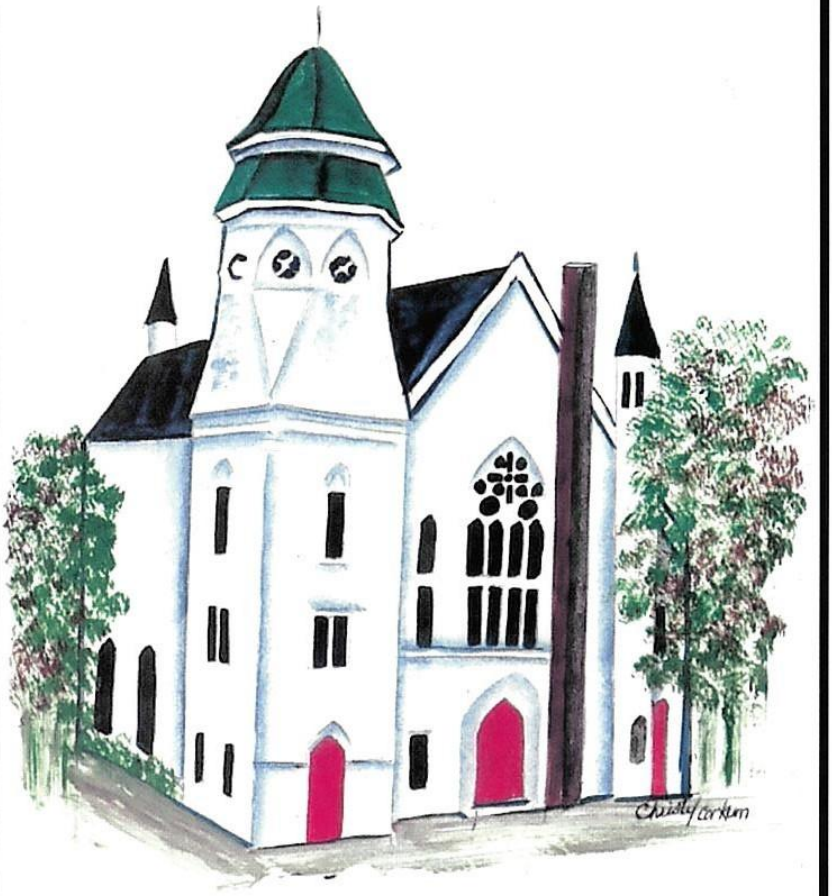
Central United Church



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
November 22nd, 2026 – Anniversary Sunday
Celebrating 212 Years of Faithful Witness

Minister:	Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music:	John Scott
Lay Reader:	Graham Pearson
Greeters:	Tom Ritcey & Helen Bennett
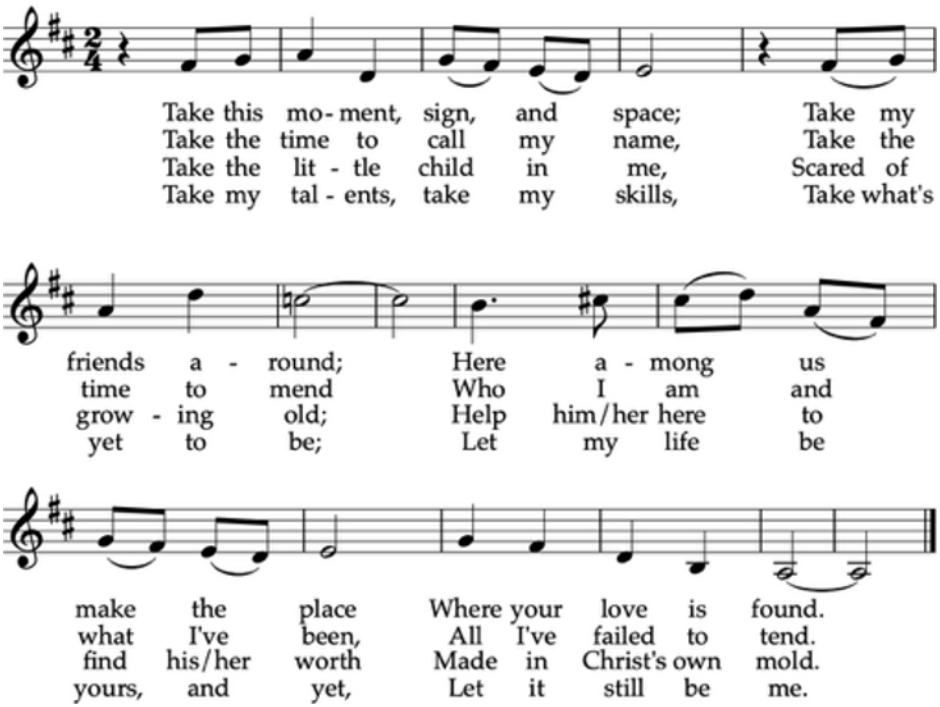
Email: **centralsecretary@bellaliant.com** Website: **www.centralunitedlunenburg.ca**
VU: Voices United (red book) **MV:** More Voices (spiral-bound book)

