



Bethel United Church June 28 2026

- All **Bolded Text** indicates a congregational response

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry Ontario. Today is June 28 and Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner and I am pleased to welcome all of you into this place of worship, whether you are worshipping with us virtually, or in

This week, our service is being led by: Paula Grenke and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson, and Donna Makahnouk.

Rev. Lynne's contact information is: Phone (613) 267-3855 or email pastor@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca

A quick reminder of our regularly scheduled Bethel activities: Chat and Chew, in person and in the hall on Tuesdays at 1:30 and our Zoom Prayer and Share at 10am on Thursday.

From Session and the Stewardship Committee

The 2026 Bethel Outdoor Service and BBQ Picnic will take place at 11a.m. on Sunday, July 26, 2026 at the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area (we will use the church hall if the weather does not cooperate) . Please join us for a special morning of outdoor worship, shared food, warm friendship and a lot of fun! (In response to special requests, we are again planning to have Giant Bubbles after the picnic lunch!)

Parking passes from the RVCA are \$10.00 each. Sandra and Ashley will have the passes here at Bethel on the morning of the 26th (and for several weeks prior as well). We encourage people to carpool from the church to the Conservation Area to reduce the number of parking passes needed.

Hugh Gardiner will again share his great saxophone music with us during the service.

There are picnic tables but please bring a lawn chair if you would find that more comfortable.

The Stewardship Committee will provide the food and other supplies for the BBQ picnic and everyone who participates in the lunch is invited to make a monetary donation into the basket towards costs.

Looking forward to sharing this special morning with members of our Bethel Family!

Lynne Evans celebrated her birthday this week. Are there any other celebrations?

Please join in singing a brief song of celebration:

VU 179

"Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks"

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;

hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

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Land Acknowledgment

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 and Service Story

Caring for Caregivers

Across Northern communities, Indigenous ministers are carrying extraordinary burdens. They walk alongside families through heartbreaking loss and hold space for grief that often has no easy words. It is sacred work. But it is also exhausting work. And too often, it is carried alone.

"When I started in the United Church, we buried a lot of elderly people," says Rev. Grant Queskekapow. "But now we bury a lot of youth who die as a result of suicide."

Rev. Queskekapow was a participant in the first Northern Indigenous Ministers Retreat, held in 2024 at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Manitoba. For many, including Rev. Queskekapow, it was the first time they had gathered in this way with fellow ministers.

With support from our gifts to Mission and Service, the Northern Indigenous Ministers Retreat is entering its third year. The retreat offers a much-needed opportunity to pause, to grieve, and to find healing. Ministers receive trauma-informed support and opportunities for rest, and have spoken about how important it is to experience a space where they do not need to carry everything on their own.

The retreat includes sharing circles, a sweat lodge, and opportunities for rest and relaxation. Participants also spend time making star blankets, moccasins, ribbon skirts, and beadwork together.

These activities create space for conversation, reflection, and connection, while also supporting cultural and spiritual healing.

The need continues to grow. Wildfires and ongoing crises in Northern communities have only deepened the strain many ministers are carrying. Plans are now underway for the 2026 Northern Indigenous Ministers Retreat, where even more ministers will be welcomed into a circle of healing and renewal.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." —Galatians 6:2

Through Mission and Service, our gifts help cover travel costs, support facilitators, and create space for ministers to receive care themselves. Let's give generously.

Call to Worship

Come everyone, come one and all.

Come if you are new.

Come if you've been here every week for 80 years.

Come if your name is long.

Come if your name is short.

Come, all, come everyone.

Come and worship the Lord,
who knows you and loves you,
whoever you are.

Sung Call to Worship VU 315 (vs 1)

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we light our candles this morning, we consider how we welcome people into our lives.

A moment of silent reflection: Where do you feel like you most belong?
Why is this? Do you think people feel welcome here?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from Matthew 10:

"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,

We come from scattered lives and busy days to gather in your presence.

We rejoice that you know each of us by name and love us completely, inside and out.

As we meet together, help us to recognize you among us.

Teach us to welcome one another with the same love and hospitality that welcomes you.

