

Bethel United Church July 19 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 July 19 and the sixth 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 person in our Sanctuary.



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

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

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.

The Official Board meeting follows the worship service today.

Mark your calendars for Sunday August 16th for "*Let Them Eat Cake*" Sunday. All are invited for cake, coffee/tea after worship. We will have 12 cakes, each representing a month of the year. Seven (7) months have already been spoken for, but we need your help for the remaining months. Please see the sign-up sheet on the fridge, in the kitchen.

A second Grief and Bereavement Drop-In Support Group will take place in the Bethel United Church Hall on Wednesday, July 29th from 1:30-3:30 p.m. If you would like to participate, please register with Brad Dowdall, Community Home Support Lanark County
Call 613 267- 6400 or email bradd@chslc.ca

From Session and the Stewardship Committee

- 2026 Bethel Outdoor Service and BBQ Picnic will take place at 11a.m. on Sunday, July 26, 2026
- Location: Sun shelter at Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area
- Special morning of outdoor worship, shared food, warm friendship and a lot of fun!
- Parking passes from the RVCA are \$10.00 each. (Sandra and Ashley Walker will have the passes here at Bethel on the morning of the 26th (and each Sunday prior to July 26th))

- Meet at Bethel at 10:30a.m. on the 26th and carpool from the church to the Conservation Area to reduce the number of parking passes needed.
- Special saxophone music from Hugh Gardiner during the service.
- Please bring a lawn chair if you would find that more comfortable.
- Stewardship will provide the food and other supplies for the BBQ picnic and participants are invited to make a monetary donation into the basket towards costs.
- Looking forward to sharing this special morning with members of our Bethel Family!

Bob Klatt and Jan Gardiner celebrate their birthdays 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

Shared Wonder

Nestled along the Niagara Escarpment, Cave Springs Camp offers children and youth something that can be hard to find in today's world: space to slow down, explore, and to connect with creation, one another, and God.

A child crouching down beside a forest trail suddenly shouts, "I found a salamander!"

Within moments, a group gathers around, curious and excited. For a few minutes, nothing else matters. Not phones, schedules, or other distractions that fill our days. Just a small creature, a shared discovery, and a sense of wonder.

Moments like these happen every day at United Church camps.

Surrounded by towering trees and winding trails, campers spend their days discovering the natural world, sharing meals, singing around campfires, and building friendships. Amidst all the activity, something deeper takes root: camp becomes a place of belonging.

For some children, it may be the first time they feel fully accepted for who they are. For others, it may be the first time they experience the quiet beauty of creation or feel comfortable asking questions about faith. Away from the pressures and distractions of everyday life, campers can be fully present. They get to be themselves in a supportive community, with God's presence all around them.

The lessons learned at camp often stay with them long after summer ends. A love of creation. A sense of confidence. New friendships. A growing faith. These gifts are carried home, and woven into the lives of young people as they continue to grow.

Through Mission and Service, we help make these experiences possible. Together, we support United Church camps that nurture faith, foster community, and invite young people to encounter God's love in meaningful ways.

Let's give generously to continue helping create spaces where children and youth can discover wonder, belonging, and the joy of being part of God's creation.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Surely the Lord is in this place, though we may not always know it.

From the heights of the heavens to the depths of the sea, there is nowhere we can go to flee from God's presence.

Even in our wandering, in our sleeping, and in our waking, God is with us.

God hems us in behind and before; we are known completely by our Creator.

Let us behold the ladder between heaven and earth, where God's grace descends to meet us.

This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts; test us and know our thoughts.

Point out anything in us that offends you, and lead us along the path of everlasting life.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth!

Sung Call to Worship VU 411 (sing x 2) "O God We Call"

**O God we call, O God we call, from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside we yearn for you.**

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we light our candles this morning, we ponder what it means to recognize God's presence in our lives and in the world around us. Like Jacob, we may discover that God is with us in places and moments we did not expect.

