

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
June 1, 2025 – 10:30 am**

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Central Queens' Mission Statement

Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community called to support the life stages of all people, celebrating joy and sharing in pain. Through faith and fellowship, we are united by God's love to live and serve as Disciples of Christ.

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Welcome in the name of the Christ.

**Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the
unceded traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people.**

Welcome to this place of retreat and refuge, worship, and wonder.

It is good to be here.

It is indeed good to be together.

Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting the Christ Candle

Quiet Preparation for Worship

Bible Presentation *(Placed during the Introit)*

***Introit** Open Our Hearts MV #21

***Call to Worship**

Creator God, today we give you thanks

for believing we can be born again.

Creator God, today we give you thanks

**for the glorious diversity from which all creation
springs.**

Creator God, today we give you thanks

**for the grace to know we are not always right, and the
courage to change.**

Creator God, today we give you thanks

**for the longing to reshape structures that place the
individual above the community.**

Creator God, today we give you thanks

**for the beauty, resistance, and hope that rises up even
in this sometimes-broken world.**

***Hymn** Oh a Song Must Rise MV #142

Prayer of Approach

**O Creator, be near us now as we lean toward what
is possible—not just what has been.**

**You have not left us without a guide. You sent one in
human form, to reveal the dignity, the unspoken beauty,
the sacred worth in every person.**

**You have stitched the seasons into the fabric of the
earth—
each turning leaf and falling snow a quiet reminder of
the planet's deep, revolving grace.**

**We are not made sinful by design, as fear and doctrine
sometimes claim—but born of your image, alive with
the wild capacity to love beyond measure, to heal what
has been broken, to reconcile what was once torn.**

**So we open our hands to the mystery of this day,
trusting that the sacred is already here.**

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

Responsive Reading – Psalm 97

VU #817

***Hymn** Draw the Circle Wide MV #145 vs 1 & 2

All God's Children

Hymn Draw the Circle Wide MV #145 vs 3

Presentation of Our Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

*Presentation of Offering

*** Offertory** We Give Our Thanks MV #187 vs 1

*Offertory Prayer

We give thanks, O Creator, for the quiet courage to give—not to earn, not to gain, but to join the sacred work of mending, blessing, and building. May these gifts, offered with open hands and honest hearts, be used in the service of compassion, community, and the unfolding beauty of your world. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Sacred Scripture

Acts 16:16-34
John 17:20-26

Anthem *"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"* Choir

Sermon *When Liberation Costs the Powerful*

Reflective Music

Responding to the Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Faithful God, we give you thanks—not for answers that come easily, but for your steadfast love that holds us when nothing else seems certain. In every time of trial, you do not leave us comfortless. You move quietly beside us—in the dark before the dawn, in the silence before the song.

Surprise us again with your grace, O God. Stir your Spirit among us, draw us back together—not only for worship, but for witness.

Renew our faith, O God, and give us courage to serve with love.

God of peace, you sent Jesus among us—not as a soldier, not as a scholar, but as a servant, with words that healed and hands that fed. Through him, you reconciled the world to yourself.

Let his peace still work its way into the raw edges of this world.

We name before you now the places and people on our hearts—where hatred festers, where hope feels far off, where reconciliation is most needed.....

Let your peace come, O God, and let it begin with us.

O God do not let us grow used to indifference. Shake us when we begin to sleep through the suffering of others. When the world builds walls, give us courage to build tables. When despair speaks louder than truth, give us the boldness to speak your better story.

Inspire us to be makers of peace, bearers of light, and builders of hope.

God of fellowship, we give thanks for the church, for the cracked beauty of your people, gathered in all our difference

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Continued)

and desire. Renew our life together—correct us when we lose our way, encourage us when we are faithful, and give us a vision wide enough to hold your love for the whole world.

Bless those who lead and those who serve—ministers and elders, musicians and cleaners, committee chairs and quiet prayers. Pour your Spirit upon the United Church—upon our Moderator, Carman, and all who discern your will in community.

May your wisdom guide, your Spirit move, and your love prevail.

God who calls us into the future, we pray for students graduating this season—those stepping into the next thing with trembling hands and hopeful hearts. Guide their choices.

Sustain their spirits. And for those graduating from our theological schools—may they remember that the call to ministry is not into certainty, but into trust.

Bless them with courage, grace, and deep joy in their calling.

Comfort those who grieve, those who live with illness, and those who carry quiet burdens no one else sees. Strengthen the weary. Calm the anxious. Be near to those whose faith feels thin, and to those still searching for truth that rings true.

Hold us, Holy One, and do not let us go.

Faithful God, you have not given us all the answers—but you have given us Christ, and a calling.

By your Spirit, fill us with enough faith to follow, enough courage to act, and enough love to make it matter.