We welcome and celebrate human diversity - including spirituality, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Here, people of any faith or none can question and discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter, prayer and music.

Prelude

Gathering Music *"Take This Moment"*

words and music: John Bell
Iona Community
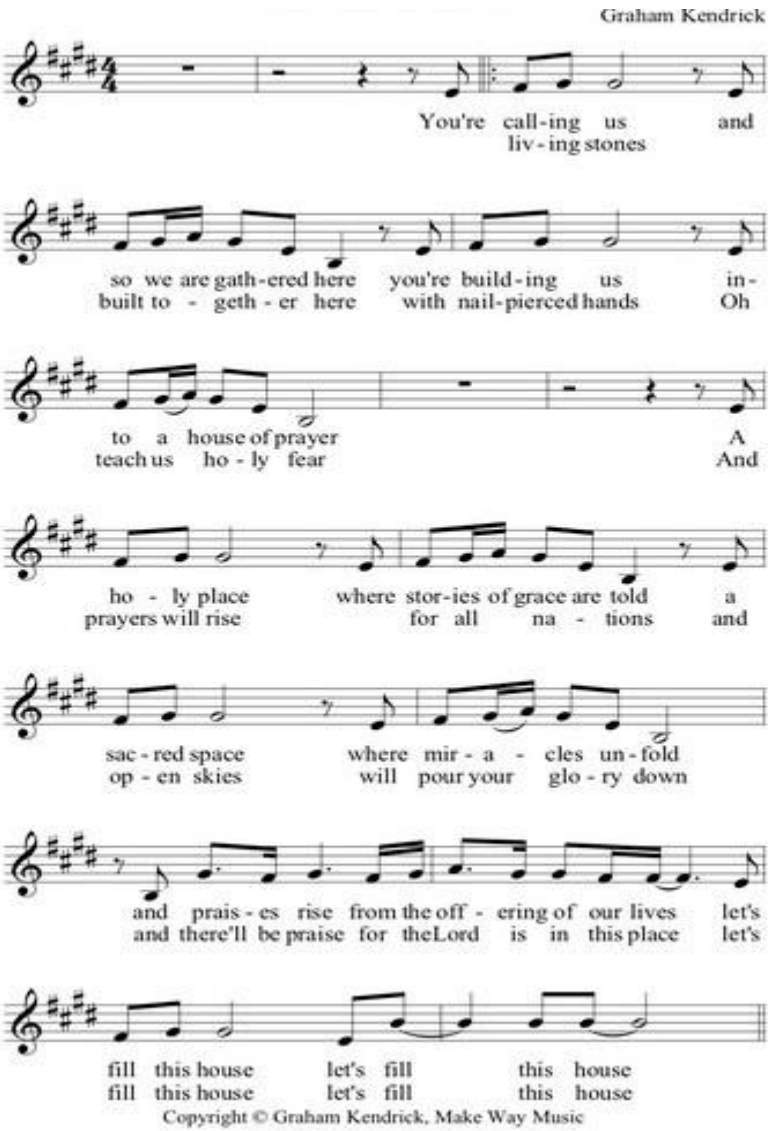


