



*Gower Street United Church*  
*Summer Newsletter*  
*2020*

**Minister:** The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald  
**Pastoral Care Minister:** The Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray  
**Youth & Family Ministry:** Rebecca Pike  
**Minister Emerita:** The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parody

**Music Ministry:** Dr. D. Dunsmore   **Organist:** R. Carl Goulding  
**Band Director:** Ron Collins  
**Band Director Emeritus:** Dr. Edsel Bonnell  
**Office Manager:** Linda Hogan   **Custodian:** David Noseworthy  
**Board Chair:** Patrick Griffin

99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6   Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145  
E-Mail: [office@gowerunited.com](mailto:office@gowerunited.com)   Website: <https://gowerunited.com>  
Check out our Facebook "fan" page at  
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## **PAR:**

### **PRE-AUTHORIZED CONTRIBUTIONS**

Just because we're not physically together in church doesn't mean your offering can't be received. Have you considered signing up for pre-authorized contributions? If you already have, thank YOU! If you have not, why not? It's terrifically easy and it means **you** know every month how much you're giving and the church can count on the **regular** income, even if you're not able to be at the service.

Step 1: Decide how much you would like to contribute each month.

Step 2: Call (709-753-7286) or email ([gsuc@nl.rogers.com](mailto:gsuc@nl.rogers.com)) the church office to set up your contribution.

Now, more than ever, Gower needs to count on our steady and reliable contributions. We're in this together!

#### **Did you know?**

You can set up a monthly donation through e-transfer or Canada Helps. When you make a donation through Canada Helps you are **not** obligated to make the \$3.00 donation to Canada Helps that appears at the bottom of the donation screen.

## JOINT VENTURE IN FAITH — GOWER MINISTRY TEAM

*“What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own.” – 1 Corinthians 12:20 (The Message Translation)*



In this part of Corinthians Paul’s picture of the cooperative human body is an illustration of how each one of us is vital to the health of the church. All parts are significant, no one part is more important than another. Everyone in our community is necessary and important, every gift God gives has purpose and place to help fulfill creation.

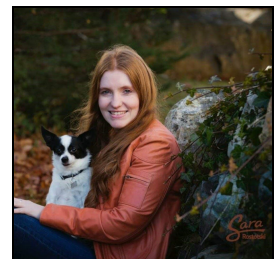
Since our building closed in March, the work of being a church is active. As a ministerial team we have been using our gifts to keep our community active and connected. We do not do this alone. Your support, communication, and sense of community sustain and empower us to do ministry together. That we miss gathering with you each week for worship and work together is an understatement. We have experienced in this time how beautiful, strong, and wonderfully woven together our community of faith truly is! We hold you each in prayer and thought!



As we have grown into our new way of doing worship and staying connected as a community, we applaud the many who have come forward to share their gifts for service. We are grateful the way many of you have come forward to help, to share the innovative ideas you bring, and the sharing of how you are. While we are grateful for all the messages received, please keep reaching out ... we love hearing from you!

With summer fast approaching, we hope that you all are gifted with opportunities to enjoy yourselves in the safety of the new open guidelines! We look forward to this for ourselves as well – to connect safely with family and friends and enjoy the warmer weather. As we all enjoy summer, in a different way, worship will continue throughout July and August via our digital means. We are blessed to have so many people willing to share their gifts and talents in front of the camera and behind the scenes – our various readers, our children, and to name some in particular Ken, Doug, Carl, Grace, and Florence.

Along with Worship, Rebecca has started reading *Charlotte’s Web* in the weekly family videos. Rev. Ettie will continue weekly prayer while apart. On a monthly basis, as your ministerial team we



continue to publish [our blogs](#) throughout the summer. As long as we journey through this pandemic we will continue to seek ways our community will remain connected and hold space for each of us to offer our gifts!

This summer we move forward in the venture of being in community together in ways different from before COVID-19, with the hope of a community that has weathered many storms we will, filled with the Spirit of life, gather again before we know it. Meanwhile, for now we want you to know that we are grateful for you. You are honoured, your gifts are valued, and we are here for you!



Blessings,  
Rev. Pamela, Rev. Ettie and Rebecca



## **ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM!**

It seems all we hear about from everyone and everywhere these days is all about Zoom. Many Church Councils, Boards, Groups and Committees are using it as well some Churches are even holding services using Zoom. Some of the advantages of using Zoom include its wide usage, it is easy to share documents, slides or pictures, you can see and hear all other participants, can control who enters the meeting and it is easy to access.

Zoom is free to all participants and should you want to host calls or meetings you can do so for free if you keep your meetings to less than ¾ of an hour. Otherwise cost starts at about \$20.00 per month. When you download Zoom you will see the costing structure and decide if you wish to subscribe. Remember that to participate in a Zoom call it doesn't cost you anything!

So for those among us who are slightly less technically attuned we are providing a quick overview of how to use Zoom and two other applications. But rather than for me to try to explain how to use Zoom I have found an excellent YouTube video called "[Joining a Zoom Call for the First Time](#)". This [document](#) explains how to use Zoom on an iPad or Android device.

These additional links provide guidelines on other ways of staying in touch over the Internet: [FaceTime](#) for Apple users and [Messenger Video Chat](#) for Facebook users. We hope you find these useful. Any questions? Although we are not experts we are here to help get answers to your questions. Email us: [comm@gowerunited.com](mailto:comm@gowerunited.com)

Good luck, stay safe and happy Zooming!!!!

