



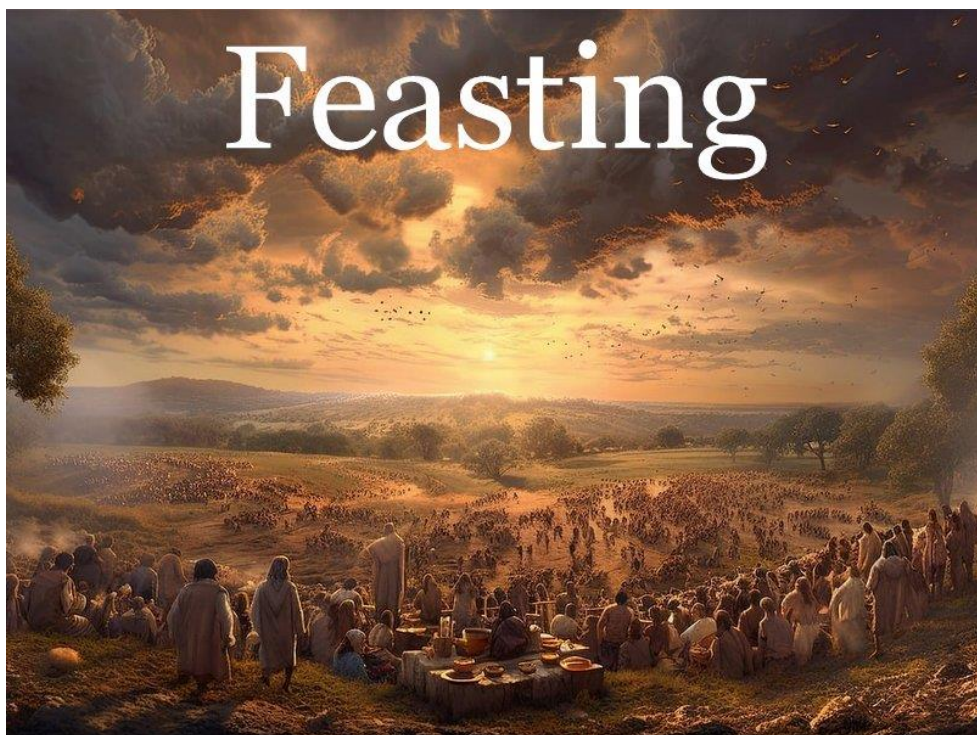
*An Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Canada*

2024 July 28

Life Passages

Pentecost 11

# Feasting



## Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, or differing abilities. 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.

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## **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, located by the grand piano. 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 also activity books available for children. 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.

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

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## *Friends in Christ*

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Announcements at 10:15 AM

Prelude: *Voluntary in E minor*, by John Stanley  
I. Adagio II. Allegro

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Embracing Our Spirit

Introit: *He Will Not Suffer The Foot To Be Moved*, by John Weldon  
Claire Rolheiser, soloist

Call to Worship:

Our God of abundance, infinite in grace, surrounds us with blessings,  
but never overwhelms us with them.

**There is enough, always enough, of what we need.**

But it is hidden, tucked beneath the surface, waiting for us to release it,  
if we will act with generosity and grace.

**So, we gather to learn anew our calling as co-creators with God,  
whom now we worship.<sup>1</sup>**

Hymn: *The Church Is Wherever God's People* **Voices United 579**

**The church is wherever God's people are praising,  
singing God's goodness for joy on this day.**

**The church is wherever disciples of Jesus  
remember his story and walk in his way.**

**The church is wherever God's people are helping,  
caring for neighbours in sickness and need.**

**The church is wherever God's people are sharing  
the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.**

Coming into God's Presence

Rev. Karen Bridges

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## *Life Passages*

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Sacrament of Baptism:

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (*in unison*)

**Eternal God, whose Son the Servant-Lord Jesus Christ has  
commissioned us to make disciples of people of all nations  
baptizing them in your name. May your Spirit be upon us and  
what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in  
Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Congregation's Promise (*standing*)

**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with  
you. With God's help we will live out our baptism as a loving  
community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith,  
upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in  
God's work.**

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Rod Sykes, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2018, p. 34. Used with permission.

*Please note that the last line of the creed (omitted in some of the hymn books) is:*

**We are not alone.  
We live in God's world.  
We believe in God who has created and is creating,  
Who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,  
To reconcile and make new.  
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the church;  
To celebrate God's presence  
To live with respect in creation  
To love and serve others  
To seek justice and resist evil  
To proclaim Jesus crucified and risen  
Our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death  
God is with us,  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.**

Blessing: *(sung)*

*Voices United 454*

**May God who creates you give you light;  
May God who sustains you make you wise;  
May God who protects you give you joy;  
May God who surrounds you give you peace.**

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious and loving God, we confess that we are not always willing to be the people you call us to be. We gather and guard our resources and give only grudgingly, even when we see others' needs. We turn from your Word and prefer our own words, though we know that it is you alone who can teach and save us. We rely on the things of this world, which cannot hope to satisfy our deepest hungers. We are quick to test and judge, though you would have us open our hands and hearts in loving service to those around us.

