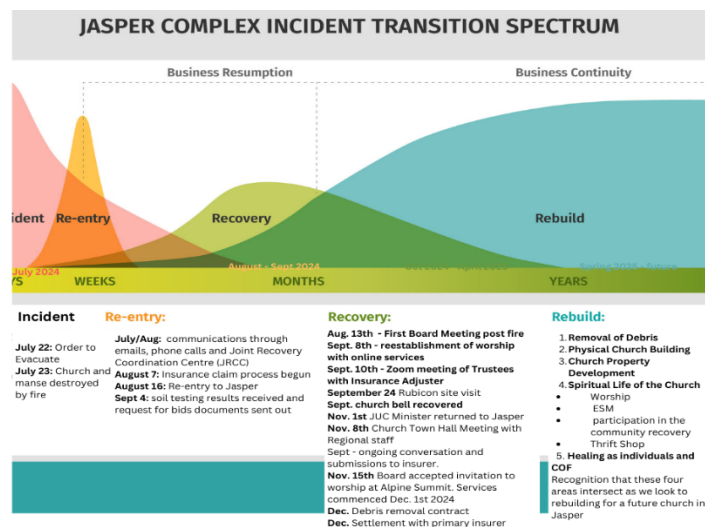


Sunday Wonderings for Sunday January 19th

The recent wildfires in Los Angeles have had widespread effects, including on those of us here in Jasper. Initially, I did not think I was personally affected by the fires beyond empathy for those impacted. However, I now recognize that watching the events unfold has influenced my own anxiety about environmental issues. Witnessing such events can bring up past experiences and emotions related to similar ordeals. We are only a few short months from our own fire, so it is not unexpected if you find yourself triggered.

Trauma has a way of reawakening when we see others going through similar ordeals. Recognizing these feelings as a part of our healing process can be a step towards understanding and eventually overcoming them.

At the Board meeting on Tuesday, I presented a graph outlining our journey since the wildfire in July and the subsequent loss of our church and manse. The graph included four major activities for our rebuilding, but I realized I had omitted an important aspect — the emotional recovery of us as individuals and as a community of faith. I have since updated the graph to include this.



Healing is a non-linear process, with ups and downs. Being part of a supportive community can aid in this journey. On Sunday, we commemorate the Second Sunday of Epiphany. The gospel text from John recounts the Wedding at Cana, where Jesus transforms water into wine. This story illustrates the theme of abundance and can be seen as a metaphor for finding joy even in difficult times. It seems significant too that the abundance is found in community.

We are not alone,

We live in God's world.

We gather on Sunday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM to celebrate this message in worship at Alpine Summit Lodge, located at 509 Turret Street, in the education room on the second floor to the left of the elevator. For those unable to attend in person, virtual participation via Zoom is available using the weekly link.

Here's our Zoom Link:

Topic: JUC Sunday Worship

Time: Jan 19, 2025 10:00 AM Edmonton

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87173038086?pwd=OcbjuF7Mg9njaxxge12FXsAFf2H9XI.1>

Meeting ID: 871 7303 8086

Passcode: 533905

Blessings

Rev. Linda McLaren