

Harmony United Church

1 Shuniah Street Thunder Bay, ON P7A 2Y7

Telephone: 807-345-5065

email: harmonyunited@tbaytel.net

September 6, 2026 Fifteenth after Pentecost

If anyone is in need of a **Pastoral Visit** or **Telephone** call, please contact **Pastor Steven Loweth at 807-633-1804** (cellphone) or call our church office 807-345-5065 and leave a message for him to call.

**Worship & Education Meeting
Tuesday September 8 @ 10am**

Halo Potluck and Meeting – Thursday September 10, 2026
Potluck – 1 pm
Entertainment – 2 pm
Short Meeting – 3 pm

COFFEE Tuesday September 15th at 10am
Bring a lawn chair if it is nice weather

There will be a Celebration of Life for Marilyn Gregory on
Saturday September 19th at 2 pm,
Rev David Silliman officiating

MEMO – Medical Equipment Modernization Opportunity

Fund Raiser – Sunday Sept 20, 2026 2pm – 4 pm

Grace Church 289 N Court St.

Early Announcements

Trinity United

Saturday September 26, 2026 Fall Flea Market

Saturday November 7, 2026 Christmas Bazaar

St Paul's United Church

Saturday November 21, 2026 Christmas Tea

Services at Roseview will begin on Sunday Sept 13th

Murray Young has been working with the developer on **Harmony's new website**. It should be ready in the next month or so. We will keep you posted on what is happening.

HELP: Current River Food Cupboard is looking for a new location preferably in the Current River/Black Bay.
Please hold off on donations to the food cupboard until a new location is found.

Harmony welcomes E-Transfer offerings for direct deposit.
E-mail to harmonyunited@tbaytel.net To receive an income tax receipt for your donation, please include your name, address and/or envelope number in the Notes box.

Food For Thought

Food for Thought September 1, 2026

Choice or destiny?

I recently read this item relating to thinking about the future:

Willard Metzger, head of the Mennonite Church of Canada, described his sense of what was happening [in the church] by imagining the church leadership as being in a boat, trying to go forward but being surrounded by fog. You can't see what the future church looks like or even where it's going to be found. But you keep peering ahead, watching carefully, trying to read the currents, hoping you won't hit the rocks. Always staring ahead, trying to discern what's out there. Then the fog clears for a moment, and you catch a glimpse of the "new church"...but it isn't anything like what you thought it would be. And then, just as you reset the tiller, the fog closes in again, and you're forced to steer by faith once more.

There was talk about this being God's work—that what is happening to the churches, to all of us, is the movement of the Spirit, similar in many ways to Jeremiah's understanding of the exile of Israel into Babylon. We are not being called to "fix it" but to discover new ways of being, to discover where God is already doing a new thing and join in. That is both scary and reassuring.

So. What do you think? Do we continue to try to define our future ourselves although feeling lost 'in the fog' much of the time? Or, do we trust that, keeping our

eyes and hearts open, the Holy One will guide our path and 'what will be will be'?

I think we can do a bit of both! In our 'fog' we still might keep considering alternatives, paths forward, things we hope to accomplish as a congregation, as a worshipping community of faith, as Harmony.

And at the same time, *relaxing* some of our anxiety and concern, trusting that our faith will lead us to where we are 'supposed to go'. This doesn't mean we sit back and *do nothing*. But maybe it means we open ourselves to a wide variety of possibilities, even unexpected ones, and carry on doing the things we love to do, the things we feel called to do, and serving the people whoever and wherever they may be.

I guess the unknowable is whether or not we will recognize a Holy Direction when it is offered! Let's be open to possibilities and peer through the fog together ... Hallelujah!

Courtesy of Christina Stricker

BORROWED PRAYERS

By Jean Wise

We can talk with God in many ways. I find just plain conversation with the Trinity like friends having coffee or lifting praise and gratitude to be essential methods for me. Written prayers, working to find just the right words to articulate my desires, sorrows, hopes in my journals are prayers. Of course, silence is also holy time.

But sometimes using the words from other people connects best with God. I call these borrowed prayers. I love to gather and tuck these prayers into my journal, my Bible, and my heart. Sometimes I paraphrase them based on their framework but using my own words. Occasionally I pause at the end of one phrase unable to finish and linger with the midst of their prayer. Their words offer a branch at times to lead me into a new prayer for myself bringing insight, surprises, and peace.

Here are a few of my favorite borrowed prayers:

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

nor do I really know myself,

and the fact that I think I am following your will

does not mean that I am actually doing so.

*But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.*

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,

though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though

I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

*Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will, all that I have and possess. Thou hast given all to
me. To Thee, O lord, I return it. All is Thine, dispose of it wholly
according to Thy will. Give me Thy love and thy grace, for this is
sufficient for me.*

Ignatius Loyola

My God I am all yours. Brother Lawrence

*Govern everything by your wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may
always be serving you in the way you will and not as I choose. Let me*

die to myself so that I may serve you; let me live to you who are life itself. Amen. Theresa of Avila

So many prayers from the Bible such as *Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner Luke 18:13* and *I do believe; help my unbelief! Mark 9: 24.*

I know there are many other famous and longer prayers. I have other copied in my journals but these are the ones I most use.

Do you use borrowed prayers? If so, please share the ones that touch your heart. Which ones above move you the most?



MISSION AND SERVICE



Mission and Service Story – September 6: Leaders in the Making

Camp Kee-Mo-Kee's senior summer staff are blossoming in their leadership with a dedicated support member. Here is the Mission and Service Story for September 6, 2026.

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 co

Scriptures to Ponder

September 6 , 2026

Exodus 12:1-14

The First Passover Instituted

12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household; ⁴ and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his neighbor next to his house shall take according to the number of persons;

according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats; ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening.^[a] ⁷ Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled with water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance for ever.

Psalm 149

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel

149 Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the faithful!

² Let Israel be glad in his Maker,

let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King!

³ Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with timbrel and lyre!

⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with victory.

⁵ Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their couches.

⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their throats

and two-edged swords in their hands,

⁷ to wreak vengeance on the nations

and chastisement on the peoples,

⁸ to bind their kings with chains

and their nobles with fetters of iron,

⁹ to execute on them the judgment written!

This is glory for all his faithful ones.

Praise the LORD!

Romans 13:8-14

Love for One Another

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

An Urgent Appeal

¹¹ Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

Reproving Another Who Sins

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there