

CENTRAL QUEENS UNITED CHURCH

August 23, 2026 – 10:30 am

Worship Leader: Rev. Eric Lynk

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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.*

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
We Gather as God's Beloved**

Prelude

Welcome

Welcome to this time of worship, praise, prayer, and fellowship.

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

May all who enter this sanctuary find it a haven of peace.

May it be so. Amen.

Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We gather today as followers of Jesus,
who, when asked "Who are you?", replied:

I am the Light!

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world;
**may its light brighten our spirits
and through us may the light of God shine in our world.**

***Introit:** *"Dance with the Spirit" MV #156 (x2)*

Bible Presentation *(placed during singing of the Introit)*

Call to Worship

Brothers and Sisters, let us prepare to worship God.

**We gather to praise God our Creator,
the source of all life and hope.**

We gather to give thanks for the gift of God's Son Jesus,
our Redeemer and King.

**We gather to open ourselves to God's Holy Spirit,
our comforter and guide.**

God has gathered us into a community of care;

a community of praise, worship, and witness.

Let us come now to worship God with love, thanksgiving, and joy.

Come let us worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

***Opening Hymn** “*God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness*” VU #260

Prayer of Approach

Faithful God, we gather in your presence with thanksgiving, deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us. When we call out to you, you are there to listen. When we are exhausted, you give us the strength to go on. When we find ourselves in times of trouble, you are there, standing beside us.

**And so, we come before you with gratitude and praise,
offering you the worship of our hearts and lives.**

**Open our eyes to see and know you here among us;
open our ears to recognize your voice. Then send us out
from here, to live and work in the world as your faithful
disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and
Lord. Amen.**

Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 124 – VU #848

***All Ages Hymn:** “*I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*” VU #575 (v.1&2)

Time with the Young & Young at Heart

***All Ages Hymn:** “*I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*” VU #575 (v.3&4)

Invitation to Confession

Prayer for Transformation

God of mercy and compassion, be present amongst us this day and every day, guiding us in your pathways of love and service. When the way seems too difficult or the pathway too hard, help us turn again to you for refreshment and courage. Within the security of your loving embrace, we confess the many ways we have fallen short of your vision for us. For the times that we have tried to place human boundaries on your infinite Wisdom and your saving Word,

forgive us, Lord.

For the times our hearts have been made hard against others,

forgive us, Lord.



For the times our minds have been closed to learning from you the pathway to peace in your world,

forgive us, Lord.

For the times that our spirits have tried to limit the life-giving work of your Spirit,

**forgive us, Lord. Turn our hearts to you again and show us
anew the path of life. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear this Good News: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (*John 3:16*)

Feel now God’s compassion which is warm and tender. Enter the wideness of love’s embrace and the freedom of forgiveness, knowing the peace and unity that comes in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Thanks be to God for his mercy without measure!
Amen. Alleluia!**

God’s Word for Us Today

Prayer for Inspiration

First Reading: Romans 12: 1 – 8 (NRSV)

The New Life in Christ

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16: 13 – 20 (NRSV)

Peter’s Declaration About Jesus

Anthem: “*Walk With Me*”

Sermon

We Respond to God’s Love for Us

Music for Reflection

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Invitation

***Presentation of Offering:** “Grateful” MV #182 (chorus & verse 1)

Offertory Prayer

Loving and generous God, we come before you today to give you thanks and praise for the gift of your Son Jesus and to proclaim him as king of our lives and our hearts. In gratitude we acknowledge that all the good gifts in our lives and world are gifts from your generous and loving heart.

Accept the devotion of our hearts and lives, and receive these gifts of our time, talent, and treasure for the work of sharing your love in this place and throughout your creation. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

We Go in Faith to Love and Serve God

Commissioning

As we prepare to rise from worship and journey out into the world, let us remember that our walk with God is never a lonely walk, for Jesus walks with us on a path that leads to a glorious destination. For each step that we take,

be our guide, O Lord of life.

For each load that we are called to bear,

be our strength, O Lord of life.

For each obstacle we may face,

be our courage, O Lord of life.

For each place we seek rest,

be our peace, O Lord of life.