**Challenge and coax us once again, dear Lord, to set aside our fragmented visions of life and to turn to you in wonder and love. You are the bread from heaven, Lord Jesus. Redeem us from emptiness, which you alone can fill. Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

Words of Assurance:

God does not leave God's people alone and hungry, but gathers us together and feeds us abundantly. As we turn in trust once again to God who makes, redeems, and sustains us, God's own heart is opened to us, inviting us to share in the blessings of God's coming realm. We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> & <sup>3</sup> Written by Sally Shaw and Rob Fennell, *Celebrating Covenant; a Resource for Worship*, (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001), p. 106. Used with permission.

Hymn: *The Lord's My Shepherd*

*Voices United 747*

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
even for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me; and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling place shall be.**

Prayer of Illumination:

God of Grace, as we receive these words - words inspired by you - may we discover your urgings, may they stir our thoughts, may we be empowered to grow, and may we act in ways that reveal who you are to all who would notice. Amen.<sup>4</sup>

Scriptures:

Trisha-Lee Wasmund

Ephesians 3:14-21 • God accomplishes all.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Creator, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

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<sup>4</sup> Written by Sheryl McLeod, **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2019, p. 47. Used with permission.

John 6:1-21 • Jesus feeds the multitudes.

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that Jesus was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" Jesus said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of the disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Jesus, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But Jesus said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Loving God,

**We listened; we received insight; we will act on what we heard.  
Amen.**

Solo: *Laudate Dominum*, by W. A. Mozart

Claire Rolheiser, soloist

*Laudate Dominum omnes gentes*

*Laudate eum, omnes populi*

*Quoniam confirmata est*

*Super nos misericordia eius,*

*Et veritas Domini manet in aeternum.*

*Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.*

*Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper.*

*Et in saecula saeculorum.*

*Amen.*

Praise the Lord, all nations;  
Praise Him, all people.  
For He has bestowed  
His mercy upon us,  
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.  
Amen.

Sermon: *Feasting on the Word of God*

Rev. Karen Bridges

Hymn: *Just As I Am*

*Voices United 508*

**Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

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### *Grateful Response*

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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](mailto: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:

**We offer these gifts so that people may know that you are there  
with them on choppy waters and you can help them find  
abundance when they feel they have come up empty. <sup>5</sup>**

Hymn: *Your Hand, O God, Has Guided*

**Voices United 274**

**Your hand, O God, has guided  
your flock from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written,  
full clear, on every page.  
Our forebears owned your goodness,  
and we their deeds record;  
and both of this bear witness:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Verses 1-3, 5**

**Your heralds brought glad tidings  
to greatest as to least;  
they bade them rise, and hasten  
to share the heavenly feast.  
And this was all their teaching,  
in every deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Through many days of darkness,  
through many scenes of strife,  
the faithful few fought bravely  
to guard your people's life.  
Their gospel of redemption,  
sin pardoned, earth restored,  
was all in this enfolded:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.**

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<sup>5</sup> Written by Karen Boivin, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2024, p. 47. Used with permission.



**Your mercy will not fail us,  
nor leave your work undone;  
with your right hand to help us,  
the victory shall be won;  
and then, by earth and heaven,  
your name shall be adored,  
and this shall be our anthem:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.**

Commissioning:

And now may the blessings of a second chance, the deepening awareness of God's presence within and all around, the strength that comes through faith and the abundance of God's love shared with others. Be with each of us, as we leave this time and place of worship to be a blessing in all the places life calls us to be. God in love, for you are loved. Amen.<sup>6</sup>

Postlude: *Jesus Shall Reign*, by John Hatton arr. Raymond Haan

Dr. Allan Bevan, organ

Questions for Reflection:

How will we feast on the word of God together?

How would we work together differently if we were deliberate in sharing Jesus' goal of revealing God's power through each act of ministry?

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## *R-W Report*

### Next Sunday

**Sunday, Aug 4, 2024**

**Pentecost 12**

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

**Scriptures:** Surah Al-Hujurat Ayah 13 (Qur'an 49:13)

Surah Al-Baqarah 256 (Qur'an 4:256)

John 4:5-24 • Woman at the well

**Sermon:** In Spirit and Truth

On the Interfaith Calendar available from the Edmonton Interfaith Centre, Sunday, August 4 is named as Interfaith Awareness Week (Intl). Rev.

