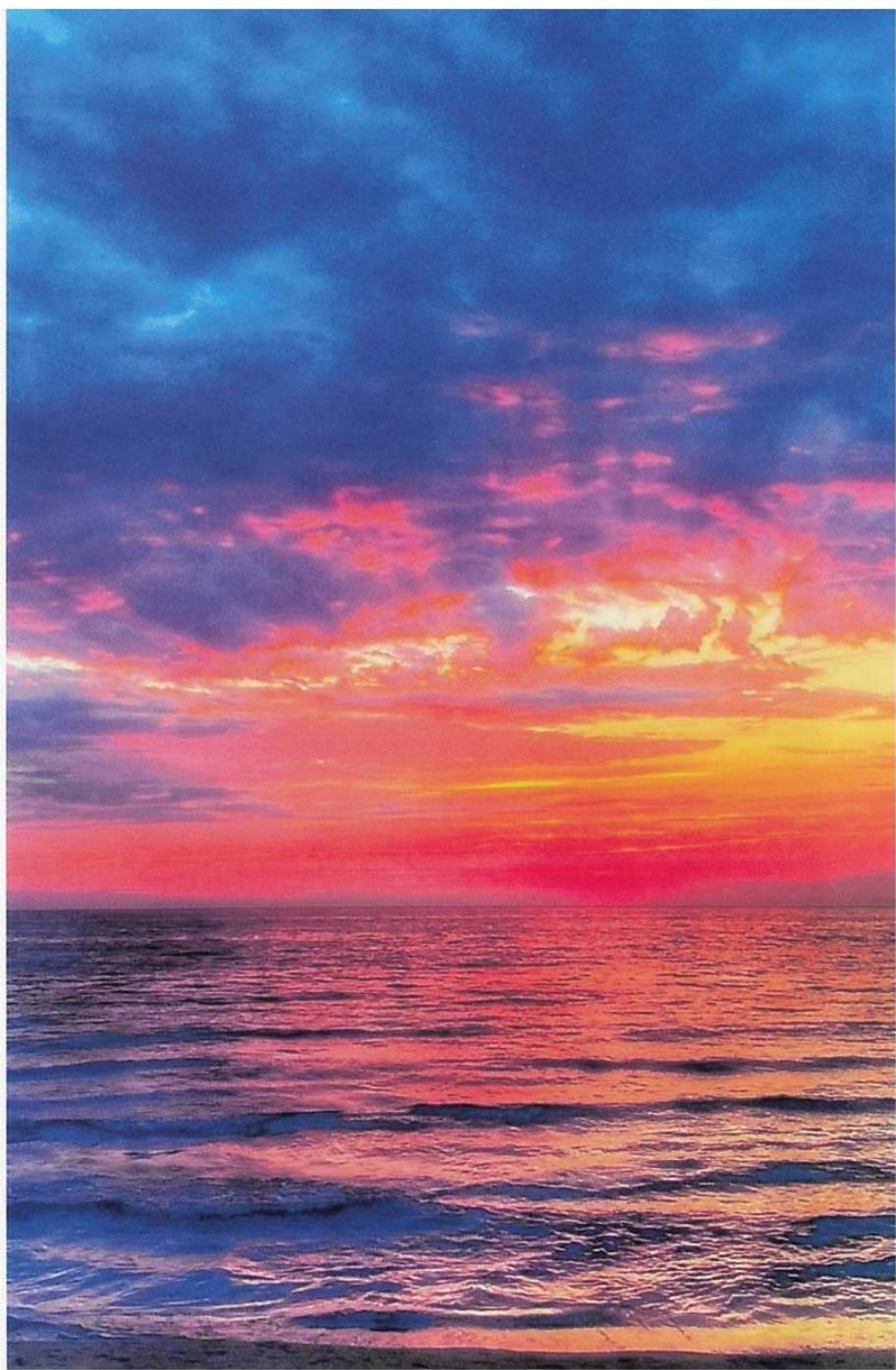




CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

September 27th, 2026 – 3rd Sunday in the Season of Creation

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Reader: Miriam 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.

Thank you to Sharon Gow-Knickle for playing piano today.

Prelude

Gathering Music: *“Come Touch Our Hearts”* **MV #12**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Come, all you green ones who turn sunlight into food.

Come, all you creeping and wriggling ones who aerate the earth.

Come, all you who fly in the air and swim in the sea,

Come, all you who graze and browse; who hunt and hide.

Ancient ones, and ephemeral, full of wisdom and sage.

Teach us your wisdom; invite us into your rhythm of life.

Come, you who seek to live differently.

Come to these waters, where river meets ocean,

where razor clams and kelp, lobsters and halibut thrive.

Remember that this land and these waters

have cared for and been cared for

by the Mi'kmaq since time immemorial,

and still they care for us now

We remember, and we feel

how the water embraces our good and hurting bodies.

How it holds us up and supports us.

Notice how the water moves to the lowest point,
how it persistently changes what seems immovable.

We remember, and we notice.

