

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

June 8, 2025

Pentecost & UCC Centennial Celebration

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: MV#13 "O Let the Power Fall on Me"

1. O let the power fall on me, my Lord,
let the power fall on me;
O let the power from heaven fall on me,
let the power fall on me.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

As we begin, we respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaron peoples. We acknowledge with respect their diverse histories and cultures.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place... Today, we gather in many places and ways, yet we are one in heart! Touched by the Spirit, the first disciples were enlivened.

All: By the Spirit, we live and thrive!

One: On the day of Pentecost, the Church was born.

All: Today, we celebrate 100 years of being the United Church!

One: In their gathering that day, people were changed by the Spirit.

**All: In our gathering today, we seek the Spirit's direction for tomorrow.
We invite the Holy Spirit to come! Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: VU # 288 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

1. Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **(Refrain)**

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide! **(Refrain)**

OPENING PRAYER (in response)

One: Awesome God, on Pentecost, you gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to an expectant and united church.

All: And by your Spirit, you bring us to this time and place to lift our hearts, minds, and bodies to worship you.

One: Grant us the hope of the same Spirit in our life and worship. Help us to expect great things from you, and attempt great things *for* you!

All: We are diverse in many ways, but our hearts are one in you.

One: May we show the world the love we experience in Jesus, and the power we find in the Spirit as we seek to honour your dream.

All: To your glory be our worship and witness. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in response)

One: Gracious God, Time and again, you send us the gift of your Spirit. Time and again, you send us the gift of your dreams. Time and again, you love us back into being. And time and again, we turn away from you.

All: Gracious God, forgive us for all the times we have twisted or forgotten your Good News, for all the times in which we have confused unity with "sameness", for all the times we have failed to let your Beloved Community inspire our living,

One: Open our hearts, God.

All: May your Spirit ignite your dream in us again! This we pray in Christ's holy and powerful name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Dear Ones of God, receive these words and take heart: God poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, healing hearts and divisions, empowering the church to move forward in Christ's spirit.

All: We receive God's gift of forgiveness and celebrate the newness found in Pentecost. Amen.

CELEBRATING OUR CHURCH

On June 10th, 1925, the inaugural service of the United Church of Canada was held. Today, we join with others across the church to give thanks, mark and witness to the church that we are and the church that we are becoming by the grace of the Spirit.

PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Rev. Maurice: God who calls us to be the church, we celebrate the many faces your church has worn over the centuries

All: each one with its own gifts, each one with its own challenges yet all linked together in Christ.

Rev. Maurice: This year we celebrate 100 years of a particular body, we call the United Church of Canada.

All: We give thanks for the dreamers and visionaries of over a century ago,

Rev. Maurice: people who saw a possibility and then gave years of their lives working to make the possible real, bringing together multiple churches in the hopes "that all may be one".

All: God who has whispered, and still whispers, in our ears, pushing us forward, opening our eyes to new understandings of what it means to be faithful.

Rev. Maurice: We celebrate the times when we listened. We give thanks for those who spoke boldly both to church and nation, for bold discipleship and leadership over the years, calling us to daring justice work.

All: We pray that we can follow in their footsteps. God who is with us in our triumphs and glory, you are also with us when we stumble.

Rev. Maurice: We admit that we have not always been the church we could be. We have hurt each other, we remember our mixed history with our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit siblings, we remember the times we could have spoken louder but chose the safer route,

All: we acknowledge that at time others have felt unwelcome or unworthy in this United Church of ours.

One: And as we remember we repent, we lament, and we pray that we can learn a better path. God of our present, we know that all is not well with the church.

All: There are so many stories of faith communities struggling.

One: God of abundant life, help us see the new life in our midst.

All: As we live with the uncertainty and unknown, help us be faithful. Open our eyes and ears that we might see and hear you leading us forward. Give us a vision, a hope, a promise.

One: Help us be a church that embodies Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice. God who calls us to sing the songs of faith in a new key or with different words,

All: God who challenges us to grow and evolve as individuals and as a church, we pray for this church that we love, this church that sometimes frustrates us, sometimes infuriates us, and often holds us together as the world crumbles.

One: We give thanks for those who have gone before, we celebrate with those who walk with us today, we pledge to pass on the songs, the stories, and the hope to those who will follow us.

All: We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the Risen Christ, and the head of the Church Universal Amen.

