

June 1, 2025 7th Sunday of Easter Rainbow Melodies

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. We also acknowledge the island of Kaimuki (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. 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 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 in loving memory of
Rev. Lloyd Moores
from his wife, Lorraine (Moore) and his loving family.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: We All Gather Here

In the beauty of this place,
We all gather here.
The olive branch and dove
The rainbow we share,
Are symbols of God's love,
In worship, song and prayer.
In the beauty of this place,
We are united here.

In the beauty of this place,
We unite here.
Open minds, loving hearts
God's family, drawn near.
Lives shared, made strong by love,
We celebrate and care.
In the beauty of this place,
We are all safe here.
In the beauty of this place,
We are all safe here.

Gathered now, as one
In fellowship, where
We take the bread and cup
In worship we all share.
In the beauty of this place,
We all belong here.
In the beauty of this place,
We all belong here.

We love and understand
Live freely, no fear.
Differences we celebrate,
God's diversity we share.
In the beauty of this place,
We all gather here.

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.

Acknowledging the Territory

A Moment for Pride

Lighting of the Red Candle:

Katie Doyle

We light the red candle, symbolizing life in all its richness.

Come, let us worship, learn, and celebrate together.

(The candle is lit.)

Gathering Prayer:

Creating God—God beyond Gender,

who makes no mistakes, who surprises us always, who molded the first person both male and female, who molded the first non-gendered human, who loves all creation.

Help us love the diversity of your creation.

Help us accept all varieties of gender in ourselves and in others.

Help us celebrate those who are different from us

That we may learn to love each other as you love us,

We ask this in the name of the Holy One, both human and divine. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Orange Candle:

We light the orange candle, symbolizing healing.

As scripture assures, “If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.”

(Psalm 139:9–10 NRSV) *(The candle is lit.)*

Prayer of Transformation:

Creating Spirit of Mercy,

As we have acknowledged the diversity in this amazing world, created in atoms and molecules but with an underlying spirit of mystery, we must also admit that, at times, we have forgotten the wonders of that diversity.

We have longed for things to be familiar and as they have always been.

We know that the great religious traditions have caused harm in the past and continue to cause harm and pain to those who express their being in ways different than the majority.

We know, too, that we individually, both intentionally and unintentionally, have rejected and shunned those who are not like us.

For this we are truly sorry. We ask your patience as we learn and strive for ways to be more inclusive and celebrate all in this wondrous world. Amen.

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries

Judi Somers

We sing: VU 579 The Church Is Wherever God's People (v. 2)

Getting to know our Neighbors:

Canadian Parents for French

Gaston Létourneau

Lighting of the Yellow Candle:

Gaston Létourneau

We light the yellow candle, symbolizing sunlight.

(The candle is lit.)

We sing: MV 10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom (v. 1)

A Place at the Table: An Invitation to Belong

We sing: MV 21 Open Our Hearts

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A Reading from Scripture: Acts 15:5-13

Nicholas Lim

This reading is a call to “embrace those who are marginalized.” In other words, “to be radically inclusive.”

Response:

We give thanks.

**We are grateful for the wisdom revealed in these words of scripture, in each other and in ourselves.
Amen.**

Lighting of the Green Candle:

Nicholas Lim

We light the green candle, symbolizing nature.

(The candle is lit.)

We sing: MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts (v.1)

A Storybook Reading: *All are Neighbors*

Meghan McKibbon

By: Alexandra Penfold & Suzanne Kaufman

Lighting of the Blue Candle:

Diane Ryan

We light the blue candle, symbolizing harmony.

(The candle is lit.)

We sing: MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts (v.2)

Getting to know our Neighbors:

Stella’s Circle Inclusion Choir

Julia Halfyard

Stella’s Circle Inclusion Choir:

Away From the Roll of the Sea

Be Okay

Music and Friends

Lighting of the Purple Candle:

Natasha Williams

We light the purple candle, symbolizing Spirit.

(The candle is lit.)

We sing: MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts (v.3)

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.



Mission and Service Stories: Advocating Sexual and Gender Minorities in Other Countries

Gathering of Our Gifts

We sing: VU 538 For the Gift of Creation

Prayers for the World

We sing: The Rainbow Connection

Why are there so many songs about rainbows
And what's on the other side?
Rainbows are visions, but only illusions
And rainbows have nothing to hide

So we've been told and some choose to believe it
I know they're wrong, wait and see
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers and me

Who said that every wish would be heard and answered?
We wished on the morning star
Somebody thought of that, and someone believed it
Look what it's done so far

What's so amazing that keeps us stargazing
And what do we think we might see?
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers, and me

All of us under it's spell
We know that it's probably magic
Have you been half asleep, and have you heard voices?
I've heard them calling my name
Is this the sweet sound that calls the young sailors?
The voice might be one and the same

I've heard it too many times to ignore it
It's something that I'm supposed to be
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers and me
La-da-da, de-da-da-do
La-da-da-da-da-de-da-do

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Marking the United Church of Canada's Centennial

We go out into the World:

This morning, we have lit candles:
Red for life in all its forms,
Orange for healing,
Yellow for sunlight and all kinds of light,
Green for nature in all her diversity,
Blue for harmony, and

Purple for the Spirit which guides us all.

