

**Central Queens Pastoral Charge
United Church of Canada
We Gather as God's Beloved**

CENTRAL QUEENS UNITED CHURCH

August 30, 2026 – 10:30 am

Worship Leader: Rev. Margaret Collins

14th Sunday after Pentecost



Central Queens' Mission Statement

*Central Queens United Church is a loving and living community
called to support the life stages of all people,
celebrating joy and sharing in pain.
Through faith and fellowship, we are united by God's love
to live and serve as Disciples of Christ.*

Prelude

Welcome

Welcome to this time of worship, praise, prayer, and fellowship.

**Welcome to this place of worship, located on the
unceded traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people.**

May all who enter this sanctuary find it a haven of peace.

May it be so. Amen.

Announcements

Birthdays & Special Occasions

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We gather today as followers of Jesus,
who, when asked "Who are you?", replied:

I am the Light!

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world;

**may its light brighten our spirits
and through us may the light of God shine in our world.**

***Introit:** *"Walk With Me" VU #649 (chorus x3)*

Bible Presentation *(placed during singing of the Introit)*

Call to Worship

Sometimes God calls us through burning bushes, telling us to go
and free a whole people despite our insecurities and fears.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Sometimes God calls us, and we don't understand the full meaning
of the call; the ways our families, friends, and communities
may resist the good news and reject us as messengers of it.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Sometimes God calls us to a path that is harder than we think we can
handle, asking us to trust that God will provide what we need.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Dear Friends, God's call takes many forms. Sometimes it feels as natural as breathing, and sometimes we want to run from it as far as we can. But take assurance in this: You are not alone. We are not alone. God is with us, and God's call can be trusted, because no matter where it leads, God is there.

God, help us accept your call on our lives and to trust that what you equip us to do is what you call us to do as members of the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *"Come Touch Our Hearts" MV #12 (vs. 1-4)*

Prayer of Approach

We come into the place of sanctuary, O God, asking that you pour your guiding and sustaining Spirit into our hearts and lives. Open us to your Good News revealed by your Son, Jesus.

**Then most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
help us to know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 105: Parts 1&3 – VU #828

***Hymn:** *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (vs. 1&2 / 3&4)*

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back, no turning back.

Time with the Young & Young at Heart

Hymn:

Though none go with me, I still will follow,
Though none go with me, I still will follow,
Though none go with me, I still will follow,
No turning back, no turning back.



Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.

Invitation to Confession

Prayer for Transformation

Loving Jesus, our Teacher, Guide and Saviour:

You call us to be your voices in this world and we stay silent.

Forgive us.

You call us to be your hands in this world, and we keep them hidden.

Forgive us.

You call us to be your feet in this world, and we go our own way.

Forgive us.

When we meet those who are doubting and we say nothing;

forgive us.

When we are called to take up your cross and we turn away;

forgive us.

Breathe your Spirit of forgiveness upon us, and bring freedom and a new beginning into our lives that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God. Amen

Words of Assurance

There is no greater joy in the heart of God than the moment when we open our own hearts and lives to the gift of forgiveness. This very day, God's Spirit reaches out to assure us of welcome in Christ. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen. Alleluia!

God's Word for Us Today

Prayer for Inspiration

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15 (NRSV)
Moses at the Burning Bush

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-18 (NRSV)
Marks of the True Christian

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16: 21-28 (NRSV)
Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Anthem: “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

Sermon

We Respond to God’s Love for Us

Music for Reflection

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Invitation

***Presentation of Offering:** “Your Work, O God” VU #537

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, you call ordinary people from unexpected places and then equip and send them to do your holy work. As you met Moses in the fire that did not consume, and as you met Peter on the road of costly discipleship, meet us now in these gifts we bring.

Shape us by your presence, not by fear; by service, not by power; by love that risks itself for the sake of others. Receive and bless our offering as a sign that we trust you to go with us and that we are willing to follow Christ, even when the way is demanding. Use what we give to bring freedom, healing, and hope to your world. Amen.

We Go in Faith to Love and Serve God

Commissioning

The peace of God be in your heart; the grace of God be in your words; the love of God be in your hands; the joy of God be in your soul and in the song that your life sings.

May the majesty of God the Creator be the light by which we walk; the compassion of Jesus our Saviour be the love by which we walk; and the presence of the Spirit be the sustaining and guiding power by which we walk our path of discipleship, this day and always. Amen.

