

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

-Isaiah 6:4-5

Greetings Kindred in Christ,

Before reflecting on this week's text, I want to invite you into a moment of prayer for our kindred in the Halifax area as they continue to fight wildfires that have displaced thousands.

*Shepherding God, be with our kindred in the Halifax area
guide to shelter those who have been evacuated from their homes,
keep safe those who are working to manage the flames,
encourage those in safe locations to embrace those displaced.*

*Work through each of us as we continue to see some of the disastrous results of climate change
close to home. AMEN*

The excerpt of scripture that opens these announcements comes from early on in the book of the prophet Isaiah, and it is a familiar tune sung by those called by God to do a thing or spread a message. Rarely do any of those called by God jump up and say, "Here I am," (Mary, mother of Jesus being a notable exception). But it isn't just prophets and priests who are shy when God calls. Regular people like you and I will probably start singing that same song of, "are you sure you have the right person, God?"

It's not that we are particularly down on ourselves, at least for the most part, but when we think of someone that God calls to do something, we almost immediately jump to Christ, and how can we follow that? The truth is that God **overwhelmingly** calls the broken, the lost, and the wayward to be messengers of grace and bearers of love. I think that most of us would fit into one or two of those categories, and I **know** that God is still calling.

God is still calling because there is so much pain in this world in need of healing. God is still calling because we are a people of strife longing for peace. God is still calling because shouts of hate are striving to drown out messages of love. God is still calling, and God is calling you, and me. God is calling each of us and all of us. So even if we don't feel like God has the right number when we are called, let's answer, and let's do our part in the building up of God's kingdom.

Let us pray:

Here we are, O God, choose us.

Though we are weak, in you we find strength.

When we are broken and falling apart, you make us whole.

When we are lost and far off, you come seeking and find us.

You embrace us, and welcome us home.

Here we are, O God. Choose us, and we will follow you. AMEN

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Richard Bowley

Keep reading for more information on what is happening at Quispamsis United Church

Weekly Announcements for Quispamsis United Church June 1st, 2023

1. Summer Kick-Off June 11th **(REMINDER) ***PLEASE READ*****
2. Hymn-sing Sunday June 4th **(REMINDER)**
3. Communion June 4th **(REMINDER)**
4. Write YOUR Letter to Support and Protect Policy 713 **(NEW) ***PLEASE READ*****
5. Faith Profile Committee **(NEW) ***PLEASE READ*****
6. Worshipping In-Person
7. Worshipping Online **(UPDATED)**
8. Singing Together Concert
9. Breast Cancer Research
10. Al Graham Memorial Award **(REMINDER)**
11. Request for Names **(REMINDER)**
12. QUC Office Hours
13. Last Choir Practice **(UPDATED)**
14. Valley Girls Women's Choir
15. QUC Knitters
16. Day Trip to PEI (Saint David's United) **(REMINDER)**
17. QUC Calendar
18. Sunday Readers for the Next 4 Services **(UPDATED)**
19. Dedicate a Service
20. Looking for Tech Volunteers
21. Financial Report
22. How You Can Direct Your Givings *****PLEASE READ*****
23. Submitting Announcements

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1. **Summer Kick Off:** The Affirming Anniversary, Graduation, and Sunday School Closing

Celebrations will be held on June 11 at the Hammond River Angling Association. There will be a special service that will begin at 10 a.m. that includes a craft for the youth followed by a lunch, special music, and games for all ages. Kids, put on your chef hat and bake some rainbow cupcakes, rainbow crispies, or rainbow fudge for this exciting event. **Please send an email to Leslie (office@quc.ca) if you are going to attend the special celebration service and luncheon and the number of people in your party. Also indicate how many children; grandchildren are welcomed. You may also sign up on the poster on the bulletin board near the sanctuary. Based on numbers, a list of items that you can contribute will be posted.**

2. **Hymn-sing Sunday June 4th:** The first Sunday of June is this Sunday, and that means that we will be opening our worship on June 4th with a Hymn-sing! We have your requests and invite you to come early at 9:40 as we sing our way into worship.

