

Central Queens Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada

Gathering for Worship

CENTRAL QUEENS UNITED CHURCH

May 17, 2026 – 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.*

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.**

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Quiet Preparation for Worship

\*Bible Presentation (*Placed during the Introit*)

\*Introit

Holy, Holy, Holy

VU #315 vs 1

\*Call to Worship

*Based on Psalm 68*

Sing to God

**and praise God's name.**

When we see white billowing clouds,

**we think of God's splendour and glory,**

but God is not too great to care for the lonely and desolate

**and stand up for those who are alone.**

God rules from a holy place,

**but makes a home for the lonely.**

God sets people free

**and sustains them.**

God causes abundant showers to fall,

**and revives us when we're tired.**

**\*Call to Worship** (Continued)

God is among us and blesses us  
**and so we praise God's name.**

With open hearts and minds; we worship God.

**\*Hymn** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name VU #334

**Prayer of Approach**

What do you do when you are left alone? What do you do with that ball of crumpled emotion when meaning and purpose disappear, as the one you follow is taken, and the love you have chased is torn away? What do you do when you are left alone?

**Remember the dream!**  
**Transform the visions into actions!**  
**Turn the talk into work!**  
**Follow in the footsteps!**  
**Hear the future calling you!**  
**Grow into community!**  
**Pursue the promptings of your soul!**  
**Let's go and adventure!**  
**Be the church!**

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

**Responsive Reading** – Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 VU #787-788

**\*Hymn** I'm Gonna Shout, Shout MV #183 vs 1 & 2

**All God's Children**

**\*Hymn** I'm Gonna Shout, Shout MV #183 vs 3

*Children may retire to Sunday School*

**Call to Transformation and New Life**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**There were times, gracious God, when we are steadfast and firm in our faith, like trees planted by streams of water.**

*(Pause)*

**And there are times when we bend with the winds of popularity and whim, giving into whatever attracts us, caring little for your way.**

*(Pause)*

**Forgive us.**

*(Pause)*

**Renew us with the refreshing winds of your spirit.**

*(Pause)*

**Make us new. Strengthen us to grow into your likeness, to bear good fruit, to be pleasing to you. We pray in Christ's name.**

**Assurance of God's Love**

**Presentation of Our Gifts**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**\* Presentation of Offering**

**Offertory** Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands VU #537

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**Each of us is a fragile miracle, evidence of God's creative hands and amazing grace. We are each unique, unrepeatable gifts to the world. We are proof of God's love. And so we, who are the gifts of creation, now give gifts to our Creator. Gifts brought in love. Amen.**

**Listening for the Word**

**Sacred Scripture**

**Acts 1:6-14** *The ascension of Jesus.*

**John 17:1-11** *Jesus prays that his disciples "all may be one."*

**Anthem**

*Central Queens Musical Friends*

**Sermon**

**Reflective Music**

**Responding to the Word**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**\*Hymn** I Am a Child of God MV #157

**\*Blessing**

**Postlude**

\*Please stand as you are able

Ministers	All of us
<u>Clergy</u>	
Office Hours	
Office Phone	902-964-2291
Email	<a href="mailto:minister@cquc.ca">minister@cquc.ca</a>
<u>Church Office</u>	Trudy Blanchard
Office Hours	Wednesday & Thursday 9 am – 12 pm
Phone	902-964-2221
Email	<a href="mailto:office@cquc.ca">office@cquc.ca</a>
<u>Website</u>	<a href="https://www.cqcu.ca">https://www.cqcu.ca</a>

**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.

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**Thank You** to Kirk Neville for leading us in worship and for his beautiful gift of music this morning. *Central Queens United Church*

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**Life and Work of Our Church**

**Emergencies** – Please contact Lois Lajeunesse at 902-621-0669 or 902-388-1103 for any emergencies.

**Supply Minister** – Roland Easter will be leading us in worship next Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Scripture Readings** - The scripture readings selected for next Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, are:

- Acts 2:1-21 The Holy Spirit comes in wind and flame.*
- Responsive Reading – Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (VU #827) *Go’s spirit brings life and renewal.*
- 9Corinthians 12:3b-13 *One spirit, many gifts.*
- John 20:19-23 *Jesus appears behind locked doors.*

These are made available to you for reading during the upcoming week.

**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.

**FundScrip** – The next order date is May 24<sup>th</sup>. You can reach Janet Howes by email [jhowes1969@gmail.com](mailto:jhowes1969@gmail.com) or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers accepted. The promotions for May are Shell 3%, Boston Pizza 10%, American Eagle 8% and Running Room 11%.

**Rosewood Service** this Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 pm. The Choir will be leading the service.