Send us now, as your people, into the world you so deeply love. Amen.

***Hymn** Jesus, Stand among Us VU #396

***Changing the Light**

***Benediction**

***Blessing**

May the light of dawn awaken your heart.

May the peace of dusk settle your soul.

May the Spirit's gentle presence go with you always.

Go in peace and be a blessing.

Amen.

***Choral Benediction** Peace Be with You MV #215

Postlude

* Please stand as you are able

Ministers

All of us

Clergy

Rev Greg Davis

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9 am – 12 pm

Office Phone

902-964-2291

Email

minister@cquc.ca

Church Office

Office Hours

Wednesday & Thursday

9 am – 12 pm

Phone

902-964-2221

Email

office@cquc.ca

A Warm Welcome to All – We are delighted you have joined us. May God's word today strengthen your faith, inspire curiosity and learning, and motivate your service of others. If you are looking for a church home, we would like to invite you to consider us your spiritual family. All are welcome in this place.

Today's Bulletins are placed in memory of Sharon MacRoberts. Remembered by the Dinner Theater Gang and her children, Lydia, Kevin and Families.

Thank You to Christine Belanger for her beautiful gift of music this morning. *Congregation of Central Queens United Church*

Life and Work of Our Church

Greg On Leave – Greg will be away on leave from June 9th till June 20th. For any emergencies, please contact Bernie Dykerman at 902-626-6869.

Scent-Free – “No scents make good sense”

Please refrain from wearing scented products such as perfume, cologne, and fragrant personal care products as they can trigger serious health issues for those with fragrance allergies. Thank you for your cooperation so that everyone can attend our church.

Scripture Readings - The scripture readings selected for next Sunday, June 8th, are:

Isaiah 43:18-21

Psalms 104 Part Two (VU #826-827)

John 15:1-11.

These are made available to you should you wish to read them during the upcoming week.

FundScrip – The next order date is Sunday, June 8th. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted. The promotion for June it is Home Hardware at 4%.

E-transfers – Central Queens United Church is set up to accept e-transfers. If you prefer to give your offerings through e-transfer, please send via email to veldabertram@gmail.com.

Graduates – We are in the process of gathering names of individuals who will be graduating this year. If you know of anyone graduating from high school, university, college or any other secondary school, please submit their names to the church office (office@cquc.ca or 902-964-2221) or to Greg (minister@cquc.ca or 902-964-2291) so that we can recognize their accomplishments.

Camp Abby: *When:* June 13-15th. *Where:* 140 Camp Abegweit Rd. *Why:* To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada and the Sunday School closing fun weekend. Funding will be provided by Central Queens United Church. *Who:* If you are reading this it is meant for you, all ages from newborn to 110. ID not required.

Come and enjoy the weekend, stay overnight or come for the day or part of the day. Arrive early Friday evening for set up and a campfire. Lodging is indoors or in a cabin. You may bring your own tent, trailer or RV. (hookups are not available).

Sunday morning worship will be at the camp at 11am. There will **not** be a service at the church. After service there will be a potluck lunch followed by a cleanup before end of camp.

If you would like to help out, please call Walter Carver at 902-213-7015. Any questions please email dykermanbernie@gmail.com or call/text 902-626-6869.

Annual Take-out Hot Roast Beef Supper will be on Saturday, June 7th. A generous serving of hot roast beef with all the trimmings and including a tasty dessert. Three take-out times: 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$20/ adult, \$7/youth (ages 6-12 yrs) and free for children 5 yrs. and younger. For tickets, order in advance by contacting Debbie at 902-964-2882 or Lois at 902-621-0669. **Note:** Tickets will be collected at diners' vehicles and suppers delivered back to vehicles in the church parking lot. We truly appreciate your support and wish you Bon appetite!

Rosewood Service will be held on Thursday, June 19th, at 6:30 pm. The UCW will be leading the service.

Official Board Meeting on Thursday, June 19th at 7:15 pm at the church. All are welcome to attend.

Financial Assistance for Camp Abby – The UCW is providing some financial assistance for children going to Camp Abby this summer. If you are considering sending your child to Camp Abby, please give your name to Velda Bertram at 902-964-2210 or Kim Rodd at 902-626-5252 by Friday, June 20th.

Eastern PEI Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada! - On Tuesday, June 10th, all are warmly invited to come celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada! This event is a collaboration of 9 United Churches of Eastern PEI and will get underway at 4:30 pm., with a free BBQ and fun activities for people of all ages. The worship service begins at 6:30 pm. and will be followed by cake and ice cream. Many thanks to our host site: Hillcrest United Church, 50 Wood Islands Road, Montague (fully accessible). Freewill Offering to the Mission & Service Fund and/or to Camp Abegweit.