We are called to practice this rainbow of colors in our lives—in the conversations and interactions at home, at work, and at play—as we go out into our community and the world to share the message that the Holy One's love is for everyone!

We sing: MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

Postlude

Worship today was inspired by The United Church of Canada, Pride Sunday Worship Resources, 2025.

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Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Youth & Family Minister: The Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter

Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding

Custodian: David Noseworthy

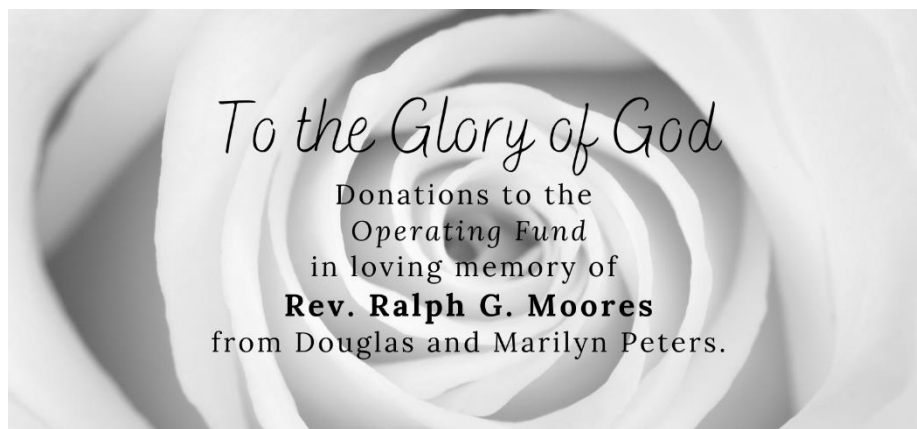
Board Chair: Patrick Griffin

What's Up at Gower

Office Hours: For the week of June 1 to 7, 2025, office hours will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Gower office will be closed on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Gower On the Move: On Thursdays in June at 6:00 p.m., join Rev. Rebecca for a weekly community walk around Kenny's Pond. We will meet at Sir Admiral John's Adventure Mini Golf at 6:00 p.m., weather permitting.

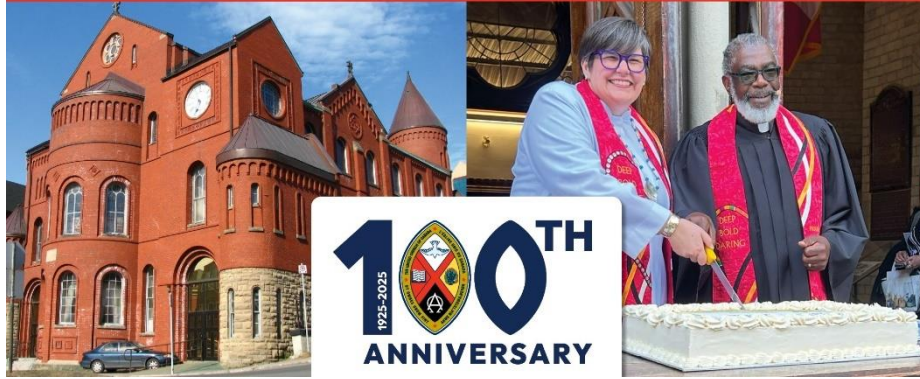
Bridges to Hope: The Annual General Meeting of Bridges to Hope will be held on June 12th, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at First United Church, 221 Park Avenue, Mt. Pearl. Everyone is welcome to attend, to learn more about this important organization and outreach mission. The meeting will be held in Trinity Hall, in the basement, accessed via the side door on Churchill Avenue.



National Centennial Worship, Sunday, June 8: Please note there will be NO 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP on Sunday, June 8, due to practice for the Centennial Worship in the evening. Worship for this day will be at 7:00 p.m. ONLY. Please arrive early to ensure you have a seat in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Pamela.

**National Centennial
Anniversary Service**

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025



We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from **The Centennial Granting Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation** and **the Cultural Fund at Canadian Parents for French**, which helped bring this celebration to life.

