

Message from Ministry Team

Prepared by Rev. Ettie & Rev. Rebecca

Hello friends,

As our journey brings us to Thanksgiving and the end of the Season of Creation in the greater Season of Pentecost, let us pause for a few moments to look back and look ahead. Looking back, we can be grateful for the long days of summer – the times we were able to enjoy the outdoors – on a deck, in a yard, by a brook, or through an open window. We can be grateful for the freedom we enjoyed in our gatherings while we continue to learn to live with COVID-19.

Looking ahead, we appreciate the beauty and richness of the fall season – a sense of intensity as we return to regular activities – worship, church meetings, hearing the choir (a real blessing after almost two years of absence). Do you also feel that sense of urgency from the natural world – a somewhat contradictory invigorating feeling as nature prepares for a time of rest?

We, too, prepare for the winter season. In our church calendar, the long Season of Pentecost comes to a close. We move inward in our homes and within ourselves as we ready ourselves for the reflective Season of Advent. While we prepare spiritually for a thoughtful time through Advent, habitually, we prepare outwardly to gather with family and friends.

Thanksgiving – traditionally a harvest festival to celebrate the ingathering of crops from our Mother, the Earth – today, for many, who live in urban settings, it has become a time to gather with family and friends to acknowledge and give thanks for the gifts of Creation's abundance

as apparent in the vast varieties of foods available to us from our gardens and marketplaces.

We express gratitude for life-giving relationships and ask God's blessing for relationships that falter and those in need throughout our world. The feast of Thanksgiving marks the end of the Season of Creation in the greater Season of Pentecost; wherein lies food for thought...

We, your ministry team, invite you to ponder with us this Thanksgiving, the idea of an end to Creation Time – an inconsistency considering the broader awareness in which we celebrate Creation and all its manifestations as interdependent, intricately woven interrelated parts of one whole. We invite you to share your comments with us via email or phone. (youthminister@gowerunited.com, pastoralcare@gowerunited.com, 753-7286 or 709-693-3696).

It is reminiscent of the ancient political metaphor used by Paul to describe the delicate balance and interrelationship of all parts of the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12: 1-31)

With those thoughts in mind we leave you with a prayer of thanksgiving for the earth – ever mindful of the subtle web of life of which we are part.

Our Blessing for You

*May you have gratitude before you, gratitude behind you,
gratitude to the left of you, gratitude to the right of you,
gratitude above you, gratitude below you, gratitude within
you, gratitude all around you.*

Thanksgiving for the Earth

*Adapted From Celebrating Creation: Honouring Indigenous People,
Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ECLA [Evangelical Lutheran Church]*

Creator, the strength of all creatures, we honour you.

Listen to the thoughts of your people.

We honour your Spirit who renews the world and calls us to care for your creation to the East,
to the South, to the West and to the North.

We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life. Come Great Spirit as we
gather in your name.

(We turn our bodies [our minds as we are able] to the Four Directions as we pray the following
prayers. Begin by turning toward the East and continue to turn, with each prayer, in a
clockwise direction)

We face the East: The place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning; there the seeker finds
new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honour life around them, all who honour life
within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray,

Come Holy Spirit, Come

We turn to the South: In the South, the place of growing, there is wisdom in the earth, both the
painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the earth gives up her lifeblood so that her
children's hearts may beat, so we give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath
our feet. And we pray,

Come Holy Spirit, Come

We turn to the West: The place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of the servants,
who proclaimed the Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace.

And we pray,

Come Holy Spirit, Come

We turn to the North: We look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and
rain. To Jesus, who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the
people. And the Holy Spirit, who comes to inspire us. And we pray,

Come Holy Spirit, Come



What's Up At Gower ?



GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH

ALL OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE FOR BRIDGES TO HOPE

TO MAKE A DONATION
BRING A NON-PERISABLE FOOD ITEM OR MONETARY GIFT TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNING OR DROP IT OFF DURING OFFICE HOURS



Food Drive

♥ thank you for your donation ♥



Gower's Sanctuary A/V Display, Broadcast and Record System

Prepared by Ken Butt

Gower began live online broadcasting of its services in the Spring of 2020. This first single-camera system quickly became an essential tool in the church's ability to stay active throughout the COVID-19 shutdown periods. By the Fall of 2020, it became clear to the Ministry and Board for a need to be able to bring this online visual experience to Gower's sanctuary, especially during in-person events and services during the remaining COVID-19 restrictions timeframe. A system upgrade was envisaged and approved by the Board on October 15, 2020. This would provide higher quality, professional-looking live streaming, large screen projection and recording of its Sunday church services and in sanctuary concerts/events. In addition to providing a higher quality of service, the system would be managed/operated by a single trained operator on most occasions.

By the summer of 2021, the new equipment was in place and operational, complete with large screen projection and multiple view cameras. Since the spring of 2020, we have produced over 50 live-streamed services and well over another 50 pre-recorded services and ministry supporting videos. The number of nationwide views by folks over this time has exceeded 20,000. For those fiscally minded readers, the system was completed on time and within its approved budget





Treasurer's Report September 2021



Prepared by Fred Earle

The most recent financial report presented to the Board of Directors was for the current fiscal year up to July 31, 2021. At that time, we showed a shortfall of expenses over revenues of (\$28,198) for January 01 to July 31, 2021. This is worse than for the same period in 2020, which showed a deficit of (\$10,647) but much better than we were in 2019, which showed a shortfall of (\$52,983) for the first seven months of the year.

Congregational support through your contributions has been strong and has helped us operate at the level that we have done so this year. This support has been vital as we have seen such a decline in other revenue, such as facility rentals. Over the past three years, the income for the first seven months of the year has been as follows:

	2021	2020	2019
Donations & Support	\$119,631	\$116,964	\$92,360
Rentals	\$17,300	\$13,100	\$23,680
Covid 19 Supports	\$10,000	\$22,034	\$0

Fortunately, rental revenue has seen some improvement over the past year with the continued support of Etcetera as well as Stella's Circle utilizing some of the space for training and workshops. We were also able to maintain operations through the Covid-19 crisis through the support of the federal and provincial programs available for organizations such as ours. As well, our investment and bequest income remains stable at around \$70,000 per year.

Our expenditures for the first seven months of the year are as follows, Salaries – \$133,136, Heat & Electricity \$27,504, Insurance \$15,650, Property repairs \$11,565, East District assessments \$10,119 and all other expenditures \$14,991.

We have projected a budget shortfall this year of (\$27,050). With the continued strong support of the congregation, we should be able to maintain that level of deficit and hopefully improve.



Gower Community Band

Prepared by Ron Collins

The members of the Gower Community Band are happy to be back in the band room this fall. Due to pandemic restrictions in place last year, our rehearsals took place in the church, using the area in front of the altar right up through the choir loft and even onto the side balconies. This allowed us to socially distance and keep the band going. Ron Collins and the band members are very grateful to all the staff and administration at Gower for the use of the facility in this way. Rehearsing in this way meant we were able to continue, but it was not without some difficulties, mostly in the reduced ability of each band member to hear the other band members who were so widespread. Due to low COVID-19 case numbers and significant vaccinations by September, we made the decision to return to the band room. Our first three rehearsals have been joyous, bringing back the beauty of hearing each other as we have played new music together. We will continue to monitor the pandemic situation closely and make adjustments as needed to ensure the safety, comfort, and positive mental health of all band members.

While our activities are not fully set yet, we will take part in the October 16th performance to celebrate the building's 125th anniversary. We also hope to have a concert of our own before the end of November, followed by some Christmas performances in December. We have taken our first cautious steps towards "normal" and hope to continue to be able to make music ring from the band room every week.