**And now, we've come to learn more,
here at the water's edge.**

Hymn: *"Shall We Gather at the River"*

VU #710

Words of Welcome

A Prayer for Renewal:

Spirit of Wisdom, Holy One On the Waters,

**You cry to us through the voices of the trees and the earth,
the birds and the air; the waters and the waves.**

**You teach us through the voice of the rapids and the currents,
the tides and the storms, the trickling of moisture
through the soil to the water table deep beneath our feet.**

**reminding us that we are not alone, that we don't know everything,
and that humility is the first step towards healing creation.**

**So, forgive us our ignorance and self-importance, we pray,
and open us to learn from our non-human relations.**

**Enable us to set aside our own agendas,
our own sense of entitlement**

**our own ideas about what the world needs,
that we might learn from the rain, the teaching of connection,
of diverse drops all returning to one source.**

**and we might learn from the river the importance of memory,
carrying all that has happened before,
so that we might not repeat past harms or mistakes.**

**and we might learn from the ocean, the teaching of gentleness,
not a weakness, but a strength,**

that holds the power to shape even granite.

Spirit of Wisdom, Holy One on the Water,

You cry to us through the voices of creation.

Speak now – for your servants are listening....

Time for Silent Reflection and Prayer

*Teachings come from everywhere, when you open yourself to them.
They are hidden under every rock and leaf, and flow in every
stream.**

*What teachings might water have for you in this Season of Creation?
What wisdom is held within its depths that you might learn from?
Sit and ponder and be open to learning.*

***Words of Assurance**

Hymn: “Living Waters”

Refrain

G C Em D C D C D G

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

C G

— 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

C G

Down and spread through the streams_ Then
Reach - ing out from the deep_ We_
cry_ of_ your peo - ple, Lord_

Em C D

life springs out Prais - ing you loud_
plead to you Our hearts thirst for you_
strengthen our faith As we work in your grace_

To refrain

Scripture Reading:

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:9-12
Second Reading: Proverbs 8:1-4, 21-30, 32, 33, 35

Sermon

Hymn: *"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"*

MV #143

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:

**When we give gratitude to the water,
it heightens our consciousness of living in such a way
that the water will be grateful for us too. ***

**Holy One, receive our gifts this morning,
and bless this collective moment of gratitude,
that it might help us to live in a way that honours the wisdom,
the gift and the life-giving relationship we have with the water,
and with all our relations.**

Amen.

Sung Invitation to Prayer

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

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: *"Touch the Earth Lightly"*

VU #307

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

*Our call to worship today was adapted for our use from materials first created by
Salal + Cedar, a Watershed Discipleship Community in Vancouver, BC.*

www.salalandcedar.com

*Anything marked with an * in our service today is taken from the teachings of Ojibwe
writer, Richard Wagamese, or the teachings of the Water Protectors of Sipekne'katik
First Nation, Mi'kma'ki, or the teachings of Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of
"Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of
Plants"*

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CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 27th, 2026

Please send your announcements to the church office by Wednesday.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Today: Benevolent Fund Sunday
 - Wednesday, September 30th: Choir practice at 6:30pm
 - Saturday, October 3rd: Men's Supper at 6:00pm in the hall
 - Thursday, October 8th: Handbell practice resumes at 10:00am
 - Thursday, October 8th: Stewards meeting at 7:00pm in Fellowship room
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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 on the church website (centralunitedlunenburg.ca). For those who prefer a paper copy to fill out, printed copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary. Please return them by October 11th.

Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation are recognized on Wednesday, September 30th. It is a time to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions, many of whom never made it home alive. Inspired by the experience of Phyllis Webstad, the orange shirt has become a symbol of hope, reconciliation and commitment to a better future. By wearing an orange shirt, you make a statement to support truth and reconciliation and commit to the enduring truth that "every child matters." To learn more about the history of Orange Shirt Day, and to hear Phyllis's story, visit www.orangeshirtday.org

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!

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.

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.

In honour of **Fire Prevention Week** (October 4-10), members of the Lunenburg & District Fire Department will be joining us for morning worship service next Sunday, October 4th.

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!

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Carrol Heinsma (office): 902-634-4035, centralsecretary@bellaliant.com
CentralUnitedLunenburg.ca

Summer Visitors: We have just finished up another very successful summer where we greeted 1143 visitors to our sanctuary. Many thanks to our guides this year: Carolyn McAllister, Thelma Blinn, Gerry Porrier, Heather Marks, Alison MacDonald, John Coonley, Miriam Pearson, Graham Pearson, Natasha Backs, Rev. Daniel MacDonald, James Blinn, Shelley Blinn, Brian Jobb, Joan Jobb, Carrol Heinsma, Sherrie Carey, and Ivan Carey. Our guests were all very impressed with our church and were grateful that they could come and share the church with us while on their holidays in Lunenburg. While we didn't ask for any donations we did leave an offering plate for the use of the guests, and they contributed \$929.20 to be used for the maintenance of the building.

Among the memorable moments from the summer were:

- The beautiful song that filled the church when a couple from Denmark offered a musical prayer for their priest/friend who was gravely ill on the other side of the Atlantic. Everyone in the church stood and listened. It was a beautiful moment.
- The family from Toronto who toured through the church as so many did and then (I thought) left. When I took a quick look outside there was the biggest picnic lunch laid out across the Central picnic table and all were having a wonderful time. They thanked us profusely for our welcome.
- Two women, one from South Carolina and the other from New York who were touring through Nova Scotia on their Harley-Davidsons and visiting every historic church that they could find. They even had Harley Davidson shirts and jackets.
- All the interesting conversations that we had with people from all over the world and from many diverse faith traditions. We learned as much, or more, from them as they did from us.
- The many times through the summer that the notes of our century organ rang out for the pleasure our visitors. Many thanks to Jullian Ambrose-Greene who delighted our guests with her music and made their visit that much more memorable.

We will be doing it all again next summer and invite you to join us in showing our guests the beautiful historic church that gives us, and everyone who sees it, so much pleasure.