3. **Communion June 4th:** Along with a hymn-sing to open our worship, we will be sharing in the sacrament of communion. We will be giving out elements as part of the liturgy, but you are welcome to bring your own if you prefer. If you will be joining us on Zoom, be sure to have bread and juice or a substitute on hand so you can participate as well.

4. **Write YOUR Letter to Support and Protect Policy 713:** You have probably heard by now that Policy 713, a policy that protects all but especially 2SLGBTQIA+ members in our schools to self identify and express themselves without fear of consequence, is coming under review by the government of New Brunswick. As an Affirming Community of Faith, we strive to build and support the wider community in embracing and affirming people of all walks of life. A letter has been sent from QUC and can be found [here](#), but **you can add your voice!** We invite you to use this letter as a template to draft a letter of your own. If you want to participate, you can send your letter to [Premier Blaine Higgs](#) and [Minister Bill Hogan](#) so that support for Policy 713 will be heard by the people of this community of faith and this province.

5. **Faith Profile Committee:** The Faith Profile Committee, established at the last congregation meeting, will be having an initial meeting soon to start the process, appoint a chair etc. There are currently 6 of us and we would like a few more to help in completing a Faith Profile for QUC. This will be our current story/future story and used when we go to the search committee phase. We will have a liaison from Pastoral Relations from Region to

help guide us (or at least keep us close to the path!). Apart from reviewing what we have we will also be looking for feedback from the congregation.

If interested please contact Bob Crowley at robertgcrowley@gmail.com or call 849-0627.

6. **Worshipping In-Person:** If you plan on attending in-person, please review these guidelines as there may have been changes since you were last with us!
- a. **Masks Encouraged but not Required:** Masks have been a great way to ease the spread of not just COVID but other common illnesses. Because of their effectiveness we are still encouraging attendees to wear them. However, they are no longer a requirement to participate in worship with us.
 - b. **Entry & Exit:** There are two main entrances/exits to the building: the sanctuary door, and the side door. Feel free to come and go through either of these doors.
 - c. **Physical Distancing:** As with masks, you are not required to physically distance, but if you prefer to maintain that spacing for yourself and others, you may do so, space-permitting.

If you have concerns regarding these changes, please share them with you Safe Church Committee through our chair Bill Whittaker, whittakerw3@gmail.com. Know that any concerns and comments will be reviewed and given attention.

7. **Worshipping Online:** Follow the instructions below for logging on to zoom, getting your copy of the bulletin, and catching up on services you may have missed.
- a. **Zoom Information:** The information to join our Zoom worship is below:
 - i. The Zoom link for smartphones, tablets, or computers is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/233787625?pwd=V2gxY05oYU5NMm1YMFZKTElnM2NtZz09>
 - ii. The password for this meeting room is: **400688**
 - iii. For those who would prefer to call in the number is: **1 647 558 0588** then use the Meeting ID: **233 787 625**, and then enter the passcode **400688** when prompted (long distance charges may apply if you do not have a plan)
 - b. **Bulletins for Sunday:** The bulletin is available for viewing on our website, and can found at the following link:
 - i. Sunday's Bulletin: <https://www.guc.ca/s/June-4-Communion-Bulletin.pdf>
 - c. Council Minutes: <https://www.guc.ca/congregational-minutes>
 - d. **Last Sunday's Worship:** In case you missed it, the worship service (video) and

message (audio) are on the website. Just follow the links below, scroll to the date, and watch or listen.

- i. Videos of Previous Worship Services: <https://www.quc.ca/worship/videos>
 - ii. Audio of Message: <https://www.quc.ca/worship/messages>
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8. **Singing Together!** Treble Clef Singers. Special Guests: Introducing in their first performance VALLEY GIRLS CHORUS. Sunday, June 11 at 2:30 p.m. at Harmony United Church, 8 Upland Road, Saint John. Freewill donation at the door.

9. **Breast Cancer Research:** A study is currently being conducted at the Saint John Regional Hospital to determine if Breast Cancer can be detected through Breath Analysis. Healthy female participants are needed. Participants must be between 30 and 89 years of age, with a negative mammogram within the last two years. If you, or someone you know are interested in taking part, please contact: Donna Fairweather or Hannah Lanigan at (506) 648-7852 or email: donna.fairweather@horizonnb.ca

10. **Al Graham Memorial Award** - This \$500 award in memory of Al Graham will be presented in June to a high school student who is a member or adherent of Quispamsis United Church. The student must be actively involved in church activities, must display strong academic achievement and a need of financial assistance, and will be attending post-secondary education. Application forms are available from the office.