***Hymn:** “Draw the Circle Wide” MV #145

***Becoming Light Bearers**

We have gathered and worshipped in the presence of the Light and Love of Jesus. As we prepare to leave this sanctuary, we are called to now become those who carry the Light of Christ to our world.

**We will go forth to bring Light and Hope to our world!
Amen. Alleluia!**

***Benediction**

***Choral Response:** “One More Step Along the World I Go”
VU #639 (vs. 1 & chorus)

Welcome to All – We are delighted you have joined us! May God’s word today strengthen your faith, inspire curiosity and learning, and motivate your service of others. If you are looking for a church home, we would like to invite you to consider us your spiritual family. All are welcome in this place.

Thank You to Rev. Margaret Collins for leading us in worship this morning.
~ Central Queens United Church

Ministers	All of us
<u>Clergy</u>	
Office Hours	
Office Phone	902-964-2291
Email	minister@cquc.ca
<u>Church Office</u>	Bonnie LaFrance
Office Hours	Summer hours will vary
Phone	902-964-2221
Email	office@cquc.ca
<u>Website</u>	https://www.cqcu.ca

Emergencies – Please contact Lois Lajeunesse at 902-621-0669 or 902-388-1103 for any church related assistance.

Supply Minister – Eric Lynk and Margaret Collins will be leading us in worship next Sunday, September 6.

Scripture Readings selected for next Sunday, September 6:

Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 3

Psalms 148

Acts 17: 22a, 24 - 28

John 1: 1 – 5

Congregational vote

On September 13, 2026, the congregation of Central Queens Pastoral Charge is called to meet directly after church for the purpose of receiving a recommendation from the Search Committee. At this meeting, the candidate as recommended by the Search Committee and the terms of the call will be presented for consideration by those present. This will be the only item of business. Upon approval of the recommendation from the Search Committee by the Pastoral Charge, the motion will be shared with the Regional Council for their action.

Central Queen's United Church Sunday School invites children and youth to join us for "*Adventures With the Son*". Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 20, 2026, during the 10:30 a.m. service. Location: Central Queen's United Church, Hunter River. All Welcome!

FundScrip – The next order date is Sunday, September 13. You can reach Janet Howes by email jhowes1969@gmail.com or by phone or text (902-393-1527). E-transfers are accepted.

Central Queens Dinner Theatre will take place on September 17th, 18th, and 19th. Price is \$40. Team nights: September 17th - team 3; September 18th- team 4; September 19th - team 1; Setup and takedown- team 2.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Church Events:

September 17, 18 & 19 – Dinner Theatre

October 24 – Car Rally

November 7 – Fall Roast Beef Supper

November 8 – Frozen Pie orders go out

November 21 – Trivia

November 22 – Frozen Pie orders due date

December 10 – Frozen Pies pick up date

SAVE THESE DATES!

~ Saturday, October 24 – Central Queens Car Rally

Start time – 9:00 a.m. at the church parking lot. Pre-register by calling Walter Carver (902-213-7015) or the church office.

~ Saturday, November 21 – Trivia at Central Queens

2:00 p.m. Get a team together and sign up by calling Walter or the church office.

Moderator's Visit

You're invited to an afternoon with the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath.

Date and time: Friday, September 11. Gathering at 1:30 p.m., with the event beginning at 2:00 and a reception at 3:30.

Location: Central Queens United Church

This is an open invitation; please spread the word!

Any questions, contact Kathy Bigsby at kathryn_bigsby@hotmail.com

~ Camp Abegweit annual golf tournament -- September 12 starting at 10:00 at the Rustico Resort. Cost is \$150 per player, and each player is eligible for a \$50 tax receipt. There are lots of great prizes up for grabs. To register: <https://golf.campabegweit.ca>.

~ Camp Abegweit annual fundraising dinner -- September 26 at Camp Abegweit. The sit-down meal starts at 6 p.m. and will be a three-course roast beef meal. Take-out option is available from 4-4:30. Tickets: \$45 for adults; \$20 for children. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Following the dinner, there will be a cake auction and silent auction. If you would like to purchase tickets or donate to either auction, contact Sharon Howatt at sharon@campabegweit.ca or 902-432-9193.