Lighting of the Christ Candle
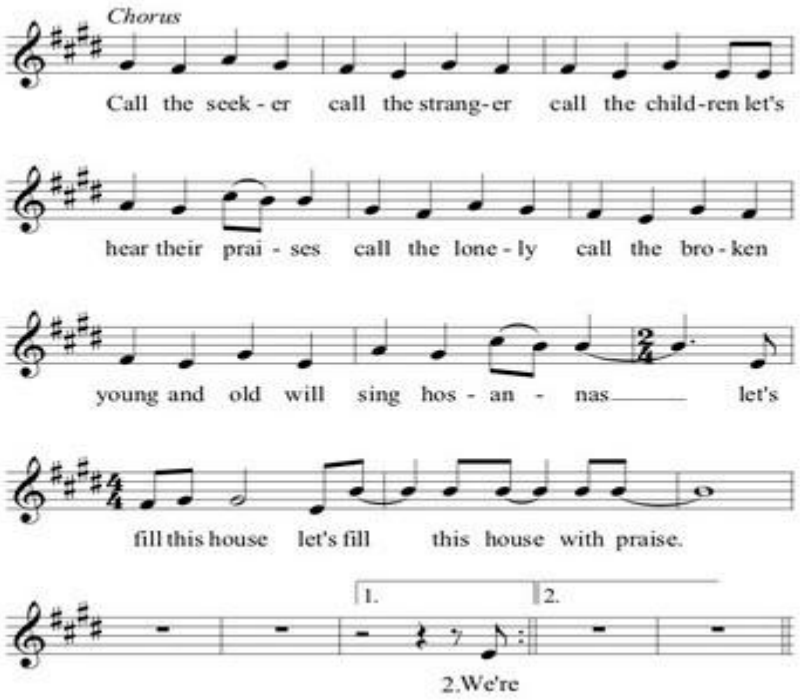


Call to Worship:
For centuries, these Spirit-soaked walls
have witnessed life and death, joy and sorrow,
love and commitment, hope and renewal,
wonder and transformation.
For generations, they have held space
for hearts to gather, for spirits to heal,
for people to learn, and grow, and celebrate,
and honour the complexity and gift of what it means to be human.
For centuries, this community has served this world
with compassion and joy,
with courage and conviction,
with daring and hope.
And, still, we carry on.
So, today, as we sing, as we pray,
as we celebrate our continued work and witness together,
may we experience again the gift of this calling,
and the presence of the Spirit alive among us.
Come, let us worship together!

Hymn: *"Call the Seeker"*



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Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

Prayer for Renewal:
We are human, Loving God.
We make mistakes, we fumble, and still we persist,
striving to be all we are called to be.
So on this, our anniversary Sunday,
we pray you would renew your people church.
Free us from all that holds back our ministry;
all that causes us to fear for our future.
Set your Spirit loose among us
awakening in us a renewed commitment to service, to witness,
to love and to this world.
Inspire us anew that we might be bold disciples
and daring pursuers of justice for this time and this place,
filled with energy, excitement and hope for our future.
Help us to celebrate all that has brought us to this day,
as, with courage, we step out into our future still unfolding.
May it be so. Amen.

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer
Words of Assurance

Anthem: *"We Will Rejoice in Love"* M. Miller

We will rejoice in love.
Lift up our voice in love,
Make every choice in love,
We will uphold your world in love.
We will delight in love,
Share and delight in love,
Till all unite in love,
We will enfold your world in love.

We will repent in love.
Raise our lament in love,
Dare to dissent in love,
We will uphold your world in love.
We will persist in love,
Choose to resist in love,
And coexist in love,
We will enfold your world in love.

Blessing Our Blankets on Their Way

Loving God, bless these gifts created and stitched with love,
that they might be a warm hug on a cold day,
a comforting friend in times of loneliness,
a place of sanctuary and security in the midst of uncertainty,
a sign of your love when life gets hard.

May all who receive these gifts of love, feel the love that is stitched into them and find themselves cradled in hope,
kept in joy, graced with peace and wrapped in prayer.
May it be so. Amen.

Hymn: *"Love Is the Touch"* **MV #89**

Scripture Readings:
Epistle: Selected verses from 2 Timothy & Ephesians

Reflection ~Thelma Blinn

Hymn: *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"* **VU #288**

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community
We Share Our Offerings
Offertory Hymn: *"Spirit, Open My Heart"* **MV #79**

Dedication of Our Gifts:
For the gift of this community of faith,
For the hands and hearts that have worked to sustain it,
For the spirits that have been blessed by its presence.
For the lives that have been changed by its service.
For its long and fruitful years of faithful witness,
and the future yet before it, we give you thanks, O God.
Receive these our offerings of celebration and praise,
and bless them for our continued ministry together.
With hope and thanksgiving, we ask it.
Amen.

An Affirmation of Faith *(adapted from A Song of Faith, 2006)*

Grateful for God's loving action,
We cannot keep from singing.

With the Church throughout the ages,
We sing of God's good news lived out,
a church with purpose:
faith nurtured and hearts comforted,
gifts shared for the good of all,
resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,
fierce love in the face of violence,
human dignity defended,
members of a community held and inspired by God,
corrected and comforted,
instruments of the loving Spirit of Christ,
and creation's mending.

