

Bethel United Church August 30, 2026

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

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning, everyone, a warm welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry Ontario. It is my personal joy to be with you this morning for your worship service. My name is Rev. Doug Stiller and my wife Beverley has joined me as well. Whether you worship with us in person or virtually, my prayer is that you might experience in a fresh way, the wonderful presence and love of God, as you journey into a brand new week.

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

A quick reminder of our regularly scheduled Bethel activities: Chat and Chew, in person and in the hall on Tuesdays at 1:30; our Zoom Prayer and Share resumes on September 3rd at 10am.

Hi! Aidan Williamson here. I will once again be participating in the annual Terry Fox Run on Sunday, September 20th, 2026. If you would be interested in sponsoring me, my pledge forms will be posted on the church bulletin board from **Sunday, August 30th to Sunday, September 13th** (inclusive). Cash or cheques are accepted. Cheques should be made payable to: **"The Terry Fox Foundation"**. If you prefer not to drop off your donation at the church, you could put it in my mailbox. I will fill out the pledge form on your behalf using information from our Bethel Directory. I live just a few minutes from the church at 1013 Port Elmsley Road. Thank you in advance for your support. Sincerely, Aidan. PS: As yet, there is no "official" local run this year, but as this is my 25th year of participating, I know the route.

The next Official Board meeting will be held on Sunday, September 12th following worship. If you have a report or an item for the agenda, please send it to Linda. Minutes of the July 19 2026 meeting can be found on the website. Bring a sandwich to add to the soup which will be available.

Land Acknowledgement

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked this land, weaving their identity and their spirituality intimately with the land. We acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg people. May we grow into living with

MATTHEW 4:4

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

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respect on this land, moving into reconciliation through peace and friendship with all who live, work and worship on it.

Prayer of Invocation

Mission and Service Story

Nourishing Students

At Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, the Ecumenical Chaplaincy is responded to student food insecurity with a practical ministry of care. Supported by Mission and Service, local church volunteers prepare homemade meals that are stored in freezers at the Faith and Life Centre. The ecumenical chaplain distributes the meals to students who ask for them, ensuring nutritious food is available when it's needed.

As students prepare to return to campus for a new academic year, many are looking forward to new classes, new friendships, and new opportunities. For some, however, the start of the semester also brings financial pressure as they balance tuition, rent, textbooks, and rising grocery costs.

All these added and rising costs mean many students have little left in their budgets after paying for essentials. For some, skipping meals or relying on inexpensive, less nutritious food becomes part of getting through the semester.

The homemade meal program helps fill that gap. Volunteers cook meals in their own kitchens, package them in take-away containers, and replenish the freezer throughout the year. Their commitment means students can access nourishing food when they need it, helping ease one of the many pressures that can come with university life.

A homemade meal doesn't solve every challenge a student faces, but it makes a meaningful difference. Good nutrition helps students concentrate, engage in their studies, and make the most of the opportunities that are presented to them.

We are helping sustain this work through Mission and Service, by supporting the cost of ingredients and containers, making it possible for volunteers to continue preparing meals for students experiencing food insecurity. Together, congregations, volunteers, and the chaplaincy are responding to the growing need with practical care.

As another school year begins, this ministry reminds us that care takes many forms. Sometimes it looks like a listening ear. Sometimes it's a place to belong. And sometimes it's a homemade meal waiting in the freezer.

As students return to campus, our gifts to Mission and Service help ministries like Brock University's Ecumenical Chaplaincy provide practical support when it's needed most. Together, we can help ensure students have access to nutritious meals and a caring community throughout the academic year. Let's give generously.

Call to Worship (Responsive, Isaiah 43: 1-4)

But now says the Lord, He who created you, He who formed you O Israel, fear not for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by your name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you, and the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire you shall not be burned.

And the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your Saviour.

You are there.

In the quiet of the night

Because you are precious in my eyes, and honoured, and I love you.

Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

You are the light of the world like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light under a basket. Instead put it on a stand and let it shine for all. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Opening Prayer

Dear Christ, you are the bread of life. You are the light of the world. You are the giver of our salvation. For all who desire, you shine in our lives the glory of God in the face of Jesus. You have given us your light and love that we might light the path of others who wander in spiritual darkness, longing for hope, that is found in the Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Opening Hymn VU 315 "*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!***"**

¹ **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!**

² **Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**³ Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**⁴ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer of Confession/Promised Forgiveness/Lord's Prayer (Unison)
*Heavenly Father, God of mercy and grace, we come humbly before
you, confessing our need of your forgiveness. Our thoughts, our
actions, our words, and our attitudes have not always honoured you.
Thank you that you offer forgiveness as the scriptures declare,
when we sincerely repent our sins.*

*We surrender our lives, wills, and desires to you, trusting in your
perfect plan for our lives. A plan that we may not always
understand, yet know it is perfect as we trust in your lordship.*

*May our lives be a reflection of your mercy and love each new day.
May our lives be open daily to the refreshing presence of your Holy
Spirit in His fullness. We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to
pray, Our Father ...*

Our Scripture Today

Matthew 4: 1-4

Jesus is tested in the wilderness.

Psalms 119: 1-24

Today's Lesson

Can the bible be trusted?

Hymn

VU 663

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

**¹ My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine.
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away.
O let me from this day be wholly thine.**

**² While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide,
bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's tears away;
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**3 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire.
As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.**

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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 (Responsive)

Loving god, we come before you with all of our joy and our sadness, our gratitude and our anger, our dreams and our doubts. You see us as we are. You know the depths of our hearts. You already know our quiet hopes, our silent sorrows, and our hidden fears, and still you call us beloved. We long for your continued presence in our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We lift up all who are burdened by sorrow, loneliness, and despair, whose bodies are weary from illness, and whose spirits are heavy with grief, medical uncertainty or other difficult news. May all turn to you in faith, for you offer your comforting presence bringing peace and renewed strength and hope.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We also pray for the brokenness in our world where division, hatred, and fear continue to tear at the fabric of our communities. Be with those affected by violence, oppression, and conflict and those who have experienced earthquakes, fires, and floods. In humility may the eyes of leaders and nations be opened to your truth. May your Spirit rule in their hearts bringing understanding and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who identify with this community of faith. May they find in you the source of all that they need. We thank you for your shepherd that cares for this flock. May she be empowered to teach and instruct this congregation in ways of righteousness and truth. May Jesus be seen in all of his beauty through their witness.

Today we remember in need of special prayer:

Joy	Brynnley	Robin	Chris L.
Leah	Kim P.	Grace	Dave S.
Liam	Haley	Helen	Helen
Janet	Bill	Lynda	John
Carol	Chris	Sarah	The Rylie
Kim H.	Ellen Jane	Morgan	Family
Fran	Jennifer	Tom	
Lainey	Sandy	Sandra	
James	Ellen & Art	Rick	

Closing Hymn VU 635 "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me"

- ¹ All the way my Saviour leads me; what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.**
- ² All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me, lo, a spring of joy I see!**
- ³ All the way my Saviour leads me; O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages, 'Jesus led me all the way!'**

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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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