



Bethel United Church September 6 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 September 6, and the fifteenth 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're 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: Ruth Anne Johnson and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson, and Donna Makahnouk.

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 on Thursdays at 10am. The link to our Zoom prayer and share goes out on the church email every week. If you wish to be included in this and haven't been, please give Rev. Lynne or Linda Hamon your email information.

The Stewardship Committee will meet in the Church Hall after the service this morning (September 6) to plan Stewardship activities for the coming weeks.

Anyone interested in participating in the work of this committee is welcome to join us in the Hall this morning. Any questions, please speak to Karen Hunt.

The UCW will meet on Tuesday, September 8th at 11am followed by a pot luck lunch. All ladies are invited to attend.

The next Official Board meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13th (*corrected date*) 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 have with the soup which will be available.

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.

Hugh celebrates his birthday next week and has happily celebrated his first week of retirement. Are there any other celebrations this week?

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

Leaders in the Making

At Camp Kee-Mo-Kee in Komoka, ON, our Mission and Service gifts help to strengthen something at the heart of every summer camp experience: the people who make camp possible. By supporting an experienced senior staff role, our gifts help equip emerging leaders, support campers, and strengthen the entire camp community.

Many of Camp Kee-Mo-Kee's senior summer staff are still growing into leadership. They are capable and committed, but leadership takes experience, and that experience grows through mentorship and support. This summer, our gifts through Mission and Service helped fill the gap by funding a senior staff position dedicated to supporting the summer team.

The person who stepped into the role brought years of experience as a former Camp Director, along with strong relationships throughout the Camp Kee-Mo-Kee community. Her role was intentionally flexible. She mentored and coached newer senior staff, provided hands-on training, and stepped in wherever she was needed.

Whether that meant covering a staff break, helping in the kitchen so another staff member could remain focused on camper care, or supporting a camper through a difficult moment she was ready to step in. Her presence created a steady source of encouragement, experience, and connection across camp.

"I've been able to support all over camp and take on the other small or behind-the-scenes tasks to support staff success, which then carries on to support camper success," she shared. "Being able to be out and around, building connections across camp, and always on the move to jump in where needed has made for a tremendous summer experience."

The impact reached beyond funding that single position. Senior staff had an experienced mentor to turn to, which strengthened staff preparedness and helped build a stronger leadership team. The campers benefited from having confident, supported leaders who could be fully present for them.

This is the ripple effect of our Mission and Service gifts. When we invest in people, that investment reaches entire communities.

At Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, this has not only supported staff and campers for one summer. It's created a model of mentorship that can continue developing strong camp leaders for years to come.

Our gifts through Mission and Service help strengthen communities by creating places where children and youth can belong, grow, build meaningful relationships, and experience God's love. Let's give generously so camps like Camp Kee-Mo-Kee can continue nurturing leaders, supporting campers, and creating meaningful experiences for generations to come.

Call to Worship

Eternal God,
with ears ready to hear you, with hearts ready to receive you,
with voices ready to praise you, with hands ready to reach out to you,
with lives ready to serve you, we celebrate your presence with us now,
in this place and in our world. **Amen.**

Sung Call to Worship

MV 14 (x 2)

"Where Two or Three are Gathered in My Name"

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.**

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we light our candles this morning, we consider what it means to be called together into community.

A moment of silent reflection: When you hear the phrase "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there", what does it mean to you? How does awareness of God's presence in our midst change how you interact with the people you come into contact with?

Opening Prayer

God of the present and of the past,
for all that you have done in the lives of your people, we praise you.
For all the ways you invite us to follow and serve you, we praise you.
For the continuity of faith through the ages, we praise you.
Reading your Word, remembering your faithfulness, following your precepts,
together as your people, we praise you, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

VU 245

"Praise the Lord With the Sound of Trumpet"

**¹ Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.
Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.
Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.**

**2 Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment, nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!**

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Forgive us, living God,
for those moments when we have been slow to respond to your prompting,
when we haven't been ready to give up our time,
our resources, our 'self' to serve you,
when we have walked alone, instead of walking with others,
when, in chasing a future, we have trampled on the past.
Forgive us and unite us as your people, equipped to share our faith and
your love.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Love