Let us understand your image reflected in every person we encounter, and to serve others with simple acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity.

As Jesus taught, may we receive those you send with grateful hearts, and may even the smallest gifts we offer—a word of encouragement, a helping hand, a cup of cold water—be signs of you at work among us.

Bless our time of worship, learning, and community today.

Draw us closer to you and to one another,

so that all we do may honour God and share God's love with the world.

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, ever to 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***

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Loving God, You know us by name and love us completely,
yet we confess that we do not always recognize your presence among us.

You call us to welcome one another as we would welcome Christ,
but too often we pass by opportunities to offer kindness,
withhold compassion,
or fail to see the dignity and worth of those around us.

We confess the times when we have judged rather than listened,
excluded rather than embraced,
or turned away from the needs of our neighbours.

Forgive us when we forget that every person bears your image
and every act of care reflects your love.

Renew us by your Spirit. Open our eyes to see you in those we meet,
open our hearts to receive one another with grace,
and open our hands to share the gifts you have entrusted to us.

May our lives bear witness to your welcome, your justice, and your peace.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Hear the good news:

The One who knows us by name also knows our hearts.
God's mercy is wider than our failures,
and God's love is deeper than our regrets.

In Jesus Christ, we are welcomed, forgiven, and made new.
Through the grace of God, our sins are forgiven,
our relationships are restored,
and we are called again to live as signs of God's love in the world.

Receive this gift of forgiveness with gratitude and hope,
and share that same grace with one another.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Theme conversation

Where have you felt most at home? Where have you felt the most welcomed? How can we become a truly welcoming community?

Our Scriptures Today

Matthew 10: 40–42

Welcoming and offering a cup of water.

Reflection

Hymn

VU 672

"Take Time to Be Holy"

- ¹ Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.**
- ² Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.**
- ³ Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.**

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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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Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God,
you call us from scattered lives into your presence,
and you know each of us by name.
You welcome us with steadfast love,
and you invite us to welcome one another in your name.

We pray for your church throughout the world:
for all who gather in worship today, for those who lead,
those who serve, and those who seek faith with uncertainty.
Make your people a living sign of Christ's welcome,
that all may know they are seen, valued, and loved.

We pray for the world you have made:
for places torn by violence, fear, and division;
for communities facing poverty, displacement, or disaster;
for all who long for safety, peace, and dignity.
Teach us to recognize your presence in our neighbours,
and to act with compassion, courage, and generosity.

We pray for those who are weary in body, mind, or spirit;
for those who are ill, grieving, isolated, or afraid;
for those whose needs are known only to you.
Surround them with your comfort,
and let them experience your care through the kindness of others.
We remember especially before you now those we name in our hearts...
Give healing, hope, and strength where they are needed most.

We pray for those who offer welcome in ordinary ways:
for those who share a meal, offer a listening ear,
lift a burden, make room at the table,
or give even a cup of cold water in Christ's name.
Bless all such gifts, however small they may seem,
for you have promised that none of them is forgotten.

Make us, O God, a people who see you reflected in everyone we meet.
Open our eyes to notice your image in the stranger,
the friend, the child, the elder,
and in every person whom the world has overlooked.
Teach us to receive one another as we would receive Christ himself.

And now we bring before you the prayers of our own hearts...
[Silence]

Gracious God, hear these prayers we offer in faith and in hope,
and shape us into a community that welcomes as Christ welcomes.
Today we have special prayers for:

Joy	Fran	Haley	Robin
Leah	Serge	Bill	Grace
Liam	Lainey	Ellen Jane	Dave
Janet	James	Jennifer	
Carol	Brynnley	Sandy	
Kim H.	Kim P.	Ellen & Art	

And as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:
Our Father....

Closing Hymn**MV 1 (vs 1,, 2, 4, 5)*****"Let Us Build a House"***

- ¹ Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**
- ² Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**
- ⁴ Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,
serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**
- ⁵ Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

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Living our Faith this Week

Are you a welcoming person? Are we a welcoming congregation? What do we need to do to truly welcome people in our community. Spend some time thinking about how we can welcome people in Christ's name.

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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