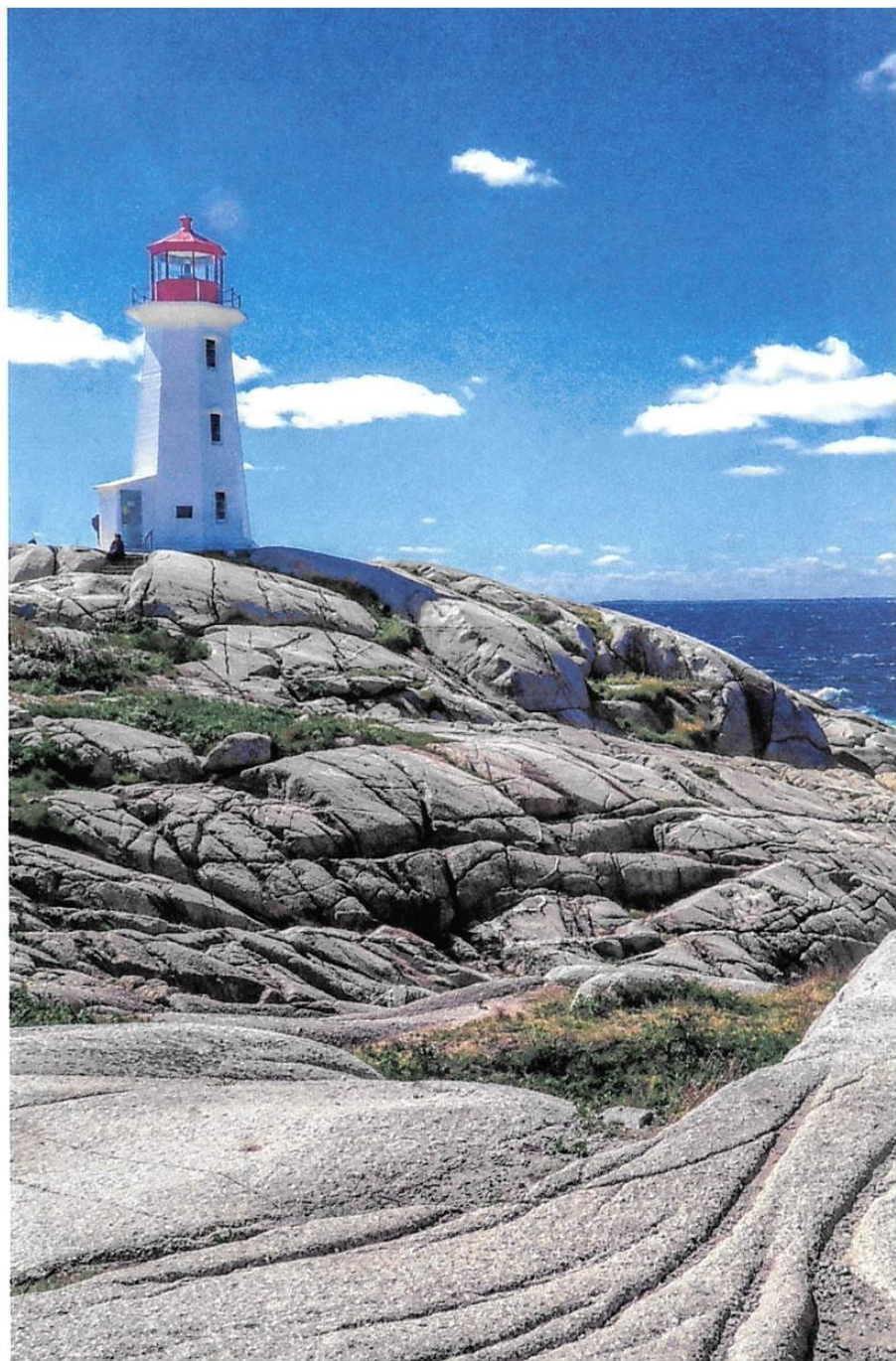




CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

September 13th, 2026 – 1st Sunday in the Season of Creation

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Dawn Ernst
Greeters: Carolyn & Oliver Levy

Email: centralsecretary@bellaliant.com

VU: Voices United (red book)

