

The people of Gower Street United Church are committed to doing right by Jesus' teachings: loving, serving, giving generously in our local, regional, and global communities. We envision a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged.

We are dedicated to being welcoming and affirming, engaging participation of all, including people of any age, colour, race, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, family composition, and social or economic circumstances.

We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we live, work and worship as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. This province of Newfoundland and Labrador is home to diverse populations of Indigenous and other peoples who have contributed to 9,000 years of history. We acknowledge with respect the deep histories and cultures of the Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuit. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As seekers of justice, we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.



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Bold indicates unison.
Rise in body and spirit as you prefer.
The projected text in white is a communal response.

Today's bulletin is dedicated to the loved ones who have been significant on my faith journey.
My grandmothers **Mary Dearing** (deceased) and **Eva Jones** (deceased) who taught me about the power of prayer and faith. My grandfather, **Jabez Jones** (deceased), who taught me the power in delicious food and feeding others. In turn the spirit of hospitality. My grandfather **John Dearing** who passed when I was 2. He gave me the first taste of salt meat (sustenance for the journey!)

My mom, **Judy Jones** who taught me about perseverance in faith and continue to care for my children so that I am able to further my career. My dad, **John Jones** who taught me the many lessons in the "loaves and the fishes" and the power of doing without to give to others.

Both my parents continue to teach me about unconditional love and the power held in forgiveness.
My mother-in-law and father-in-law **Maureen** (deceased) and **Michael Fitzgerald** who furthered my understanding of kindness and family love and continue to care for my children so that I am able to further my career.
The **participants of Stella's Circle** who taught me about deep humility and the power held in community and a "hand up, not a hand out."

My husband **Scott** who has been with me every step of the way in patience, guidance and deep love.
My furry friend of 12 years, **Max**, whose cuddles and daily walks continue help to ease the burden of ministry and life's stresses.
My children **Sophie, Nathan and Julia**, who are my greatest gifts and the loves of my life. They hold my proudest moments.
Rev. Pamela

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: [06]

We sing: VU 18 There's a Voice in the Wilderness. Ascension

Words of Welcome:

No matter who you are, where you come from, how you come to be here, what you believe or what you are questioning, you are welcome in fullness.

Gathering Words:

We come with expectant hearts, waiting for light to break into our world.

Amid waiting, God brings good news to the weary, comfort to the broken, and joy to all.

We gather as people of hope, people of peace, and people of joy, trusting that God's Spirit is already at work among us.

Come, O Jesus. Renew our hearts with your joy.

Gathering Prayer:

Gracious God, on this Third Sunday of Advent, we rejoice in your nearness.

Even in seasons of uncertainty, your joy breaks through like dawn.

Open our eyes to see the signs of your coming.

Open our hearts to receive your compassion.

Open our lives to reflect your joy in a world longing for light.

As we prepare the way for the babe born in a manger,

fill us with the courage to rejoice,

the strength to hope,

and the peace that only your presence can bring.

Amen.

Advent Unwrapped Video: Joy

Advent Candle Lighting: The Pitt family
(David, Catherine, Elijah and Penelope)

Joy is a star.

Sparkling, dancing, never quite the same.

Stars are there in daylight yet only appear in the rich depths of night.

Always, in our waiting, joy is there.

Joy is a waiting star.

(The candle is lit.)

May the gift of this candle's bright flame, remind us of God's gift of Joy.

Sung response: We light this candle, vs. 3 Pat Mayberry

We sing: VU 19 Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark
(*Please remain seated, and sung twice*) Iona Community

Young people are invited to Gower Learners with Rev. Karen.

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A reading of the gospel Matthew 11:2-11

John's disciples visit Jesus.

Advent Gospel Response: Alleluia.

Anthem: Gabriel's Message Basque trad. arr. Edgar Pettman

We sing together: VU 707 (vs.1,2) For the Faithful Who Have Answered
Hyfrodol

THE 25TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY OF REV. PAMELA JONES-FITZGERALD

Introduction: Jonathan Stevenson, Board Chair

"Defining Moments" in Pamela's Life and Ministry;

Tribute from The Rev. Dr. Nancy Hardy,

Pamela's Internship Supervisor, White Oaks United Church, London, Ontario, 1998-99:

The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, Minister Emeritus

Rev. Pamela's Ministry at Gower: Marie-Beth Wright, Co-Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

Recognition of Heather Reeves; Creator of Liturgical Stole: Jonathan Stevenson, Board Chair

Presentation of Gift: Roberta Gill, Co Chair, Ministry & Personnel Committee, with Ken Slaney, Chair, Worship and Sacraments

Announcement of further celebration and reception in Lecture Hall:
Jonathan Stevenson, Board Chair

We sing together: VU 707, vs.3 For the Faithful Who Have Answered
Hyfrodol

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH OUR MINISTRY

You can offer your financial gifts to Gower Street United Church in many ways. As you leave the sanctuary, there are offering plates where you may lay your offerings. You can also continue to drop off offerings in the secure mailbox outside the church office, or you can donate via E-Transfer, using the email address gsuc@nl.rogers.com. You can also scan the QR code on your mobile device to be brought directly to our website page.