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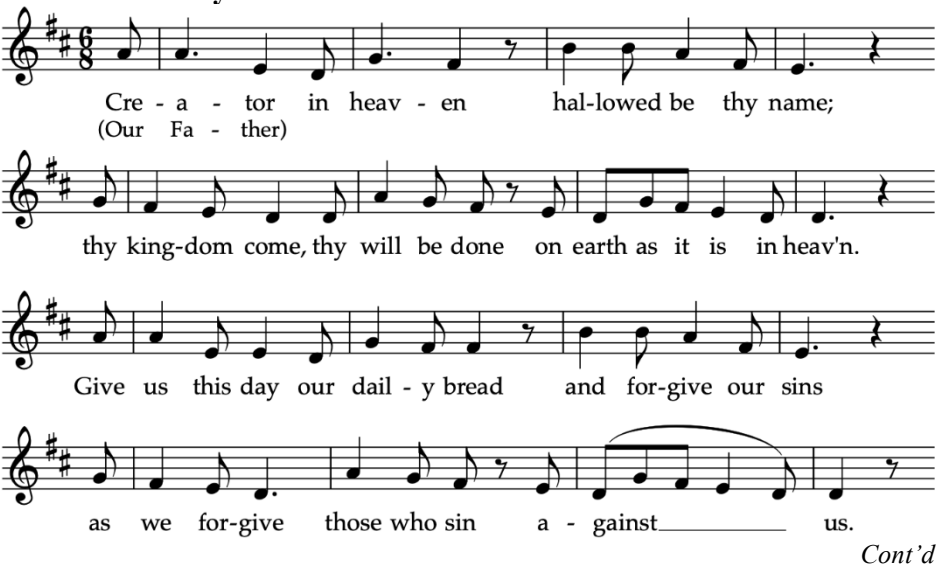
We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus
by embodying Christ's presence in the world:
loving what he loved, living what he taught,
striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place.

Our ancestors in faith
bequeath to us experiences of their faithful living;
upon their lives our lives are built.
We sing with trust.
We sing with hope.
We place our hope in God
and in a future good beyond imagining:

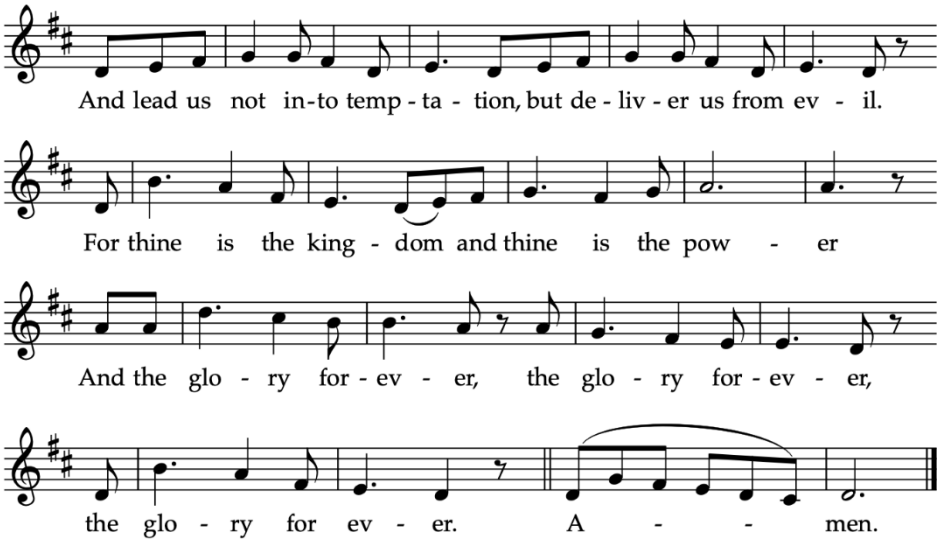
In the meantime, we embrace the present,
embodying hope, loving our enemies,
caring for the earth, choosing life.

Grateful for God's loving action,
we cannot keep from singing,
So, together we sing. Together we witness.
Together we live our story of faith.

The Lord's Prayer



Cont'd



Closing Hymn: *"Draw the Circle Wide"* **MV #145**

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

A very special thank you to Thelma
for sharing her reflections with us this morning!

Happy anniversary, Central United Church!
Please stay after worship for cake and sandwiches!

