

October 19, 2025 19th Sunday after Pentecost World Food 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.



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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: Alla Menuetto Thiman

We sing: VU 242 Let All Things Now Living The Ash Grove

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:

On this World Food Day, we pause in gratitude for the abundance that the Earth provides.

You are the Giver of every good gift, the Source of every harvest.

We thank You for the farmers, the laborers, and the hands that bring food to our tables.

Yet even as we give thanks, we remember the millions who go to bed hungry each night.

Children without meals, families without crops, nations burdened by drought and injustice.

In the face of hunger, O God, light the candle of faith within us.

Let it burn bright with compassion, justice, and courage.

Kindle in our hearts a deeper awareness:

That food is not just a commodity, but a sacred right.

That our neighbor's hunger is a call to action, not a distant concern.

Give us strength to plant seeds of change,

To water them with love, and to harvest justice in our communities and beyond.

May our actions be a prayer made visible—

Feeding the hungry, reducing waste, and advocating for systems that bring dignity to all.

On this day, we carry the flame of faith.

We light this candle of faith as a symbol of all which we hold in our hearts and minds.

Let it shine in the darkest places.

Let it guide us toward a table where all are fed, and none are forgotten. Amen.

Gathering Words:

We come as ordinary people, with ordinary lives.

Ordinary we are, but your call to us is powerful.

We come to be fed at your table of grace.

We come to be fed, knowing that we are also called to feed others.

We come remembering your commissioning to us, to live out our faith as presence in this world.

As you called people, we proclaim justice and encourage generosity.

Gathering Prayer:

Holy One, your people are here.

Your people are everywhere.

May the Spirit be with us in our worship.

May the Spirit be with all humanity and all creation, until your abundance is truly shared.

We open our hearts in word and in song, in hope and in faith.

Let our worship be full of your love, O God. Amen.

We Sing: VU 520 We Plough the Fields v.1, 2 Wir PFlugen

Exploring World Food Day

We Sing: VU 520 We Plough the Fields V. 3 Wir PFlugen

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Douglas Peters

Gracious God, as we gather to reflect on the gift of food and the challenge of hunger, shine your light upon our hearts and minds. **Open our eyes to the needs of the world, our ears to the cries of the hungry, and our hands to the work of justice. May your Word nourish us with wisdom and compassion, so we may be bearers of hope and instruments of your provision. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.**

A Reading from Scripture: Jeremiah 31:27-34 Douglas Peters

God's new covenant will be written upon people's heart.

A reading from the Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

The parable of the widow and the unjust judge.

Anthem: Lord For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake Hilton

Meditation

We sing: VU 600 When I Needed a Neighbour Neighbour

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 Affirm

The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parody



Gathering our Gifts

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

Offering Prayer:

These gifts are to provide living water for lives that are parched, Life-Giving God, and actual food and water for any who live with a scarcity of these essentials. These gifts are offered to encourage those who wonder if their hopes will ever come to fruition, and to support the gardeners who lovingly tend your world and its peoples in so many ways. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

God of all peoples, **hear our prayer.**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

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

We go out into the world:

Like autumn leaves rustling on the ground in rainbow colours of promise, may we go out to share the promises of God.

May God bless what we offer to nourish life in the world;

what we do to bring sustenance, joy, and delight;

and what we model to transform people's giving into a habit of abundant sharing in Jesus' name. Amen.

Threefold Amen

Danish

Postlude: Trumpet Tune

David Johnson

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

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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: 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 House • Open House

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.

Christmas is Coming: As part of our new arrangement with Spirit of Newfoundland, Gower Service and Social Club is providing the Christmas Puddings for the Congregational Christmas Dinner on Tuesday the 9th of December. Who would like to come to Gower on Saturday 25th of October for the fun of weighing and stirring the ingredients, filling the tins, then proofing the puddings? No previous experience is required. Bring your children along to give them a chance to participate! We will have music and treats! Please let Tony Chadwick know if you and your offspring can make it! (709) 754-4550. anthonychadant5@gmail.com Time: 10am to 12 :30pm

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.

COMING UP AT GOWER

Sunday Worship:

October 26: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Women’s Suffrage Sunday

November 2: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Weekly Activities

October 22: Gower Youth at 4:30 p.m., Gower Community Band at 7:30 p.m.

October 23: Pause for Prayer at 4:30 p.m. (Online)

Cross Regional Check-in: This is a time of learning, a time where you can ask questions and a time when we can draw on others experience as we check-in with each other and with the region.

Cross Regional Check-In (zoom registration)

November 12 from 7 – 9pm

December 10 from 7 – 9pm

All three dates are accessed with same registration link

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/GI2gGdMqQ9eSh7riRtX69Q#/registration>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

