

PENTECOST NEWSLETTER



Hello Friends,

We have celebrated the jubilant Day of Pentecost – the day that commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ followers while gathered in Jerusalem, imparting to them energy and enthusiasm to carry on Jesus’ mission – a mission which evolved into our Christian church.

In Jesus’ Jewish contest, the Festival of Weeks or Pentecost (Leviticus 23:16-17) occurred fifty days after Passover. In our Christian context, with different emphasis, it occurs fifty days after the Resurrection. In Jesus’ day, as a pilgrimage festival of obligation, participants gathered in Jerusalem for its rituals. In our Christian context, the Day of Pentecost commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and other followers of the Way of Jesus.

The Day of Pentecost also acts as the threshold of the longest season of our liturgical year – the Season of Pentecost. In recent times interjected with a season within a season designated – Creation Time.

Often on the Day of Pentecost, the scripture text we hear and reflect on comes from the Book of Acts – which describes the gathering of a diverse group of people and the Pentecost event. Now, permit us to share with you an encounter and experience of what

could be called a Pentecost moment that has its setting on the evening of the joyful Resurrection Day – fifty days earlier than the time we acknowledge as the Day of Pentecost – intriguing, wouldn’t you say!

Within the twentieth chapter of the Gospel of John, we hear of Jesus appearing to the Disciples and of Thomas’ doubting (John 20: 19-29). In looking at this text, some of the words and phrases call to our attention a connection to the message of Pentecost. Three phrases that caught our attention were “peace be with you,” he “breathed on them,” and “receive the Holy Spirit.”

That the setting of this episode of our story takes place on the evening of the day of Resurrection in a locked room where the disciples had gathered out of fear, and Jesus stood amongst them was also significant. That passionate love of God and the presence of God with us can overcome all obstacles – it can infiltrate locked doors – indeed, not only ordinary locked doors but the locked doors of our hearts and minds and open us to new ways of communicating and of being.

Next, Jesus reminds those gathered in the locked room and us that the call to discipleship is not without its obligations: ‘Just as God, my parent– appointed me to work toward the fulfillment of God’s vision for Creation so, by that authority I appoint you’ Jesus says.

Then in the intimacy of being as close as a breath, he completes the assignment of authority to those called to carry on his mission – he breathed on them... as he breathed on them, he offered to empower them with renewed energy and motivation for the task at hand. In the intimacy of his breath, he breathed the words ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’ – the life-giving, life-sustaining Spirit of God... Here, hours after the discovery of the empty tome, we are given a foretaste of the Day of Pentecost – some fifty days in the future... ...and here we are now about to enter into that future...

As current day followers of Jesus – through hearing these words, we have been breathed on and offered the gift of the Spirit of life – the enabling Spirit that enlivens us to make a difference – in heart, attitude, and action. How will you respond?

Our hope and prayer for us as we begin our faith journey into the season of Pentecost is that God may bless us all with peace and deepening understanding into our part, in action and spirit, as present-day disciples who inhabit the earth and are entrusted to passionately care for each other and all of creation in God’s realm – in our time.

Blessings,
Rev. Pamela, Rev. Ettie, & Rev. Rebecca

GOWER & MUSIC NL



PLAY
ON GOWER

At the congregational meeting on Sunday, May 29, the congregational vote decided that our community would move forward with the rental partnership with MUSIC NL.

This is an exciting time for our faith community! Not only in terms of the financial implications but also the outreach possibilities it will provide for our church in the downtown core and wider province.

A huge thank you to Patrick Griffin, Board Chair and Ken Peters, Chair of Finance, for their commitment of time, negotiations, meetings and discussions with MUSIC NL over the past year to bring this venture to reality.

You can learn more about MUSIC NL on their website: <https://musicnl.ca/>.



NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, June 5, we were delighted to welcome new members to our Gower community via baptism, confirmation, and transfer or membership during our morning worship.

