

October 12, 2025 18th Sunday after Pentecost Thanksgiving Sunday

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.

Today's bulletin is dedicated to memory of Albert Spurrell with gratitude from the family.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Festival Voluntary

Peeters

We sing: VU 217 All Creatures of Our God and King
Lasst Uns Erfreuen

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 offer a thank you Gracious God for all creation. Today we speak of thankfulness; red like maple leaves, yellow like birch leaves, orange like oak leaves: The colors of fall are the colors of fire.

We light this faith-light in gratitude, O Wonderful Creator, for the love of Jesus, in gratitude, for the changing season, in gratitude, for this day.

Gathering Words:

Thanksgiving, as a holiday weekend and celebration, shares elements with other weekend holidays.

Still, it is unique with its focus on giving thanks.

The word *thanksgiving* leads us to ponder:

What for? Why do we devote a day, a weekend, to giving thanks?

Since it is now a time-honored tradition, it is, no doubt, set in its ways.

Is Thanksgiving 2025, for us, sufficiently porous to allow in "the new" so that we may truly celebrate in thanksgiving?

In worship we give that question space.

Gathering Prayer:

Creator God, provider of seed, water, and sun,

We give thanks to you!

For the health and energy of bodies to complete the harvest,

We give you thanks!

For the support of families as we labour,

We give you thanks!

For neighbors who pool resources to bring in the harvest,

We give you thanks!

For your amazing love and grace,

We give thanks to you! Hallelujah! Amen!

We Sing: VU 516: Come, You Thankful People, Come, v. 1 - 3
St. George's Windsor

Circle Time

We Sing: VU 516 Come, You Thankful People, Come, v. 4
George's Windsor

St.

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Bert Riggs

Gracious God, on this day of gratitude, we give thanks for your abundant blessings. **As we turn to your Word, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit. Shine your light upon the Scriptures, that we may hear your voice, receive your truth, and respond with lives full of thanksgiving and praise. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

A Reading from Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9

Bert Riggs

The peace of God which all understanding.

A reading from the Gospel: John 6:35, 41-51

Give us the bread from heaven for eternal life.

Choir: Eat This Bread

Taizé

Anthem: Look at the World

Rutter

Meditation

We sing: VU 381 Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life

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.

Minute for Prayer Shawl Ministry

Ruth Francis



Gathering our Gifts

We sing: VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

Offering Prayer:

Great Giver, God of the Harvest, Creator of all—thank you for this day. Thank you for the harvest. We thank you for each other. Thank you very much for your love. Let our commitments be blessed by you and let all we give and receive be in love. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 236 Now thank We All Our God Nun Danket

We go out into the world:

Go into the world, following Jesus and seeking his Way.

We go into the world aware of the challenges that are present.

Go live this Thanksgiving holiday, today and every day.

We go, allowing thanksgiving to shape and grow our life by the grace of God!

Threefold Amen

Danish

Postlude: The Prince of Denmark's March

Clarke

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



Mugs and Music

Join us for an evening of wonderful music with performers from the Music Studio of Etcetera Productions.

Coffee, Tea and Sweets included.

October 19

Gower Lecture Hall
(Gower Street Entrances)
7:00 PM. (Doors Open 6:30p.m.)
Tickets \$20.00

Purchase tickets via Gower Office
99 Queens Rd. 709-753-7286.
Office Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Friday: 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Payment (cash, cheque or e-transfer)
due on ticket distribution

Gower Street United Church
Open House • Open Minds • Open Arms

etcetera productions

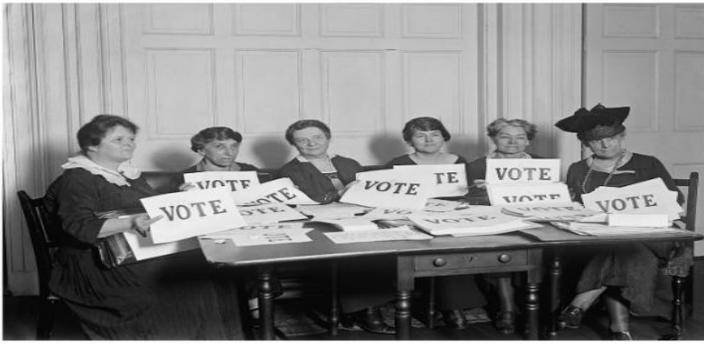
Mugs and Music: Join us for Mugs and Music, featuring performers from the Music Studios of Etcetera Productions, on Sunday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). The event will take place in the Lecture Hall, where entertainment, coffee/tea and desserts will be provided for all attendees. There are only 120 tickets available. Gather a group or come alone for a fun evening of great entertainment and delicious sweets. Tickets are \$20.00 each and are available for purchase at the church office, starting Thursday, October 2nd. Payment is due via e-transfer, cheque, or cash before the event.