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS
Sunday, November 22nd, 2026

Please send your announcements to the church office by Wednesday.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Wednesday, November 25th: Choir practice at 6:30pm
- Thursday, November 26th: Handbell practice at 10:00am
- Thursday, November 26th: Sanctuary decorating at 7:00pm
- Saturday, November 28th: Lunenburg Christmas Parade:meet at 1:15pm
- Sunday, November 29th: 1st Sunday of Advent with Communion 10:30
- Wednesday, December 2nd: Soup & Chowder Luncheon 11:30-1:00
- Saturday, December 5th: Men's Supper in the hall at 6:00pm

The Lunenburg Christmas Parade - Nov 28

The elves have been busy, and we are in the final stages of construction:

- **Nov 22 (today)** - decorating the float - immediately following the celebration service -15 Kissing Bridge Road
- **Nov 28 - 1:15pm** meet at The Ernst's (382 Lincoln Street) to be ready for 1:30pm parade departure from that location.
    - Wearing Santa hats is encouraged!
    - Those interested in the morning of the parade final float preparations please speak with Meghan, Christy or Natasha for details.

Thank you to everyone who has donated cash, time, talent and/or supplies! Another thank-you to Miriam and Graham for their garage, aka the elves workshop!

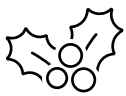
Benevolent Fund: On the last Sunday of the month, we invite folks to bring in donations for our Benevolent Fund and place them in the red offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. This fund is used to support urgent and emerging needs in our community, such as assisting people with paying bills, buying groceries, and more. Donations of $5 or more receive a tax receipt at the end of the year. Thank you to all who are able to support this important ministry!

2027 Calendars: Celebrate United Churches across Canada! Focusing on the theme of 65 years of United Church Women, this bilingual calendar features colourful photos from communities of faith across the country. Calendars are available for purchase at the back of the sanctuary for $10 each.

Improving Accessibility, Strengthening Community: One of the priorities from our retreat day, held last March, was a desire to make our sanctuary space more accessible and functional. In an effort to do this, a group of interested people from the congregation have met to explore different options. Many of those who attended last March favoured removing some pews, so the task group has chosen to start with this. We are fortunate to have lots of space. In the next few weeks, we will be removing three pews from the back nearest the coffee area. This will provide more space for the welcome this area provides. There will also be two half pews removed closer to the front - one on each side. This will provide more options for those with accessibility challenges. We are also exploring options to improve the church entrance. Stay tuned! If you have any questions about this project, please contact the members of this task group - Iris Cosh, Shirley Zinck, Shelley Mann, Carolyn McAllister, Anne Burgess.

Church Newsletter: The finishing touches are being put together on our next newsletter, which will share all of the important dates for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. Keep an eye on your inbox towards the end of the week. (Some paper copies will also be available next Sunday in the sanctuary).

Decorating the Sanctuary: Mark your calendar for Thursday, November 26th at 7:00pm. We will be gathering to decorate the church for Christmas. Come help if you can – the more elves the merrier!



In the Community:

You're invited to join us for live music with the band Runnin' on MT in support of kitchen renovations at Sherbrooke Lake Church Camp on **Friday, Nov.27th at 7:00pm** at St. John's United Church, 5540 HWY332, Middle LaHave. Free will donations accepted and light snacks provided.

On **Wednesday, December 2nd**, Trinity United Church in Mahone Bay is hosting the third annual **Youth Arts & Crafts Market from 4:30-7:00pm.** All ages are welcome to attend and admission is free. Vendors and musicians are in grades 6-12. Hot drinks and treats will be sold in support of the youth group program. Come support local young crafters and artists while you shop for the holidays! (Artists/crafters in grades 6-12 can book a free table by emailing mahonebayyouth@gmail.com)

Winter Song: Celebrating Light, Hope, and Seasonal Traditions. Blending the mature harmonies of the adult choir with the energy of young singers, the program spans centuries of winter music, from traditional carols to contemporary choral folk and indie-pop works. The repertoire will evoke fireside warmth, winter's stark beauty, returning light, holiday joy, and the powerful sense of community created when singers of different generations come together. The **South Shore Chorale** with guests, the **LaHave River Youth Choir**, presents ***Winter Song*** on Dec 5th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Mahone Bay at 2:30pm and Dec 6th at Bridgewater United Church, at 2:30pm. Tickets online at Ticketpro or at the door. Adults $20, Students $10, children under 12 free.

Rev. Daniel MacDonald: 902-634-7165, centralminister@bellaliant.com
Rev. Daniel is at the church Tuesdays from 10-2pm or by appointment

Carrol Heinsma (office): 902-634-4035, centralsecretary@bellaliant.com
~ Office Hours: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 10:00am-1:00pm
CentralUnitedLunenburg.ca