A moment of silent reflection: Where have you noticed God this week? Where might God be present, even if you have not recognized it yet?

Listen to God's words for us this morning from Genesis 28:

"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

And from Psalm 139:

"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me."

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we come today knowing that you are always right here with us. Just like you stayed with Jacob while he traveled and slept in the open field, we thank you for being by our side wherever we go.

It is amazing to think that you know us completely. You know when we sit down and when we stand up; you even know what we are going to say before we say it. There is no place we can go where you aren't already there. Even when things feel dark or confusing, your light is still shining for us.

As we start our time together, please look into our hearts. Help us let go of anything that shouldn't be there and show us the right way to live. May this time of worship feel like an open door to your presence.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

VU 650

"O God of Bethel"

**¹ O God of Bethel, by whose hand your people still are fed,
who through this earthly pilgrimage have all your servants led:**

**² our vows, our prayers, we now present
before your throne of grace.
God of past ages, be the God of each succeeding race.**

**³ Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread, and shelter fit provide.**

**⁴ O spread your covering wings around,
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our God's beloved abode our souls arrive in peace.**

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

God of love,
you know us better than we know ourselves.
You see the ways we have fallen short—
the unkind words we have spoken, the help we have failed to give,
and the times we have chosen our own way instead of yours.
We confess that we do not always notice your presence with us.
When life feels difficult, we may doubt that you are near.
When we are comfortable, we may forget to seek you.
Forgive us, God.
Search our hearts, clear away what separates us from you,
and lead us in your way of love, mercy, and peace.
Amen.

Assurance of Love

Hear the good news:
God is with us wherever we go. God knows us fully and loves us deeply.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to walk in the way
everlasting. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Theme conversation

Souvenirs!

Our Scriptures Today

Genesis 28:10–19a

- Jacob's dream of the ladder.

Psalms 139:1–12, 23–24

- God, you have searched me and known me.

Reflection

Hymn

VU 497 (vs 1, 2, 4, 5)

"Nearer My God to Thee"

- ¹ **Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**
- ² **Though, like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**
- ⁴ **Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
so by my woes to be nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**

**⁵ Or if on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upwards I fly,
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**

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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 (Responsive)

Loving God,
you are with us in every place—in joy and sorrow, in certainty and doubt, in daylight and in darkness. We bring our prayers to you, trusting that you hear us.

We pray for your world.

Bring peace where there is war, safety where there is danger, and hope where people are afraid. Guide leaders to choose justice, wisdom, and care for those who are most vulnerable.

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for communities near and far.

Be with people who are hungry, lonely, grieving, sick, or struggling to make ends meet. Strengthen those who care for others: health-care workers, teachers, caregivers, first responders, and all who serve their neighbours.

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for your church.

Help us to notice your presence in ordinary places and everyday people. Make us welcoming, generous, and ready to share your love in our community.

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those we know and love who need your care today.
In this moment of silence, we name them before you.
(*Silence is kept.*)

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves.

Search our hearts and lead us in your way. When we feel lost, remind us that you are near. When we are afraid, give us courage. When we are tired, give us rest. When we are grateful, help us share that joy with others.

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Today we have special prayers for:

Joy	Diane & Joe in	Bill	Grace
Leah	the loss of	Chris	Dave
Liam	Serge	Ellen Jane	Helen
Janet	Lainey	Jennifer	Lynda
Carol	James	Sandy	Sarah
Kim H.	Brynnley	Ellen & Art	Rae
Fran	Kim P.	Robin	

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

Closing Hymn VU 639 “One More Step Along the World I Go”

¹ **One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:**

***Refrain* And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**

² **Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me: *Refrain***

³ **As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know: *Refrain***

**4 Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you: *Refrain***

**5 You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:
Refrain And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**

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Living our Faith this Week

This week, as you go about your regular day, stop for a brief moment and notice that God is with you. See if you can make this part of your daily spiritual practices.

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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