

November 16th, 2025 23rd Sunday After Pentecost Baptism

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.



99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145
E-Mail: office@gowerunited.com Website: <https://gowerunited.com>



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

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Aria Handel

We sing: VU 331 The Church's One Foundation St. Denio

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.

Light of Faith:

We light this candle of faith.

It is a bright light of mercy and grace which guides us through life's journey.

Gathering Words:

Do you want to meet the living God?

Do you want to experience God's love?

Let us put aside our fears, preoccupations, and doubts. Let us put aside the time of this sacred hour and simply rest in the presence of God.

Let us be receptive to opening our hearts in love and expectation.

Come, let us worship!

Gathering Prayer:

Holy One, what a radical thing it is to gather to worship you!

To share what is in our hearts with you and receive your words for us. You come in gentle whispers in our hearts.

You come to us through one another.

You come to us in silence, in life-giving silence.

You come to us through what gives life.

You are closer to us than our own breath.

Open our hearts, our minds, and our understanding, so that we may rest in your presence, trusting in your abundant love for us. Come, O Jesus, come. Amen.

We sing: VU 229 God of the Sparrow Roeder

Welcoming Baby Miles: "Welcome Miles!"

THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

Jesus Blesses Little Children

13 Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Mark 10: 13-15)

Presentation of Candidates:

(Bert Riggs, representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church,

I present:

Miles Adam Power

The Profession of Faith and Promises:

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit? **I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice? **I do, God being my helper.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ? **I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, and love and serve others? **I will, God being my helper.**

Congregational Commitment:

Let us pledge our support and care.

As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the wider community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith - A New Creed

VU 918

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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water:

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation. By water comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Baptism in the name of the Triune God:

Miles, we baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Marking with the Sign of the Cross:

Miles, Child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Laying on of Hands:

Miles, the power of the Holy Spirit works within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Recognizing the Candle:

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

Miles, may the candle lit for you remind us that Jesus said, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God." **Amen.**

Hopes and Dreams for Miles

Presentation to the Congregation

Declaration and Congregational Welcome:

There is one God, one faith, one baptism:

By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body. We are children of the one God, Parent of us all. We welcome you into the community of faith.

We sing: VU 455 This Child of Ours, Vs.2 Aimee
This child of Yours, this miracle
reborn of Water and the Word;
the Book of Life records its name.
You smile and angels celebrate:
this child of Yours, this child of ours

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination: Susan Green
Words about God from God's people.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

A reading from Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25 Susan Green
God shall create joy and delight; the wolf and the lamb together.

A reading from the Gospel: Luke 21:5-19
Persecution in the days to come; trust God!

Anthem: Come, Come Unto Me Ken Dosso

Meditation

We sing: VU 713 I See a New Heaven I See a New Heaven

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.



Gathering our Gifts:

Everything we have is a gift from God, so we in return offer some of these gifts back to God, in gratitude. Our offering will now be received.

We sing: VU 541 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Old 100th

Offering Prayer:

Holy One, you have called us friends and named us partners in your work of Creation. Accept the gifts we bring and bless them for your use, that they may reveal to others the depth of your love for all people and for Creation itself. Amen.

Prayers for the World

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
CWM Rhondda

We go out into the world:

Go forth this day with the confidence of God's love written in your heart. Whatever this week brings, trust that your heart will cling to God and God will guide you with grace and surround you with mercy. **Amen.**

Threefold Amen

Danish

Postlude: Postlude on CWM Rhonnda

Manz

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2025, Year C.

All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-742130 or CCLI Copyright License: 3157095 & Streaming License: 21279189. No portion of services may be recorded or distributed without explicit permission from Gower Street United Church.

Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

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

Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

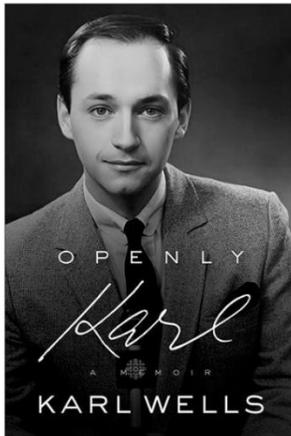
Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding

Custodian: David Noseworthy

Board Chair: Jonathan Stevenson

What's Up At Gower

Bell Choir: Our Bell Choir is an intergenerational group actively seeking new members. The group meets for practice on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. To learn more, please contact Dana Collins (djmcollins331@gmail.com) if interested in joining.



Openly Karl A Lunch and Learn with Karl Wells

Sunday, November 16, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

Worship followed by Lunch and Learn
session with Karl Wells



Lunch and Learn with Karl Wells: Join us on following worship today, for Openly Karl, a Lunch and Learn following worship. This is a time for our community to gather with local writer, broadcaster, actor, and long-time Gower member, Karl Wells and learn about his new memoir and life. We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from The Centennial Granting Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation, which helped bring this event to life.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS LUNCH AND LEARN IS NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN DUE TO BOOK CONTENT.

The Annual Gower Street United Church Congregational Christmas Dinner, sponsored by the Gower Service and Social Club, will take place at the Lecture Hall (auditorium) on Tuesday, December 09, 2025. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will be served starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Carol Sing. The meal will include a traditional turkey dinner catered by Spirit of Newfoundland, with Christmas puddings made by a team of volunteers from Gower. Tickets cost \$30.00 per person and can be purchased from Bert Riggs.

2026 Church Calendars: A limited quantity of United Church of Canada Church Calendars are available from the church office for purchase. The cost for a calendar is \$7:00.

Parade Lunch: Following worship on Sunday, November 30, we will have our traditional Kraft Dinner and hot dog lunch for anyone who wishes to have lunch before heading down to see the Downtown Santa Claus Parade. We hope you can join us. Everyone is welcome!



Seniors Christmas Gala: Tickets on sale now! Our traditional Seniors Christmas Gala will take place on Tuesday, the 25th of November, in the Lecture Hall at Gower Street United Church. Musical entertainment by the Walsh Family. Tickets \$25.00 may be ordered from the Church office on November 13. A slight change from previous years: Doors will open at 4:30 p.m., and the traditional meal will be served starting at 5:00 p.m.

2025 Gower Online Auction: How you can help make it a success! We are seeking your help in obtaining donations of items and in particular items exceeding \$100 in value for this year's online Auction. We will be providing a tax-deductible receipt for all items exceeding this amount, so please be our ambassador in soliciting donations from business or individuals who can provide such items. An official letter that you can provide any potential donors can be found here or picked up at the Church. Please bring items to the Church Office on **November 18 and 19 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** The Auction, which will be found at www.bartlettauctions.com, will open at noon on **Sunday, November 23 and close the following Sunday, November 30 at 7:00pm!** We look forward to your support and if you have any questions please contact Bert Riggs.

Donations to Seniors Gala: We are looking for small Christmas items to fill the Christmas baskets. These can be brought along on Sunday, dropped off at the office, or picked up by a committee member. Contact Linda Nickerson at 782-1288.