**Official Board Meeting** will be held on Thursday, **June 18<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:15 pm. **Please note the date.**

**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](mailto:veldabertram@gmail.com).

**Weekly Bulletins** can be sponsored by you in celebration or remembrance of a loved one. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Cost is \$20.00.

**Bulletin Deadline** – Deadline for announcements for the bulletin is **Wednesday evening**. Please email your announcement(s) to [office@cquc.ca](mailto:office@cquc.ca).

**Camp Abby** – *Back by Popular Demand* – Central Queens United Church has booked Camp Abby in Augustine Cove for the weekend of May 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, & 31<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is invited. This year a group of Camp Abby alumni from Central Queens United Church are organizing a reunion to be held the same weekend. The reunion organizers would like to invite all past Camp Abby alumni from Central Queens United Church to attend. The organizers are looking for donations of food or money to help offset the cost of the weekend. There will be no charge to attend. If you would like to volunteer, it would be greatly appreciated.

There will be no church service in Hunter River on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Sunday morning service will be held at **11 am** at Camp Abby.

**Please note** the change of time for the service. There will be a potluck lunch after the service.

Please let Trudy, Walter or Bernie know if you are going to attend so that we can be sure to have enough food and supplies to accommodate everyone. We are looking forward to having a great turnout and a lot of fun at Camp Abby.

**Sunday School Helpers are Needed** to assist in our Sunday School ministry. Please contact the church office if you can help with this very important ministry.

**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.

**Upcoming Church Events** – Mark your calendars for the following events:

June 20 – Spring Roast Beef Supper

August 15 – Yard Sale – Donated items can be dropped off during office hours

September 17, 18 & 19 – Dinner Theater

November 7 – Fall Roast Beef Supper

November 8 – Frozen Pie orders go out

November 22 – Frozen Pie orders due date

December 10 – Frozen Pies pick up date.

**Administrative Assistant** – Central Queens United Church is in need of a Administrative Assistant for our church office. This is a 6-hour position. Hours are Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am – 12 noon. Interested candidates are asked to contact the church office at [office@cquc.ca](mailto:office@cquc.ca) or at 902-964-2221.

**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](mailto:office@cquc.ca) or you can call her during office hours at 902-964-2221.

**Puzzle/Book Lending Library** – Amid all the wonderful books that have been donated to the library, Rev. Greg has left several books that would be useful in planning a reflection / short worship for a small group gathering. He has also left some books by his favourite theologians. For more casual reading, we have Clive Cussler, Nicholas Sparks and James Patterson plus dozens of other authors. Come and check out what may suit your reading tastes. Also be sure to check out the wide variety of puzzles available. All are in the main hall.

**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.

## Rural Routes Through the Holy – June 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

Have you heard of RRTH? It a three-day gathering held annually for those in rural faith communities. Rooted in the United Church it is ecumenical in its participation. It aims to grow and nurture a network and community of folks in rural churches and communities in the Maritimes; to encourage our voices as people with questions and gifts that are vital for telling the life of Christ in the world. We've been gathering since 2019 and over half our participants return year after year. There are various speakers to spark our imagination; some from people just like you who love something their faith community is doing and want to share their experience. We share worship, good food, conversation, resources, and quiet spaces for prayer practice or to walk the labyrinth. You can learn more at <https://ruralroutesthroughtheholyc.ca>

**This year we're meeting HERE at Central Queens, and we really hope a number of you will join us.**

Our theme this year is ***Tales, Tables, and Tending: The Slow Work of God in a Fast World***. We'll gather with tea/coffee and muffins at 9:30 am. Our welcome and worship begin at 10 am. You can learn more and register at <https://ruralroutesthroughtheholyc.ca/rural-routes-through-the-holy-registration/> If you have questions, you can always reach me at [ruralroutesatlantic@gmail.com](mailto:ruralroutesatlantic@gmail.com)

*Catherine for the Rural Routes team*

## Camp Abby Updates

*Annual Open House* will be held on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4 pm.

**New Mailing Address:** Please note our primary mailing address has changed to 140 Camp Abegweit Rd, Borden-Carleton, PE C0B 1X0

Please see the bulletin board by our church office for the "Most Needed Items for Summer 2026".

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## Community Events

**Spring Park United Church** - Come and enjoy a free concert featuring some of your favourite gospel and pop tunes this afternoon, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Spring Park United Church at 902-368-1822.

**Park Royal United Church Take-Out Lobster Supper** this Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, between 4:00-5:30 pm. Price is \$30. Lobster will be shelled, so no mess, no fuss - maybe a get-together with neighbors for a nice meal and no cleanup! Meal also includes potato salad, coleslaw, fresh roll and decadent dessert. Tickets are available now by calling 902-894-9656 or through Eventbrite.

