Centennial United Church, Stayner

Sunday, October 18th, 2026 10:30am

Anniversary Sunday

Minister: Jennifer Irving

Music: Megan Arksey & June Flynn

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To Ponder: *The Church is not a place.*
It's a body—the body of Christ in the world.

We Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Placing our Life & Work, Joys & Concerns in the Light of Christ

Call to Worship

One: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life"
ALL: So, we come to this particular place, after 135 years, that we might feed our faith.
One: Jesus said: "I am the light of the world"
ALL: So, on this Anniversary, we come, still learning how we can reflect that light in a world that is full of fear.
One: Jesus said: "I am the door"
ALL: So, we come, eager to keep these doors open to all so that hearts and minds can be opened to love.
One: Jesus said: "I am the Good Shepherd"
ALL: So, we come, feeling the love of Christ moving all around us and telling us we are welcome here and we belong.
One: Jesus said: "I am the Resurrection and the Life"
ALL: So, we come, clinging to the power of second chances and the joy new life gifts us.
One: Jesus said: "I am the true vine"
ALL: So, we come to this particular place, after 135 years, still rooted in the hope and peace of Jesus.

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Living Christ, we come to this place to open our hearts to Your Wisdom, to connect to Your Holy Spirit, and to find our place in

this Divine relationship with You, the One who was, is, and always will be. We give thanks that You are here with us, just as you have been here with us these past 135 years, delighting in our worship, rejoicing in our desire to grow closer to You. Bless us, Jesus, and guide our prayers this day, as you have guided our prayers since you first taught your disciples to pray saying: Our Father… Amen.

Opening Hymn VU #341 "Fairest Lord Jesus" *(vs. 1, 3, 4)*

We Listen for God's Word

Time of Wondering

Hymn VU #357 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

Scripture Readings: **Exodus 33:12-23**
Psalm 99 *(VU p. 819)*
The "I am" passages *(John 6:35, John 8:12, John 10:7, John 10:11, John 11:25, John 15:1)*

Reflection

We Respond as Christ's Body

Hymn VU #664 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Our Generosity at Work *(A Mission & Service Story)*

Responding with our Offering

Offertory VU #605 "Jesus Teacher, Brave and Bold" *(vs 2, adapted)*

Jesus, friend, so strong and true,
show us good, brave work to do.
Show us those who need a friend,
all things broken, help us mend.
Bless these gifts and stretch our care,
teach us to serve you everywhere

Prayer of Dedication *by mihee kim-kort in A Rhythm of Prayer by Sarah Bessey, adapted*

Heart of my own heart, be my sight, be my song, be my light. Soften my heart that it would break for Your world. Lead my hands and feet to do work that is poured out for the sake of Your children. Bless what my hands offer here and through these gifts may Your Church be brave, may it be a sign of Your love in the world, in Jesus' sweet, sweet name I pray. Amen

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn VU #331 "The Church's One Foundation"

Blessing and Sending Forth

Choral Sending Forth "Go Now in Peace" *Don Besig & Nancy Price, adapted*

Go now in Peace, Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day,
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, filled with love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

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Thank you for worshipping with us in person and on-line this morning.

Greeting you for worship today is Dave Hopper.

Thank you to Neelah Irving for running our live-stream and PowerPoint.

Thank you to Greta Horton for Reading Scripture for us today and providing the Anniversary Cake we will share after worship in the CE Hall. Please join us as we continue the celebration of our 135th Anniversary of worshipping together in this building.

This week's bulletin is sponsored by Jim and Marilyn Beecroft in honour of Jim and Alices' father

Gilbert Beecroft.
1909 - 1994

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CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH
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On-Line & In Person Worship: Sundays: 10:30am
Zoom: 862 4551 6433 pwd: WORSHIP

Our Land Acknowledgement Statement

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have lives, hunted and fished on this land and these waters, gifts of the Creator.

We acknowledge as a community of faith we are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabe, Haudenosaunee, Tionontati and Wendat peoples. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic and spiritual connection to this land. We gather in the light of that history and honour their ancestors and stories.

We also recognize the contributions that Metis, Inuit and other Indigenous peoples have made in shaping and strengthening our community, province and country. We acknowledge we are all treaty people and this land in particular is subject to Treaty 18 of 1818.

We commit to the journey of right relationship which includes ongoing learning and action with our lives and faith.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

NEW WORSHIP SERIES: UNEXPECTED JESUS

We've all been taught many things about Jesus over the past 135 years of worship in this building: who he was and is, what he did and said, what his life means for us still today, and what his role in our faith story is "supposed" to be. But many of us still have questions, lingering wonderings and doubts that show up between the familiar stories and the cherished images of the Rabbi from Nazareth. Could it be that Jesus is even more surprising, more compassionate, more challenging and more powerful than we thought or learned? Who is this prophet, teacher, rabble rouser, justice seeker, radical welcomer?