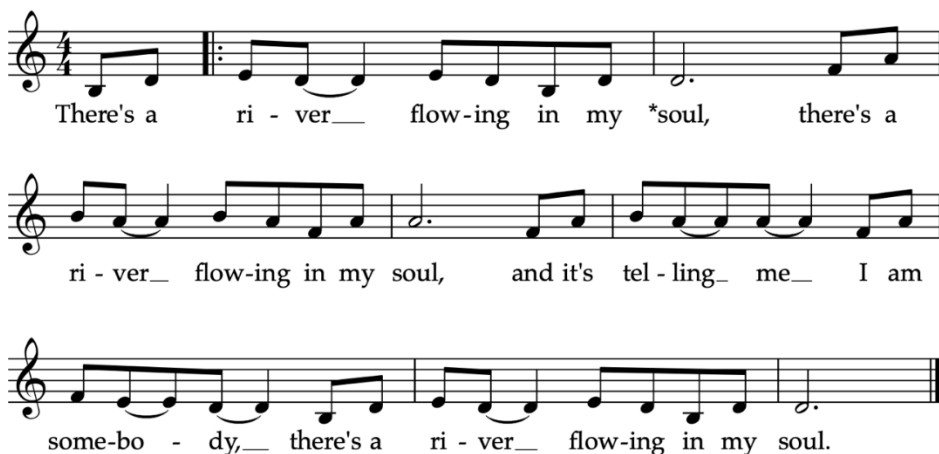
Website: www.centralunitedlunenburg.ca

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: “There’s A River”



There's a ri - ver___ flow-ing in my *soul, there's a
ri - ver___ flow-ing in my soul, and it's tel - ling_ me___ I am
some-bo - dy,___ there's a ri - ver___ flow-ing in my soul.

**soul, mind, heart*

Rose Saunders
Arr. Laurel Neighbour

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Where the river flows, there is life.

From Stillwater and Spry Lake,

from Big Mush-a-Mush and Lake Darling*,

through lakes and creeks and brooks and streams,

over rapids and rocks, forest and falls,

from the Valley to New Germany to Bridgewater to the sea,

Where the river flows, there is life.

To growing things and green, to withered things and dry,

to herons and terns, dolphins and whales,

mackerel and scallop, communities and homes,

to hearts and minds and bodies and us

the ocean, like the river, brings life.

Through its ebbing and flowing, its tides and its waves,

through its shaping of shorelines and harbours and stones.

through its harvest, its beauty, its richness, its power,

the ocean, like the river, shapes life.

To creatures and people, to plants and the earth,

to you and to me, the ocean, the river, the water is life.

Come, beloved, step into the waters of the river of life.

Let them hold you, let them teach you,

let them nourish and heal you,

that you might join in their healing too.

Come, let us worship at the water's edge.

**These are the headwaters of the LaHave, Mush-a-Mush and Gold Rivers.*

Hymn: *"This Is God's Wondrous World"*

VU #296

Words of Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer for Renewal:

Here, Living Waters, in this moment of worship,

we long to meet you, and be met by you.

Here, we long to be held and carried by you.

to be healed and comforted by you.

We confess that at times we have stayed in the shallows,

or kept our distance, seeing you as one-dimensional, inanimate,

little more than a resource to be used.

But, now, we are here and we are open.

So, flow through us, Living Waters

Quench us, drench us, renew us,

like a cold plunge on a crisp autumn morning,
 that dripping, shivering, and all neurons firing,
 we might find our senses awakened to the gift of you,
 reminded of the power of you, humbled by our need of you,
 and more deeply inspired to care for you.
 Amen.

A Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer

You are invited in this moment to hold the river stone you received at the door and reflect on your own relationship with water.

How do you experience water to be a living thing?

How might you reconnect with and care for the waters of our home this Season of Creation?

Words of Assurance

Hymn: "Living Waters"

Refrain



God our cre-a-tor Spi-rit mov-ing Liv-ing wa-ters Love ov-er flows



— From the sa - cred heart of the moun - tains
 Your chil-dren, O Lord are long-ing you
 Give us ears to hear the cry of the earth And the



Down and spread through the streams Then
 Reach - ing out from the deep We
 cry of your peo - ple, Lord



life springs out Prais - ing you loud
 plead to you Our hearts thirst for you
 strength-then our faith As we work in your grace

To refrain

Written by Marjorie Engcoy, James Trewby, Catherine Bridgwood,
 Kurt Zion Pala, SSC, Pat Michael Visanti, SSC, Aung Li (Columban Missionaries)

Scripture Reading:

First Testament: Ezekiel 47:9-12

Sermon

Hymn: *“For The Fruit Of All Creation”*

VU #227

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *“Called by Earth and Sky”*(refrain & vs.1) **MV #135**

Dedication of Our Gifts:

Grateful, O God, for the gift of water –

salt and fresh, river and sea,

around, above and within us –

we show our gratitude in the bringing of our gifts.