**Here's to Song with Abegweit Chamber Singers** – The 25 voice Abegweit Chamber Singers will be presenting its first ever concert program at Summerside Presbyterian Church this Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm and at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Charlottetown, on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at 3 pm. The group was formed in February of this year with the aim of bringing singers from various Island communities together to foster unity and peace through song. The choir is under the direction of Ruth Ann Read-Clay, with pianist Ellen Davis. The program is a celebration of our country and its people. Included are folksong arrangements from the east to the west coast. The instrumental quartet, TSSK, will be performing, and special guest is PEI composer, Dr. Terry Pratt. Admission is by donation.

**Palestine Land Exercise** this Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, from 1-3 pm at Hillcrest United Church, 50 Wood Islands Rd, Montague. It didn't start on October 7, 2023. Would you like to deepen your understanding of the Palestine-Israel conflict? The Palestine Land Exercise (PLE) is an interactive presentation that walks participants through key historical events in the region since the late 19th century. Guided by a four-member volunteer team, this 50-minute immersive experience is followed by an Indigenous-style talking circle, offering space for reflection and discussion on steps towards peace. This workshop is open to all interested in participating. To register, please contact the Hillcrest church office **tomorrow**, May 25<sup>th</sup> at (902) 838-2698 or [mgr\\_hillcrest@outlook.com](mailto:mgr_hillcrest@outlook.com).

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### More Community News

**Feast Of Music Concert** at 7 pm on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at Hillcrest United Church, Montague featuring our Senior and Youth Choirs and the Sibbick Family Singers directed by Anne White, A Joyful Sound Community Choir with director Christie Beck. Accompanists are Sara White and Elizabeth Wisnicki with flute playing by Mary MacLean. There will be hymn singing and a delicious lunch to follow. Admission by donation. All are most welcome!

**West River United Church Annual Lobster Take Out Dinner** on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are now available - \$30. Gluten-free items are available upon request. Please contact the church office at 902-566-4052 to purchase your ticket.

**Closing Worship “Watch Party”** – You are invited to Trinity United Church in Summerside on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am for a “Watch Party” of the live streaming of the Closing Worship for the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region. Enjoy refreshments and fellowship as you watch the life stream. All are welcome.

**Take-Out Lobster Supper** on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 – 5:30 pm at Trinity Clifton United Church, Charlottetown. Enjoy lobster, potato salad, jelly salad, coleslaw, roll and homemade pie for dessert. Tickets are \$35. For tickets call 902-892-4114 or email [trinitycliftonunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:trinitycliftonunitedchurch@gmail.com).

**"The QEH Auxiliary Coffee and Royal Pantry Eatery** are looking for volunteers for some of their three-hour shifts from 3 - 6 or 6 - 9 pm. If you could spare three hours a week and would be able to help out, please call Naman at (902)894-2057 or email him at [nsharma@ihis.org](mailto:nsharma@ihis.org). Thank you!

### Mission and Service – *The Work of Compassion*

Across Northern Canada, Indigenous ministers are serving communities where grief is a constant presence. They walk with families through loss, often leading funerals for young people, holding space for pain that has no easy words. It is sacred work, but it is also heavy work. And too often, it is carried alone.

In many of these communities, distance and isolation make support hard to find. Ministers are expected to be present for others in moments of deep crisis, while having few places for themselves to turn for rest, understanding, or care.

For the past two years, through Mission and Service, something small but powerful has taken place. Northern Indigenous ministers have gathered for a retreat. The retreat is a space for Northern Indigenous ministers to step back from having to lead and give and step into receiving care and connection.

In Fall 2025, 16 ministers came together with facilitators for five days of rest and renewal. They shared meals and stories, sewed and beaded, and participated in ceremony. These moments provide space to breathe, grieve, and to be among others who deeply understand the weight of this work.

One minister reflected on how meaningful it can be to simply sit in a room with others who know that reality. What it means to not carry everything alone.

That is what the Northern Indigenous Ministers Retreat offers. Not a simple resolution, but something just as important: space. Space where burdens can be shared, even for a little while. Space where healing can begin.

Scripture reminds us to “bear one another’s burdens.” At this retreat, that call becomes real, through presence, community, and care.

This year, a third retreat is being planned at Fisher River Cree Nation, and retreat facilitators hope to welcome even more ministers into healing. The need continues, as does the opportunity to respond. Through Mission and Service, our gifts help make this possible. They help cover travel, support facilitators, and create space for rest and healing.

When we give, we remind Northern Indigenous ministers that they are not alone. Make your gift to Mission and Service today.

Over . . . .