Inspired by Sarah Bessey's work *Fieldnotes from the Wilderness* Substack essays on *"The Unexpected Jesus,"* we embark on a sermon series invites us all to look a bit closer at the Jesus we think we know, to explore what he has meant to us in the past, to open ourselves to ways that he is calling us forward – in our own faith journeys and in the ways we live our faith in the world.

Sarah Bessey is a Canadian Christian author working and living in Calgary, Alberta. She has written five books (*Jesus Feminist: An invitation to revisit the Bible's view of Women; Out of Sorts: Making Peace with an Evolving Faith; Miracles and Other Reasonable Things: A story of unlearning and relearning God; A Rhythm of Prayer: a collection of meditations for renewal;* and *Ordinary Altars: How to Love the World (even when it breaks your heart)*) Bessey began deconstructing her Christian faith after experiencing a miscarriage which she says meant "I didn't really have the option to choose the intellectual or spiritual dishonesty of pretending I was fine." This led her to seeing faith as always "growing, changing, and evolving." She was part of the evangelical church but now describes herself as "too liberal for conservatives and too conservative for liberals." Sarah shares openly and honestly about her faith journey and how her understanding of God and Jesus are constantly evolving and growing. She invites us into the journey and to see how our faith is doing much the same thing.

ANNIVERSARY FINANCIAL UPDATE

	YTD September 2026	YTD August 2026
Total Income	$ 96,580.24	$ 72,079.25
Total Expenses	$ 114,970.47	$103,738.50
Shortfall	$ 18,390.23	$ 31,659.25
M&S Givings	**$8,515.00**	**$7,655.00**

A huge thank you to those who have already made a special donation to the church in honour of our 135th Anniversary. Envelopes can be found at the back of the church for those who still wish to contribute.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP. A great way to celebrate special milestones with the church family. If you are interested in sponsoring a bulletin for $ 20 contact Pat in the office.

INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A UNITED CHURCH 2027 CALENDAR. Let Pat know if you would like to purchase by November 10.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU! To all those that helped write cards, deliver cards and visit with our housebound members. Keeping our community strong!

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Round Room.
WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING October 20 at 12:30

BOARD MEETING October 22 at 2:00 PM

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT REHEARSALS! Thursdays at 7:00pm at JUBILEE until the Concert-Sunday December 13th at 7:00pm! Join the mass choir at Jubilee Presbyterian Church to prepare for this special evening of celebration and song.

PUMPKIN CARVING Sunday October 25th at 1:30pm on the front lawn of the church (CE Hall in case of bad weather). Join Sunday School and Youth for our traditional afternoon of Pumpkin Carving. Those wishing to donate Hallowe'en treats are asked to leave them in the office—peanut free please.

NOVEMBER 4 TURKEY DINNER IS ON! Dine in (limited) or Take out, 4:30 – 6:30. Cost is $ 30/meal. Pre-order by November 2 (call 705-422 1201 or email fundraisers@ucstayner.ca). Payment can be made by etransfer to office @ucstayner.ca, or by cash/cheque at the door.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK! We need lots of volunteers to make the turkey dinner a success. Get your peelers ready! There will be many tasks, suitable for all abilities (!), in the week leading up to the dinner, and the day of. Please consider helping out. More information to follow.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 NEW LOWELL UNITED CHURCH is hosting a Roast Beef Harvest Dinner. More details to follow.

BRACELET WORKSHOP Saturday November 14. Details to follow.

AFFIRMING MINISTRY CELEBRATION Sunday November 15 10:30am Join us as we celebrate becoming an Affirming Ministry in worship followed by a Potluck Lunch and Rainbow Cake! You are invited to bring your favourite dish as we celebrate our individuality! Contribution to the Potluck is not a requirement! Everyone is welcome to join in our celebration!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday November 21 9:30am-3:00pm. Lots of vendors, including a Sunday School Bake Table. If you would like to contribute to the Bake Table please feel free to drop off goodies at the office, or on the day of.

NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 6:30 PM. Outreach and Social Action Committee are organizing **Wreath Making Workshops**. Registration is limited to 30 people per night. Cost is $ 50 per person All supplies and goodies provided. Contact Geoff Allen to reserve a space. Geoffallen.re@gmail.com or 519-546-3991.

Other things to look forward to!

Saturday December 5 – 10:30 am Centennial United will be participating in the Stayner Santa Claus parade

Sunday, December 6 – 10:30 AM White Gift Sunday

Sunday, December 13 – 7 PM Community Christmas Concert hosted by Jubilee Presbyterian.

This week's regional prayers are for Port Elgin United Church. You can learn more about Port Elgin United here. https://www.portelginunitedchurch.ca/