A Moment for Affirm

International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Jill Handrigan, Affirm Committee

Gathering our Gifts: We bring these offerings this day as part of our commitment to caring for others. **We bring these offerings as part of our support of God's purposes in the world. We bring these offerings as our way of bringing joy to the lives of others.**

We sing: VU 34 Come Now, O God of Peace O-So-So

Offering Prayer: Loving God, truly there is enough for all, if we only learn to share it. **Help us to share what we have with those who are most in need. Amen.**

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus:

**Our Parent in Heaven, whose love knows no bounds,
Your name is holy, held in the highest regard.
May Your realm of love, acceptance, and justice come,
May Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,
Guiding us to honour each other's dignity and worth.
Give us today our daily bread, the sustenance we need,
And forgive us our prejudices as we forgive those who are prejudiced against us, lead us away from
judgment and deliver us from the hands of hatred. For Yours is the realm of unconditional love, the power to
change hearts, And the glory of diversity in unity, now and forever. May all of us, created beautifully and
wonderfully in Your image, Live and love in the spirit of Your Son, who taught us to pray, embracing each
other, as You embrace us all. Amen.**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 25 Lo, He Comes in Clouds Descending
Helmsley

We go out into the world:

Awaken to the Light of Jesus around us,
In nature, in friends, in all your relationships.
Awaken to the Light of Jesus between us
In relationships, in bonds, in fellowship and kinship.
Awaken to the light of Jesus within us
In our gifts, in our love, in our instinct and being.
May we each awaken to the Light of Jesus.
May we each awaken to the gift of JOY.
And may this Joy bless and guide you always. **Amen.**

We sing: VU 22 Wait for the Lord

Postlude : Toccata sur "Il est né, le divin Enfant" Bédard

The Story of the Noah's Ark Stole

As we contemplated a suitable gift for Rev. Pamela's 25th Anniversary of Ordination, we discovered a little secret, via Tony Chadwick, our dedicated Pastoral Care Chair. Rev. Pamela wanting to commission a very suitable personal gift for herself from his wife, Heather, and we just knew it answered our question of what kind of lasting memorial to select for this upcoming celebration! We knew immediately; the Noah's Ark Stole would be the perfect gift from the Gower Community.

The Noah's Ark stole is constructed from linen fabric. The planks of the ark at the bottom of the stole are lined with leather and fur to represent the animals. You will observe that the rain on the right side gives way to clear sky and the returning dove with the leaf, which is located on the left of the stole.

The Creator of the Noah's Ark Stole: Heather Reeves

Heather has worked as a visual artist for most of her adult life, but even as a child she loved to work with construction and embroidered sewing and knitting. In her teen years she widened her horizons and learned to spin, weave and tat lace. She then worked with liturgical textiles. However, for the last thirty years her work has been mixed media with such materials as wax and found old wood and metals. Textile components, either with techniques or fabrics themselves, have always been part of that work. Heather has exhibited in Newfoundland, mainland Canada, the US, Australia and Europe during those years.

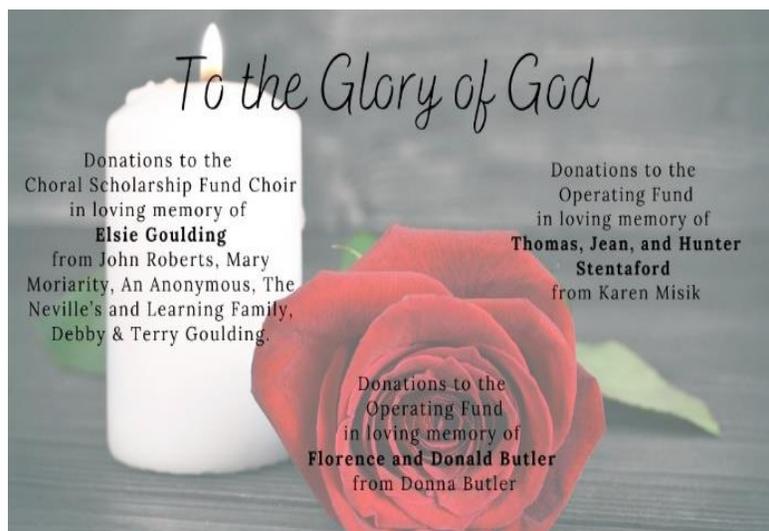
We are extremely fortunate to have such a unique and globally recognized artist prepare our gift for Rev Pamela's 25th Anniversary of Ordination. We thank Heather sincerely for her dedication and determination to meet our deadline so that we could present this special gift on Pamela's important milestone of Christian ministry.

Worship today was inspired by Gathering,

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Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter
Interim Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Karen Thorne
Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy
Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding
Custodian: David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Jonathan Stevenson

What's Up at Gower



COMING UP AT GOWER

Sunday Worship:

December 14: Advent Three

December 21: Advent Four (Blue Christmas)

December 28: First Sunday After Christmas

Benevolent Fund: This is a time of year that the church office has an abundance of requests from our community and neighbors asking for help for Christmas. Help could mean necessary food, medication, and essentials for daily living. Our Benevolent Fund at Gower enables clergy to provide help to those in need. We are asking congregational members to make a one-time donation to this fund during Advent and Christmas so that we can help those in need during this season of plenty. Your financial help is so much appreciated. Please earmark your donation as the Benevolent Fund. You will receive a tax receipt. If there are any questions, please contact Rev. Pamela.

Apply to Be a Discipleship Leader for Collective 2026: We're excited to announce that applications are now open for Discipleship Leaders for Collective 2026, happening August 2026! Collective 2026: (em)brace for Impact | The United Church of Canada is a powerful space where youth, young adults and leaders will come together to **grow, learn, and encounter God in meaningful community. Discipleship** Leaders will play a vital role in shaping that experience—guiding small groups and helping create an environment where faith can flourish.

If you have a heart for mentoring, serving, and walking alongside others in their spiritual journey, we would love for you to prayerfully consider applying.

Learn more and apply here: [Discipleship Groups — Collective 2026](#)