Written by Rev'd Gord Waldie

CHILDREN'S FOCUS:

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

CHILDREN'S HYMN: MV # 156 "Dance With the Spirit"

1. Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

One: Spirit of God, you were before the first days of Creation, and you hovered over the disciples on the first day that Christ's church came alive. You were present to our ancestors in faith 100 years ago as they came together to form The United Church of Canada,

All: You were present in all those who continued to build a uniting church in the generations that followed, and we believe that you are still present with us today. Open our hearts to you in this time so that we might know your wisdom, trust in the ways you proclaim, and live into them with hope! All this we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Epistle: Ephesians 1:15–19, pg. 192, 3:16-21 pg. 193

HYMN: VU # 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" (repeat)

Sermon: "Let Us Hear Let Us Hear Your Call" – Rev'd Karlene Brown-Palmer

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mary Anne Silverthorn

OFFERTORY HYMN: MV# 188 "I Thank You, Thank You Jesus"

1. Asante sana Yesu, Asante sana Yesu, asante sana Yesu moyoni.
Asante sana Yesu, Asante sana Yesu, asante sana Yesu moyoni.

I thank you, thank you Jesus, I thank you, thank you Jesus,
I thank you, thank you Jesus in my heart. I thank you, thank you Jesus,
I thank you, thank you Jesus, I thank you, thank you Jesus in my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

Empowering God, we believe your Spirit is with us this day, leading us into a new future. We offer our time, talents, finances, and hopes, trusting you to do more than we can dream possible. Bless us and these offerings with your Spirit. May we be bold disciples, deeply connected to you, who dare to act for justice. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith The New Creed (in unison)

We are not alone,

We live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

To reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks, be to God.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

On Pentecost, the gift of God's Spirit was given freely to all who longed to receive it. On this day of Pentecost, we welcome all those who long to follow in the Way of Jesus to share in this sacrament of Communion.

One: God is with us.

All: We are not alone.

One: Christ is present here.

All: The Spirit is among us!

One: Let us give thanks to God

All: in memory and in hope.

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Blessed are you, Gracious God, for you grace this world with life and light and love. In the beginning, your Spirit moved across the deep waters. Amid emptiness and chaos, you sought connection, and so, you created, and you called us all *good*. And over time, your Spirit continued to call forth wisdom and courage for your people:

To the prophet Joel, you promised: "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your children will prophesy, your elders will dream dreams, your youth will see visions. And on my servants, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

Yet we turned from you, Afraid and uncertain of what you would do. Yet you continued to pursue us in love, and so, you brought that Spirit into the world once more, alive and embodied in Jesus, the Christ. He lived with the Spirit's deep passion and wisdom. He boldly shared the Spirit's joy and compassion and he called us all to follow in his Way.

On Pentecost, his followers received your Spirit, they proclaimed your goodness in every language, saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

And so, we remember the courage and vision Jesus shared with his friends on the night he was betrayed. During supper, Jesus took a loaf of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take this bread and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Whenever you eat, do this in remembrance of me."

And after supper, he took the cup of blessing, He gave thanks to God, and shared it with his disciples, saying: "Take this cup and drink. This cup is God's promise, shared in my life. Whenever you drink it, remember me." Loving God, we rejoice in the life of Jesus Christ, and in the gift of your Spirit that is poured out upon us.

We now open ourselves to your power and presence so that our lives may proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

One: Pour out your Spirit once more upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of bread and cup so that we might witness your Spirit in action and join in Christ's life, proclaiming your joy and your Kingdom. On this Pentecost day, we pray:
Come, Holy Spirit!

All: Come, Holy Spirit! Amen!

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

In your grace and by your Spirit we have been fed at this table, brought into communion with you and each other. May this banquet so inspire us to

love as we have been loved, feed as we have been fed, and to welcome all as Christ has welcomed us. In this way, we will witness your reign on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: HYMN: MV # 144 "Like a Healing Stream"

1. Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth like a healing stream
2. Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation
yearning for an end to want and need like a gentle rain.
3. Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war like a river strong.
4. Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide! Like a mighty sea,
like a river strong, like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: Beloved, as we go out into the world, hold this blessing on your heart: May the power of the Spirit awaken our hearts with awe, and may our witness awaken the world in which we live. May we travel together, listen together, love together, and grow together in the life of Christ, as the Body of Christ. For we are called to life– To live a Deep Spirituality, a Bold Discipleship, and a Daring Justice in Christ's name, through whom all things are possible.

All: Praise be to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine! Glory be to God, in the Church, and in Christ Jesus, from generation to generation. Amen!

*Liturgy prepared by Rev. Penny Nelson from Avon United Church Hantsport, NS &
Rev. Michelle Armstrong from St. Paul's United Church and St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church Fredericton, NB*

LET US PROCEED TO THE FLAG POLE

FOR OUR SHORT FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

We welcome all who join us for in-person worship today and online.

