

Bethel United Church

March 1 2026 – Lent 2



SECOND SUNDAY
in Lent

❖ All **bolded** text is a congregational response.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is March 1st and it's the Second Sunday in Lent. We welcome all of you into this place, whether you are worshiping with us in our sanctuary, or from home through our Live Streaming.

Rev. Dave Steele continues with us until Rev. Lynne returns from her restorative leave.

This week, our service is being led by: Ruth Anne Johnson and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson and Paul Kehoe.

Chat and Chew continues on Tuesdays at 1:30 but the Zoom Prayer and Share will resume when Rev. Lynne returns. If you have any questions about our weekly activities, you can access the calendar on our website: www.bethelchurchrideauferry.ca. The calendar will appear on the first screen and has all of our activities listed.

The Perth and area World Day of Prayer service 2026 will be at St John the Baptist Roman Catholic church on Friday, March 6th at 2:00pm, This year's service was written by an ecumenical group of women from Nigeria. All are welcome to attend.

The UCW meets on Tuesday, March 3rd at 11am. Bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay for Chat & Chew.

Lent Week Two

As Sandra explained last Sunday, the goal of our 2026 Lenten Project is to provide updated information about and support for our local Hospice Hub.

Here are a few more details about the Hospice Hub:

The Mission of the Hospice Hub is to ensure that the community has access to hospice care in the community where they live.

The Hospice Hub Team envisions a compassionate community where everyone can live, age, die, and grieve well.

Hospice care is a philosophy of comfort care for the end of life specifically, and palliative care is a part of hospice care. Typically Hospice Care is delivered at home or in a home-like environment. Palliative care is an approach to care which can be delivered alongside curative treatments, at any point in the illness trajectory where there are Quality of Life issues or unmet needs.

Today we are very fortunate to have Isobel Boyle, Vice Chair of The Hospice Hub with us to share some of the ways that the Hospice Hub has evolved and grown over the past three years. Liz Hughes will introduce Isobel just a little later in the service.

Ready for Pancakes?

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast will take place during Ontario Maple Weekend on Saturday April 5th from 8am until 11am.

Note: This is also Easter Weekend.

Once again we are partnering with Oliver's Mapleworks. Their delicious Maple Syrup will be available to complement your plate of yummy pancakes and sausages.

We know from past experience that it takes our entire Bethel Family to successfully carry out this important community event. A sign-up sheet is available and we ask for your help in looking after all the tasks that help ensure a successful Pancake Breakfast.

Your help is also requested in getting the word out about the breakfast. Posters will be available shortly. Please share them broadly. As well, we will make the Pancake Breakfast information available electronically. Please forward the information to family, friends and any other community contacts.

Together we can make this breakfast happen once again...and we do always have a lot of fun doing it!

Any questions, please contact myself, Karen Hunt, or any member of the Stewardship Committee.

Are there any birthdays or other celebrations this week? Where have you seen God at work this week?

Please join in singing a brief song of celebration:

VU 958

"Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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Land Acknowledgment (Unison)

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

Mission & Service Story

Grandmothers Leading With Love

In Kenya's Rift Valley, HIV and AIDS have reshaped entire families. More than 200,000 people in the region live with HIV. Many children are being raised not by their parents, but by grandmothers.

Women in their 60s and 70s are burying their own children and then stepping forward to raise grandchildren. They cook, farm, comfort, and pray—often while facing stigma in their own communities.

In some churches, HIV has been preached as punishment. A sign of sin. That stigma isolates families who are already grieving.

Through partnership with leaders at St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, Mission and Service has helped create something simple but transformative: a space for conversation. Grandmothers and pastors gathered in the same room.

One grandmother stood and told her story. She spoke of losing both her children and described the pain of being judged while loving her children fiercely. She spoke of her grandchildren, and her unshakable belief that God's love does not abandon anyone.

Pastors listened. They asked questions, challenged their own assumptions, and made commitments. They pledged to preach compassion, visit homes, and offer pastoral care instead of condemnation.

That is how change begins.

Through Mission and Service, we're helping to create spaces like these, where learning replaces stigma, and where churches become places of healing again.

When we give, we help grandmothers carry hope and love instead of shame.

Help love have the final word: make your own commitment today and make a gift for Mission and Service.

Hospice Hub Update

Isobel Boyle

The Lighting of the Christ Candle and World Candle

Today as we light our Christ Candle and World Candle we think of the great love of Jesus for his Mother, and his friend, as he hung on the cross. Even in great pain and despair, his love continued to stream down from the cross. There are times when our own pain and challenges can stop us from seeing others in need of help. Help us to continue to love even when life is at its most challenging.

Listen to the words of 1 John 4: 16:

"God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and he will stay one with us."

Call to Worship

One: Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent

All: *towards the One who calls us each by a new name.*

One: Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,

All: *pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.*

One: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,

All: *whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.*

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Thank you dear God, for the opportunity to gather together in this sanctuary, and in the warmth of your embrace Thank you that in worship we can put aside the uncertainties of this world, and rest upon the certainties of your promises. Thank you that as we draw near in worship we are transported from a world of concerns and fears to a place where we can be at peace in your presence, finding healing, wholeness and restoration. We come with joy! Amen

Opening Hymn VU 111 "As the Sun with Longer Journey"

**¹ As the sun with longer journey melts the winter's snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance
warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ's uprising gently bring our hearts to life.**

**² Through the days of waiting, watching in the desert of our sin,
searching on the far horizon for a sign of cloud or wind,
we await the healing waters of our Saviour's victory.**

**³ Praise be given to the Maker of the seasons' yearly round:
to the Speaker through the Spoken in their living Breath of love
as the ever turning seasons roll to their eternal rest.**

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Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

Offering Response **VU 542** **"We Give You But Your Own"**
We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

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Offertory Prayer

Scripture

- Proverbs 17: 17 (The Message)
- John 19: 25-27 (CEV)

Message

"The Words of Love" (Words of Love Series)

Hymn

MV 79

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

Refrain **Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.**
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

¹ God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*

² Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.
Refrain

³ May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. *Refrain*

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Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Today we have special prayers for:

Joy	Jim	Michael	Lainey
Liam	Bev	Leah	Barb & Jeff, in
Joanne	Kim	Amanda &	the loss of
Lorne	Pierre	Wayne T.	Jeff's sister
Abby	Dianne	Serge	The Gardiner &
Janet	Rae	Wayne P.	Holden families
Carol	Fran	Liz T.	in the loss of
Rev. Myra	Chris O.	Adrian	father David

And together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: **"Our Father....."**

Closing Hymn

VU 660

"How Firm a Foundation"

- ¹ How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**
- ² 'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.**
- ³ 'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**
- ⁴ 'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.**
- ⁵ 'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!'**

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Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Benediction

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching us in love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen**

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