Larry Wright will explore how we as Christians within The United Church of Canada are called and challenged to recognize the divine in our neighbours and respond accordingly.

**Music:** Dr. Allan Bevan, organist; Ilona Bevan, soloist; David Kelmer, percussion; Trisha-Lee Wasmund, clarinet; Margery Wright, flute

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<sup>6</sup> Written by Bob Root & Co., **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2021, p. 53. Used with permission.

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun July 28	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
Tues July 30	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm

## ON THE HORIZON

Sun Aug 4	Sunday Worship - <b>Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	10:30 am
	Fellowship - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:30 am
Mon Aug 5	Church Closed	
Tues Aug 6	Labyrinth Walk - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	11:00 am
	Scripture Reflections - <b>Club Room &amp; Zoom</b>	12:00 pm
	Wisdom Seekers - <b>Room 11</b>	7:00 pm
Sat Aug 10	Community Dinner - <b>Memorial Hall</b>	5:00 pm

## Volunteer Opportunities

### COMMUNITY DINNER

We are in need of more volunteers for the Community Dinner on Saturday, **August 10**. To Sign-up visit [rwuc.org/volunteer](http://rwuc.org/volunteer) or use the tablet in the outer office or during fellowship.

## R-W News & Notes

### 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.

### GABRIEL KNEY ORGAN

Thanks to all who attended our organ demonstration last Sunday! R-W is very fortunate to have an instrument crafted by master organ builder Gabriel Kney, which was installed in the church in 1979. Don't forget that you are always welcome to come up to the chancel after service if you have any questions about the organ or how you might get involved in our music program here at RWUC!

### 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](mailto:mail@rwuc.org) for the Zoom link. Come with a bible and a journal, or simply yourself! Tune in when you can.

## LABYRINTH: TAKE TIME FOR RENEWAL

Walk the Labyrinth this Summer in Memorial Hall at Robertson-Wesley United Church. Tuesday **August 6** from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm and Saturday **August 24** from 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

## PET BLESSING

On Sunday **August 18**, there will be a pet blessing on the lawn after worship from 12:30 -1:30 pm. Stop by to get your beloved pet(s) blessed.

## WRITE FOR BETWEEN THE AISLES

Do you write poetry? Have you read a life-changing book lately? Then why not submit something for inclusion in the church's quarterly publication *Between the Aisles*? For guidelines and publication requirements, see [www.rwuc.org/between-the-aisles](http://www.rwuc.org/between-the-aisles). Deadline for Fall Edition submissions is **Aug 11**, Published: Sept 1.

## WISDOM SEEKERS

On Tuesday **August 6** from 7:00 - 9:00 pm in Room 11 at R-W there will be a gathering inviting young adults who have graduated from High School up to people in their 40's to engage in an ancient practice called God on Tap. This is an opportunity to meet new people, to talk about our faith, and to have some fun! Bring a snack to share and a beverage of your choice! You are also invited to bring a symbol or object that might help you describe who God is for you to begin our time of sharing. If you have any questions feel free to contact Rev. Karen Bridges at the church.

## R-W'S 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S WEEKEND: *Spirited....Still*

This weekend will include: celebration, creativity, friends, laughter, tools for spiritual practice, time outdoors, worship & more. Saturday, **September 14th**, 11:30 am to Sunday, **September 15th**, 3:00 pm at Strawberry Creek Lodge, near Warburg, AB. The cost is \$240.00 per person (1 night shared accommodation and 4 meals) or \$255.00 (1 night single accommodation and 4 meals) Your cheque, payment made payable to Robertson-Wesley United Church, will be your registration. Please register early: limit 20 women. A map and information letter with details about what to bring will be available in August. Contact Carol Anne Inglis: [ianandcarolinglis@shaw.ca](mailto:ianandcarolinglis@shaw.ca), Sylvia Duffus: [sduffus@shaw.ca](mailto:sduffus@shaw.ca) or Jill Lambie: [jilllambie@shaw.ca](mailto:jilllambie@shaw.ca) for more information. Registration forms can be found in the pamphlet rack by the kitchen.

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## Worship Notes

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What is sabbath? Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, a day of rest and worship. The origin of the Hebrew *sabbat* seems to derive from the verb *sabat*, meaning to stop, to cease, or to keep. This is of course rooted in the God's rest on the 7th day of creation. The practice of keeping Sabbath is about making room and space to be with God without distractions. Some faith traditions are very clear about what you can and cannot do on the Sabbath, for others, Sabbath can be kept at a certain time every day. For others it is about being intentional about changing our day to day routine and instead doing things that bring us closer to God and to one another. Over the month of July we will be exploring different aspects of the practice of Sabbath.

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## Cover Image

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Cover image is by Meranda Devan on Pixabay. Words added by Rev. Karen Bridges.

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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](http://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