For each sunrise and sunset,

be our joy, O Lord of life.

***Hymn:** “Take My Life and Let It Be” VU #506

*Becoming Light Bearers

We have gathered and worshipped in the presence of the Light and Love of Jesus. As we prepare to leave this sanctuary, we are called to now become those who carry the Light of Christ to our world.

**We will go forth to bring Light and Hope to our world!
Amen. Alleluia!**

*Benediction

***Choral Response:** “May the God of Hope Go With Us” VU #424

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.

Thank You to Rev. Eric Lynk for leading us in worship this morning.
~ Central Queens United Church

Ministers	All of us
Clergy	
Office Hours	
Office Phone	902-964-2291
Email	minister@cquc.ca
Church Office	Bonnie LaFrance
Office Hours	Summer hours will vary
Phone	902-964-2221
Email	office@cquc.ca
Website	https://www.cqcu.ca

If you are willing and able, please come to Central Queens Church on **Monday, August 24, 9-11 a.m.**, to help tidy and spruce up our church for the fall. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!

SAVE THESE DATES!

~ Saturday, October 24 – Central Queens Car Rally

Start time – 9:00 a.m. at the church parking lot. Pre-register by calling Walter Carver (902-213-7015) or the church office.

~ Saturday, November 21 – Trivia at Central Queens

2:00 p.m. Get a team together and sign up by calling Walter or the church office.

Life and Work of Our Church

Emergencies – Please contact Lois Lajeunesse at 902-621-0669 or 902-388-1103 for any church related assistance.

Supply Minister – Eric Lynk and Margaret Collins will be leading us in worship next Sunday, August 30.

Scripture Readings selected for next Sunday, August 30:

~Exodus 3:1-15

Moses encounters the burning bush.

~Responsive Reading – Psalm 105 – Parts 1&3 (VU #828-829)

Remembering Jacob and Moses.

~Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; overcome evil with good.

~Matthew 16:21-28

Take up the cross and follow me.

FundScrip – The next order date is Sunday, August 30.

You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted.

Upcoming Church Events – Mark your calendar for these events:

September 17, 18 & 19 – Dinner Theatre

October 24 – Car Rally

November 7 – Fall Roast Beef Supper

November 8 – Frozen Pie orders go out

November 21 – Trivia

November 22 – Frozen Pie orders due date

December 10 – Frozen Pies pick up date.

Central Queens Dinner Theatre will take place on September 17th, 18th, and 19th. Price is \$40. Team nights: September 17th - team 3; September 18th- team 4; September 19th - team 1; Setup and takedown- team 2.

Moderator's Visit

You're invited to an afternoon with the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath.

Date and time: Friday, September 11. Gathering at 1:30 p.m., with the event beginning at 2:00 and a reception at 3:30.

Location: Central Queens United Church

This is an open invitation; please spread the word!

Any questions, contact Kathy Bigsby at kathryn_bigsby@hotmail.com

Godly Play Core Storyteller Training 2026

The Godly Play Maritimer Trainers are pleased to offer 3 consecutive days of training rather than spreading it over 2 weekends!

People have requested an opportunity to be able to complete the training this way. Register now for Friday, October 23 (2pm) to Sunday, October 25 (4pm) training at Southwest River United Church (12079 Rte. 6, Margate).

Core training cost is \$350.00 which includes 2 suppers, 2 lunches, and nutritional breaks. For more information, contact Ellen Locke: ellenmlocke@hotmail.com or 902-628-5460. Deadline to register is Friday, September 25.

The investment into this intensive training allows participants to be able to offer Godly Play stories and to understand deeper the spirituality of the child as well as the methods of Godly Play. Once story materials are obtained, everything the storyteller needs to prepare is provided in the scripts, unlike other Christian formation programs. The storyteller carries the story in their heart; and as the sacred stories, parables, and liturgical stories are told, connections are made through consistent language and the spiral curriculum nature.

Community Events

Winsloe United Church Ceilidh will be held on Sunday, Sept. 6, at 2:00 p.m. Host Jacinta MacDonald welcomes special guests 'We Three'. Admission is \$15 at the door; doors open at 1:30 p.m.