are hosting Discipleship Sunday's once a month where we work toward even more lay leadership. The Gratitude Team over this year and into 2025 will be inviting different groups and committees to share the news of what they do and how the Spirit is at work in our midst. After worship, the group will be at a table in Memorial Hall during fellowship to answer questions about what they do. People who are potentially interested in getting involved in that ministry can inquire about how they can help while eating pie! We are all called to be disciples. We are grateful for all that people do both here at Robertson-Wesley and in the world. Your generosity is helping to make the world a better place.

Cover Image

Cover image is from Pixabay by Peggy Marco. Words added by Rev. Karen Bridges

Lead Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges
Minister of Faith Development and Intergenerational Ministry: Vacant
Minister of Social Justice and Outreach: Vacant
Music Director: Dr. Allan Bevan
Office Administrator: Elyse Munro
Facilities Manager: Brad Campbell

Welcome to Robertson-Wesley

If you would like you can fill out this page, tear it off, and place it in the offering plates at the exits. This form is also available to fill out online at rwuc.org/infocard

Today's Date: _____

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Preferred gender pronouns: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

I would like to subscribe to the email newsletter

- Yes No
- I am new in the community
- I am a visitor
- I am interested in speaking with a minister
- I am considering making this my church

Please put in the offering plate. Thank you