Bless what we offer today, be it presence, intention or finance,

that like a stone dropped into deep water, it might ripple out

from this place into our community and our world,

bringing life to all people and places that need it.

May this moment of gratitude and intention, so too inspire us

to be gentle stewards of this beautiful, complex,

living ecosystem we share.

In Jesus’ name we ask it. Amen.

Sung Invitation to Prayer

“Water Flowing from the Mountains” (vs.1) **MV #87**

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn: *“O God, You Have The Power”*

TUNE: Aurelia (The Church’s One Foundation)

O God, you have the power to bring back what is yours-

To bring life’s joy and wonder to toxic, lifeless shores.

Where earth has been depleted, where nothing seems to grow,

We’ve seen you cleanse and nurture till blessings overflow.

(Cont’d over)

Ezekiel had a vision of hopeful signs like these-
Of waters bringing healing – and fish and plants and trees.
He dreamed of Living Water that flowed at your command-
That spread out like a river upon your thirsty land.

When we pollute your rivers and drain your wetlands dry,
When we cause harm to waters, we see creation cry.
And yet Ezekiel’s vision reminds us once again:
Your will is restoration. Your waters sing, “Amen!”

O God, in your creation, we see your strength and care.
Clean water is a blessing! May this become our prayer:
Your will is restoration. You seek to make things new.
Give us new dedication to heal the earth with you.

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

* *“O God, You Have The Power”*

Biblical References: Ezekiel 47:1-12

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 ("The Church's One Foundation)

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CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 13th, 2026

Please send your announcements to the church office by Wednesday.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Today: Fishers' Memorial Service at 2:00pm on the Lunenburg Waterfront
 - Wednesday, Sept. 16th: Trustees meeting at 9:30am
 - Thursday, Sept. 17th: Community Drop-in from 10:00am-12:00pm
 - Tuesday, Sept. 22nd: Board Meeting at 7:00pm
-

During the **Season of Creation**, we are invited to immerse ourselves in the **Living Waters** of our home, that we might reconnect with them, learn from them, and help to heal them. To symbolize this, we have collected a selection of waters from our home here in Lunenburg and placed them on the communion table. We invite you to explore this display in the coming weeks. You are also invited to add to it, by bringing in a sample of water from your own home. It could be just from your tap, or perhaps your favourite beach or creek or stream, or somewhere else near to where you live. Please include a note of where it came from, so we can share it with others. Then, at the end of the season, we will be blending and blessing these waters, and you will be gifted some to take home, as a reminder of the importance of water and our relationship to it.

The Worship & Music Team has created a table at the back of the sanctuary with resources, prayers, reading recommendations and more, to accompany us throughout the **Season of Creation**. We invite you to explore, and to take anything home that you wish.

Thursday morning Handbells: Practices will resume on Thursday, October 8th at 10:00am. New ringers are always welcome! Looking forward to making music together!

A Note to our Knitters/Crocheters: If you are looking for a project to keep your hands active, our friends at The Journey Room (Oncology Dept at SSRH) and Palliative Care Services are always looking for lap blankets. Remember, blanket sizes typically range from 32" to 48" (81-122 cm) wide by 35" to 40" (89-102 cm) in length. As we have done the last couple of years, we will collect the blankets later on in the fall and make our deliveries!

Worship Survey: The Worship and Music Committee at Central has been having discussions around our Sunday morning worship service and what “worship” means to us. We would appreciate your thoughtful answers to a few questions. The survey can be filled out online via the link found in the digital version of the church newsletter. For those who prefer a paper copy to fill out, printed copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary.

Summer Visitors: Thank you to all who were able to act as tour guides for our church this summer! We had many visitors from all over the world stop in to see our beautiful sanctuary – we invite you to peruse the guest book to see from how far and wide they travelled. Their generous donations totalled over \$900!

Men’s supper: Come gather with us on Saturday, October 3rd at 6:00pm for the next men’s supper in the church hall!

Soup & Chowder Luncheons are returning! Our next one will be on October 14th, from 11:30am-1:00pm. Sign-up sheets for donations & volunteering can be found at the back of the sanctuary.

Rev. Daniel MacDonald: 902-634-7165, centralminister@bellaliant.com
Carrol Heinsma (office): 902-634-4035, centralsecretary@bellaliant.com
CentralUnitedLunenburg.ca