Gower Street United Celebrates: 100th anniversary of “Women’s Right To Vote”; 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, October 26, 2025: 100 years ago, women won the right to vote on the island of Newfoundland (Labrador, later in 1946). Rose Emma Peters of Gower and other church and community women were key leaders in this ‘suffragist’ movement.

100 years ago, The United Church of Canada came into being (with the National 100th Anniversary Worship Service at Gower Street United, June 8th – an historic event for Gower, our Province and for The United Church of Canada).

Circle the date of Sunday, October 26th, 11 a.m. now! Through a ‘worship, lunch and learn’, we are celebrating ‘women’s right to vote’ within our United Church 100th Anniversary year. As guest speaker we are privileged to have Dr. Margot Duley with us on Sunday, October 26th (historian; author of “From Silence to Suffrage: Women’s Path to Citizenship in Newfoundland, 1803 – 1949”; forthcoming Boulder Books, Oct./Nov., 2025). Our Minister Emeritus, The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, also, will provide leadership. You will not want to miss this engaging, informative and celebrative event.

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.



Celebrating the 100th anniversary of
“Women’s Right To Vote” and the 100th
Anniversary of The United Church of
Canada

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025, 11:00 a.m.
Worship followed by Lunch and Learn
session with Dr. Margot Duley



Food Drive: We will be holding a Food Drive for Bridges to Hope during October. We invite you to bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations for Bridges to Hope to worship on Sundays or drop them off during office hours during October.

Celebrating Baby Pike-Winter: The Gower UCW invites all to join them at Coffee Time on October 19th for a celebration with Rev. Rebecca and Kyle as they look forward to their family growing in November.

Calling All Gower Community Members: Our Minister Emeritus, The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, Chair of the Religious Social Action Coalition (RSAC) and our United Church NL Provincial Coordinator for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income, invites us to take action during the 2025 NL election. We invite you to share this letter with candidates running in your district. Please read the letter here [I will attach a link to the file]. You can send the RSAC letter “as is” with your own covering email of support or revise the letter to make it your own as a voter in your district. Let’s raise our voices for justice, dignity, and a livable basic income for all. Learn more at www.rsacnl.com.

Home Heating Supplement Program (Furnace and Stove Oil): The Home Heating Supplement is available to residents of the province whose adjusted family income for 2024 was \$150,000 or less and have directly incurred costs for the purchase of furnace or stove oil to heat their principal residence in Newfoundland and Labrador. Eligible households will receive a maximum supplement of \$500, where adjusted family income for 2024 is \$100,000 or less. A partial supplement is available to households with adjusted family income for 2024 of more than \$100,000 but less than or equal to \$150,000, with a minimum supplement of \$200. Application forms are available online. If you would like a paper copy contact Felyn in the church office. Due to the postal strike, if you would like to return completed forms in a sealed envelope to the Gower Office we have a volunteer who has offered to ensure they make it to the Home Heating Supplement Program. Deadline for submission is January 16, 2025.

Your Thanksgiving Impact- Mission and Service: Bread is so important, both now and in the past. Bread is often mentioned in the bible: manna from heaven, breaking bread at the last supper, and of course, Jesus calling himself the bread of life.

Bread, or food in general, is a basic requirement for a healthy, happy life. For those of us with enough, it is taken for granted. For those who do not have enough, or with limited resources to buy food, it is a constant concern.

This Thanksgiving we pray that you can enjoy wonderful food with family and friends. But as you do, please remember those who are not able to do this. Remember that Jesus said to feed his flock and care for the children. Your gift to Mission and Service will provide food to those who are without, or who find food too expensive—Northern communities with extremely high prices, seniors who cannot afford nutritious meals, and communities around the world dealing with climate change which harms the harvests.

Donate online.

COMING UP AT GOWER

Sunday Worship:

October 12: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Weekly Activities

October 15: Pastoral Care Worship at Lane's Retirement Homes at 2:15 p.m., Gower Community Band at 7:30 p.m.

October 16: Pause for Prayer at 4:30 p.m. (Online)