Everyone is invited to join for fellowship and refreshments in the Friendship Room
Members of the Worship Committee are hosting today.

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In our thoughts and prayers this week is Carol Crocker, Cory and Rick Saxby,
Tim and Lynda Stafford.

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Birthday wishes TODAY to: Janet Hevenor

Dave Beres is celebrating on June 13 and Floyd Marshall on June 14



Wedding Anniversary Congratulations go out this week on

June 9 - Brian and Lisa Houston, June 10 - John and Carol Morling celebrating
64 years and David & Mary Lou Bentley on June 12



May you ALL enjoy your special day!

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The flowers today are placed by an anonymous donor to help celebrate our flag
raising and the 100th Anniversary of the United Church.

What wonderful occasions to celebrate!

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Today Sunday, June 8 - Pentecost Sunday with Communion -- FLAG RAISING
outside followed by cake and refreshments after the outside event. Show pride in
our CANADIAN HERITAGE --- COME WEARING your RED and WHITE—Let's
Celebrate the New Flagpole and it's meaning to ALL!!



**Join us at 4:00 p.m. for a meet and greet and a meal followed by a viewing
of the live Centennial Service at 5:30 p.m.**

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Celebrate 100

REMEMBER -- to contribute to the "Celebrate 100" a number relating
to 100. All monies will stay at St. Paul's --- do you have an idea to
celebrate 100? We may announce a contest soon.

Direct your questions to Mary Anne Silverthorn

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Two Quick Reminders re: Use of the Building

1. Our church has a health board approved industrial kitchen downstairs. To keep
this approval, our kitchen has to be kept in a pristine condition. If you use the kitchen
please make sure things are put in there correct place and nothing is left dirty. The
health unit does do drop-in visits from time to time so let us always maintain the
standard.

2. The door on Fox Alley is having a problem with its locking device. There have been incidences where it has been left open. So, please make an extra to check and see that the door is always closed when you enter or leave the building.

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"Thank you so much to all of you who took part in our yard sale in many ways. We did better this year than others with just over \$4,000 to go to the general fund where it is much needed to keep the church operating.

Your help is much appreciated".

From Brenda, Lesley and Karon

The UCW would like to sincerely thank everyone who donated baked goods, rhubarb, cash and their time preparing and delivering to our recent bake sale.

A special thank you to everyone who helped by selling the goodies and the cleanup crew. Not only did we enjoy the fellowship, but we also raised over \$1,327 for our outreach programs. Thanks again for the support!!

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Foodbank Drive – June

At this time, we are in **urgent need** of the following popular items: canned vegetables, especially tomatoes, and cleaning products.

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All ladies and gentlemen are welcome for CHAIR YOGA every Thursday at 2:00 PM in the friendship room. We will use a different DVD each week. The sessions will be about 25 minutes.

- Work at your own comfort level. Great way to keep fit and stay healthy.
- Enjoy some social time with friends. Come for the Yoga and stay for the tea.

SIGN UP BY THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM.

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Coming Events

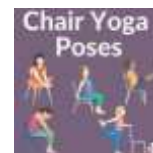
JUNE is very BUSY at ST. PAUL's – check out the details and be prepared to enjoy ALL the events.

The following are upcoming events. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the front entrance for some of the events. Check out the details --

Sunday June 15--- Father's DAY/National Indigenous People's Day

Sunday June 22—Worship Leader –Leeyan Steinhorsen

Sunday June 29 – Worship Leader – Leeyan Steinhorsen – CELEBRATE CANADA DAY wearing your RED and WHITE – There will be a Canada Day Cake to celebrate Canada's Birthday and say "thanks for living in a very special country with amazing people".





Turtlefest 2025 - June 14th 2025

Broadway St., Bridge St. To Baldwin St.

This is our opportunity to shine in our community with an awesome booth showing off the opportunities for community members to come and join us after they see the great work we're doing.

We're looking for help setting up at 9a.m., being in the booth for an hour or two from 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. and take-down at 8 p.m.

See sign-up sheet outside the Friendship Room.

Questions? Contact Marianne Ferris at marianneriach@gmail.com

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AOTS Fellowship Golf and Potluck - June 28

9 hole Golf starts at 3p.m. at Tillsonview Fairways Golf course

Come and enjoy a *fun* 4 person scramble followed by a potluck at

6 p.m. at Memorial Park Pavilion, Broadway St. turn right on John St. follow to end. A sign-up sheet is in on the table in the Rotunda with details.

You don't have to play Golf to attend the Potluck. Bring a main course or a dessert.

LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572