*Communications Committee: Dave Robbins, Jill Handrigan, Ken Butt, Lorne LeDrew, Rev. Pamela, Patrick Griffin, and Rebecca Pike*

## **SUMMER PLANS DURING COVID-19 PHYSICAL DISTANCING**



This time of physically distancing has resulted in our community not getting to share in coffee and conversation weekly like we normally do. We know that this has meant we have missed the chance to share stories. We have reached out to some members of our community to share with us their summer plans, memories and stories. We thank all those who have contributed and welcome others to send [Rebecca](#) stories or events you would like to share, and we can share them with our community! Pictures are also welcomed!

**From Dana Collins & Family:** This summer, Gerard and I are celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in July. Rev. Parly performed the ceremony. This summer we hope to have lots of sunshine to enjoy swimming! To Hayley,

summer means freedom. Some of our favourite summer activities are swimming, hiking, seeing friends, backyard fires, and many more. We always love a summertime visit to Bonavista!

**From Kate Griffin:** This summer, I am looking forward to Swimming, going for quad rides at Lily's cabin, going to Gros Morne (fishing and kayaking). Summer means free time, going to beaches, eating ice creams, swimming, hiking the East Coast Trail, to me. My favourite activities in summer are hiking, kayaking, swimming and biking. Places in Newfoundland that you could visit are East Coast Trail, Grand Falls, and Gros Morne.

**From Roberta and Lloyd Gill:** There is one particular place that quiets our minds just to think about it, never mind actually going there, and that's Cape Freels Beach – more than 1 km of pristine sand and sand dunes with hardly a creature to disturb the solitude, except the occasional plover or sandpiper, which in fact adds to Nature's beauty. Needless to say, just to walk on the beach again is a goal for this Summer – especially this Summer, because, after 17 years living and working in Australia, our middle child and our two little Australian grandchildren (soon to be joined by their Daddy) are home "for good," and hopefully they will all be walking with us. And, as if that weren't reason enough to make merry, we will be celebrating our 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on July 1<sup>st</sup> – a good way to kick things off!

**From Matt Griffin:** This summer, I am looking forward to fishing, biking, going to Lily's cabin, and going to Gros Morne.

For me, summer means fun, sun, time with friends and family, biking and fishing. Also, of course, it means no school! Some of my favourite summer activities are biking, fishing, quad rides, hanging out with friends, campfires. Particular places in our province think people should visit Grand Falls and Gros Morne.



**From the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy:** In the past, my favourite sermon text to enter the summer, after a busy year, was from Mark 30: 31: "... Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile." This year it is: "...I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy" (I Timothy 1:4). Online worship at Gower and across the country has had its special blessings; what is missing is the community of face-to-face people. This summer, through reading and meditation, I want to ponder what is the significance of community – a faith community – and how we might seek truth and justice through working with people of all faith communities – our Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh neighbours among others. I want to continue to honour front-line workers who risk their

health for my benefit and the common good and those businesses and organizations who are struggling to “transition” back to work in healthy, safe ways. Honouring includes adhering to physical distancing, wearing masks and washing hands frequently, etc. As I “breathe” the freshness of ocean air and the sweetness of the sun following the rain, I will be reminded that many in our province, country and the world cannot “breathe” (George Floyd’s last cry for his mother and “I cannot breathe” are haunting) because of racism, poverty, inadequate physical and human resources for seniors in many long- term care homes and other injustices. In the midst of all of this, I hope to enjoy a few walks and BBQs, read a few murder mysteries and have a few laughs along the way as I look forward, regardless of the length of time, to being in “community” in our awe-inspiring, historic Gower church building with you again.



**From Gwen Alcock:** While I have no special occasions this year, if we reach COVID-19 Level 2, I will celebrate being able to spend time and share social events with friends from ‘outside my

bubble.’ This summer I look forward to many things including:

- Sharing visits and meals with family and friends at our house in Cupids
- Enjoying quiet days relaxing on the deck
- Tending my herb, veg and flower pots
- Making jams and pickles as berries and veggies come into season
- Warmth and sunshine
- Our annual ‘total family weekend’ with children grandchildren, niece and nephew and their families
- The multi-family get-together on Regatta Day (we have been doing this for so long that there are three generations represented now!)
- The W and S luncheon
- Maybe worshipping in our beautiful sanctuary again
- Plus, so much more!

Summer means a less hectic or structured lifestyle – taking time to ‘smell the roses.’ Everyone is more relaxed, more inclined to sit and chat, or read, knit, listen to the birds, turn off the TV, listen to music. It is a gentler time. Some of my favourite summer activities are all those above, except to add swimming and occasional day trips (with picnics!) around the area. Some favourite places around the province are Salvage, the Bonavista Peninsula, Twillingate area, Change Islands, the Avalon North area, watching the whales from the cliffs at the Ferryland lighthouse or Bonavista lighthouse,

Western Brook Gorge and the Humber Valley. We live in a beautiful province with diverse scenery – something to suit everyone, from the least to the most adventurous.

**Update on Elizabeth’s journey, from Karen Tuck:**



*This photo was taken in the Tuck home on January 6th, 2007 portrays the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parry (then Senior Minister of Gower Street United) and Elizabeth Tuck. Marion was Moderator, 2000-2003, and Elizabeth was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 2019.*

Elizabeth has not come home from New Brunswick yet. At first, we thought it was wise for her to stay on the mainland as it might be easier to get to England

from there in the fall. Now it seems that the first semester will be offered through distance, so Elizabeth intends to come home in mid-August and conduct her studies at Oxford from our dining room table!

Elizabeth’s first year of study will be centred around comparing social policies on an international scale and the impacts of those policies upon marginalized groups within the specific state, nation, or country. Her second year will involve narrowing her focus to researching how legal practices, laws and systems are applied to and affect vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Since graduation from St. Thomas, she has been fortunate to get some employment for short periods (doing research for various groups, a page in the legislature when it is open, etc.), so she is managing well. She will make it physically to Oxford in due course.

The Rhodes people are excellent at keeping in touch and providing updates and information.