Sunday School Leader & Helpers are Needed – We are still in need of someone to lead Sunday School and others to help out. Please contact the church office if you can help with this very important ministry.

Bulletin Deadline—Deadline for items to be placed in the bulletin is **Wednesday evening**. Bulletin items can be emailed to office@cquc.ca.

News From Camp Abby

The **OPEN HOUSE** will be held on Sunday, June 22nd, from 2 pm – 4 pm. There will be a barbecue, tours of the camp, door prizes, and a chance to meet the staff and Board members. Everyone is welcome!

Wish List – An insert has been added to this week's bulletin with Camp Abby's "most wanted" wish list for this summer. A copy has also been posted on the bulletin board by the office.

Food Bank – Please remember to support the Food Bank with non-perishable food items. You can drop them off in the wooden box at the church entrance any Sunday or during church office hours.

Office Church Directory – In an effort to keep contact information as up to date as possible, please give Trudy any changes to your contact information. If you would like to be added to our directory or need to update your info, please contact Trudy at office@cquc.ca or you can call her during office hours at 902-964-2221.

Puzzles/Book Exchange – Be sure to check out the wide variety of books and puzzles available in the main hall. Help yourself to a puzzle and/or book or bring some of your own to share!! If you happen to find any missing pieces of puzzles at home, there is a container above the puzzle shelves for these 'lost pieces'.

Pop Can Pull Tabs – Remember your pull tabs!! George Mason is collection pop can pull tab which are then given to the Daughters of the Nile women's organization. The funds go to the Shriners Hospital in Montreal where they are used to buy reading materials for children in the hospital. Your pop can tab collections can be dropped off here at the church. Thank you.

Community News

Concert - Kendall Docherty & 'Ceilidh in the City Band' on the Road – coming to Park Royal United Church on Saturday, June 7th, at 7 pm. Tickets are \$15 and available now by calling 902-894-9656, at the door or through Eventbrite! Get yours before they're gone!

Winsloe United Church Ceilidh on Sunday, June 8th, at 2 pm. Host Jacinta MacDonald welcomes special guests Sandra and Ricky Jones and Vernon Smith. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 pm.

Special Service – You are invited to join the Bedeque, South Shore & Bedeque North Pastoral Charges in their Celebrations of 100 Years of being the United Church of Canada at Camp Abby next Sunday, June 8th. Worship begins at 10:30 am and is followed by a shared lunch of light finger foods. We ask you to please bring something to share. Cupcakes and refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

Winsloe United Church presents "Make a Joyful Noise", a concert celebrating the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada. Performers include the Winsloe United Church Choir, Courtney Hogan-Chandler, and Kristyn Visser-Perkin. There will be refreshments, including anniversary cake, following the concert. The concert will be on Sunday, June 15th, at 7 pm at Winsloe United Church.

Take-Out Lobster Supper - Come out Saturday, June 14th, at 4 pm. for a Take-Out Lobster supper at Spring Park United Church. Tickets are now available by calling the Church office at 902-368-1822. Tickets are \$25.

Over . . .

Mission & Service – Advocating for Sexual and Gender Minorities in Other Countries *“This is a life and death matter.”*

We are blessed to live in Canada, a country that recognizes the right to love whoever you want, regardless of their gender or sex. And while we haven't always done what is right, The United Church of Canada now recognizes that all love—including Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+ relationships—is holy and blessed by God. But those rights do not exist in many parts of the world today.

“One of our partners in Kenya has advocated strongly for the human rights of sexual minorities, and that has caused him to be in jail, caused him to risk his life to be able to do that,” says the Rev. Michael Blair. The church's first openly gay General Secretary is now helping to advocate for sexual and gender minorities in foreign countries. “When we hear these stories, we can see that this is a life and death matter.”

Your gifts for Mission and Service help shelter refugees as they escape repressive governments. As of May 2024, 64 jurisdictions criminalize private, consensual, same-sex sexual activity, and 12 countries have jurisdictions in which the death penalty is imposed or at least a possibility for private, consensual, same-sex sexual activity.

Mission and Service also holds consultations in other countries to discover how we can best work with our partners to protect sexual and gender minorities. “A few years ago, we hosted a consultation here in Canada with several partners and asked how we can be supportive of their work,” Blair says. “They told us we needed to come and help in their context.”

To date, Mission and Service has supported consultations in Latin America and the Philippines.

“We are bringing together leaders to explore how the church can be a place of liberation and life for sexual and gender minorities in those communities. That is happening because of the folks who contribute to Mission and Service,” says Blair.

Thank you for helping to protect sexual and gender minorities.

You are saving lives and changing views around the world!