Redeemer of us all,
you have brought us out of the land of oppression and failure;
guiding us through want, trauma and conflict;
blessing us with new hope, new opportunities and a new story;
uniting us with those who have gone before;
strengthening our community with those around us,
and inspiring us to witness to those who will come after us,
that life may come and your will be done,
today and always. **Amen.**

Theme conversation *Labour Day and the Social Gospel Movement*

Our Scriptures Today

Romans 13:8–14 *Owe no one anything but love.*
Matthew 18:15–20 *Where two or three are gathered in my name*

Reflection

Hymn

VU 282

"Long Before the Night"

- ¹ Long before the night was born from darkness
long before the dawn rolled unsteady from fire
long before she wrapped her scarlet arms around the hills
there was a love this ancient love was born.**
- ² Long before the grass spotted green the bare hillside
long before a wing unfolded to wind
long before she wrapped her long blue arm around the sea
there was a love this aching love rolls on.**
- ³ Long before a chain was forged from the hillside
long before a voice uttered freedom's cry
long before she wrapped her bleeding arms around a child
there was a love this ancient love was born.**
- ⁴ Long before the name of God was spoken
long before a cross was nailed from a tree
long before she laid her arm of colours 'cross the sky
there was a love this ancient love was born.**
- ⁵ Wakeful are our nights and slumbers our morning
stubborn is the grass sowing green wounded hills
as we wrap our healing arms to hold what her arms held
this ancient love this aching love rolls on.**

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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

Creator and Sustainer God, we come before you on this Labour Day weekend giving thanks for the gifts of purpose, effort, and creative energy with which you endow us. We lift up all whose labour builds community and sustains life: the hands that till soil, care for children and elders, heal the sick, maintain infrastructure, teach, clean, organize, and serve. We pray for a renewed national and global commitment to economic justice, fair wages, safe workplaces, and the human dignity of every worker. For those who face

precarious employment, workplace injustice, or systemic barriers, and for those who carry the exhaustion of unremitting toil without adequate rest, grant protection, advocacy, and lasting relief.

Lord, as the apostle Paul reminds us to owe no one anything except to love one another, convict us of the debt of mutual care that defines our common life. Awaken us from complacency to put aside the works of darkness and clothe ourselves in Christ. We pray for people who are unemployed, underemployed, or seeking meaningful purpose, as well as those transitioning into retirement who wonder how to offer their gifts anew. May our communities be places of generous mutual aid, where resources are shared equitably and where love serves as the fulfilling standard of all our economic and social relations.

We bring before you our divided world, our fractured systems, and the fragile places in our own lives and relationships. Remembering Jesus' teaching on reconciliation and truth-telling, we pray for the courage to address wrongdoing with humility, clarity, and tenderness rather than silence or retaliation. Strengthen our congregations to be communities of restorative justice and healing, where conflicts become opportunities for deeper understanding and accountability. Where two or three are gathered in your name, be present to soften hardened hearts, mend broken bonds, and guide our collective discernment toward your peace.

We hold in our hearts those who are hurting and vulnerable today: individuals bearing chronic illness, those carrying the weight of grief, caregivers in need of respite, people experiencing loneliness or isolation, and communities suffering the trauma of displacement, violence, or environmental harm. Trusting in the promise that you abide with us whenever we gather in faithful solidarity, we place all our unspoken prayers into your loving embrace.

Today we have special prayers for:

Joy	Lainey	Ellen & Art	John T.
Leah	James	Helen	The Rylie
Liam	Brynnley	Lynda	Family
Carol	Ellen Jane	Sarah	
Kim H.	Jennifer	Sandra	
Fran	Sandy	Helen T.	

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

Our Father....

Closing Hymn MV 154

"Deep in our Hearts"

- ¹ Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**
- ² Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.**
- ³ Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.**
- ⁴ Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

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Living our Faith this Week

This week's "Living our Faith" challenge may require a little more self-awareness than usual, but give it a try! When you have a conversation with someone, no matter how short, how silly or how trivial, see if you can take a brief moment to recognize God's presence.

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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