In partnership with Rev. Oliver from Cowan Heights, Rev. Rebecca started Confirmation classes in late April. This faith exploration and learning journey ended with the Confirmation of Lily Abbott and Matt Griffin here at Gower. Cowan Heights also had their confirmation worship on Sunday, June 5, with the confirmation of Jack Martin with their community.

We welcomed Rev. Hubert Mercer, Meghan McKibbin and Stephen Gray, who transferred their membership to Gower over the past two years. We welcomed Baby Maxim Power and his family in the Sacrament of Baptism.

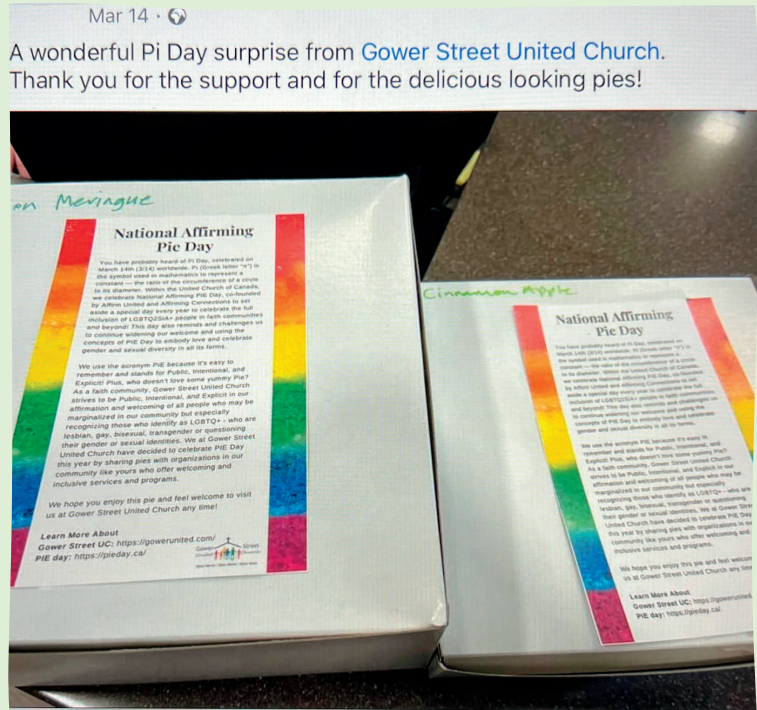
It was a joyous day of relationship and new life in our community. We look forward to all the gifts each individual offers our community.

Rev. Pamela also baptized Lily and Matt as babies at St. James United Church; the Griffin and Abbott families shared these photos of that special day with us for a little throwback.



GOWER AFFIRM

The Gower Affirm Advisory committee thanks all who supported our PIE Day Fundraiser. We could share pies with various community groups on March 14 and share a little about ourselves and our commitment to being Public, Intentional and Explicit in our welcoming of all. Jane Halliday made all the pies, and we also extend gratitude to her for supporting this project with us!



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On June 5th, we celebrated Pride Sunday with a coffee time hosted by the Affirm Committee.





We thank Lima Spurrell and others who help care for our flower beds and trees around our building!



On May 4th, we had our covenanting worship with Rev. Rebecca. We welcome Rev. Grant Stuckless from the First Dawn Eastern Edge Region and Rev. Guy Matthews to preach.

Thanks to all who joined us for this special evening and the worship and sacraments committee for hosting a cup of tea after the worship.

LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL



Sunday, September 18: Welcome Back Sunday - Kick off to fall, start of Gower Learners.

Sunday, October 2: Worldwide Communion Sunday

Thursday, October 6: Concert for Bridges to Hope

First two weeks of November: Online Auction will include the traditional Men's Club Auction.

COMING SOON

Other things to events or gatherings to keep an eye out for more information on:

Gower Youth and **Sundaes on Friday** starting dates will be shared in August.

First Dawn Eastern Edge **Youth Forum** in early October.

A **Stewardship Dessert Party and Concert** in October.

An Octogenarian Fundraiser celebrating people turning or who have turned 80 in our community!