11. **Request for Names:** If you are graduating from high school or post-secondary, please give your name, and the name of you high school or post-secondary institution and degree. Also, if you ae finishing Grade 3, please give your name to Una at una.wilson@live.com or call her at 506-849-2217 or Cell: 506-647-8261.

12. **QUC Office Hours:** Barring inclement weather or emergencies, the church will be accessible and Leslie will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-12:30. Should you need access to the building outside these times, please contact Leslie at office@quc.ca to make arrangements.

13. **Last Choir Practice:** The last Choir practice of the summer will be held tonight, June 1st at 7 PM.

14. **Valley Girls Women's Chorus:** Our last weekly practice of the season, in the Sanctuary, will be on Thursday, June 1st. Practice will be at our usual time, from 10-11:30AM. Also, we have been invited to take part, as Special Guests, in Treble Clef's concert, "Singing Together", on June 11th. It will be at Harmony United Church, 8 Upland Road in Saint John, at 2:30pm. Free Will offering. Hope to see you there.

15. **QUC Knitters:** The last meeting of the QUC Knitters for the season was on May 31st, with plans to reconvene in the Fall.

16. **Day Trip to Prince Edward Island for Anne & Gilbert** - Wednesday, June 28. Saint David's is hosting a Bus Trip to Prince Edward Island. The tour will take place on Wednesday, June 28 with departures from Rothesay and Saint John, and includes return deluxe coach, ticket to Anne & Gilbert the Musical, and a visit to the Cavendish Boardwalk. Cost is \$125/person. Reserve no later than June 7, 2023 by calling 506-847-7137 or by emailing office@saintdavidsunited.ca.

17. **QUC Calendar:** Any events you would like to see posted, contact Leslie. You can find the calendar by using the following link: <https://www.quc.ca/quc-calendar>

18. **Sunday Readers for the Next 4 Services:** One of the great gifts that we have each week is your participation in Sunday Worship in the welcoming, Acknowledgement of Land, the responsive pieces (Call to Worship, Commissioning, etc.), and of course the scripture reading. You add so much to the experience of worship every Sunday! Below are the readers for the next 4 Services. If you see your name here and are unable to be available for your Sunday, please **check the reader list and arrange a replacement and let Leslie know.**

- a. **June 4th:** Diane Tonge
- b. **June 11th:** Karen Young
- c. **June 18th:** Bob Crowley
- d. **June 25th:** Stephen Alexander

19. **Dedicate a Service:** CELEBRATE a member of your family or place a MEMORIAL in our weekly bulletin by making a donation. Just send your donation, details of announcement “Dedicated by (donator) in loving memory/celebration of people/situation” and your chosen date to Leslie. She will include your message in the powerpoint.

20. **Looking for Tech Volunteers** – We have regularly been updating our technical abilities at the church with new laptops, microphones, screen, cameras and are still planning future updates. We have a very small crew and we are looking for some help. If you enjoy learning and/or are a bit tech savvy, we would love for you to join us. If you are interested, please reach out to us through Leslie at office@quc.ca.

21. **Financial Report: For the Period of April**

	Current Month	Year To-date
Total Receipts	\$ 16,286.70	\$60,041.82
Total Expenses	\$15,460.04	\$64,094.18
Surplus/(Deficit)	826.66	-\$4,052.36
M&S	\$854.66	\$3,776.00

Finally back to a surplus for the month, let's keep it going!!!

22. **How You Can Direct Your Givings:** Did you know that when you give financially, you can direct where that money goes and how it supports the work of our church and mission? Here are some of the categories for directing your offerings: **Local, M&S, Memorial, Building, Outreach, Special (Advent, Lent, etc)**

If you want to make any changes to where your gifts go to support the work of this community of faith, just follow the directions below:

- a. *Envelope givers* – Already divided between Local and M & S. If you want it to go to another category just write on the envelope
- b. *E-Transfer givers* – Write in the message section where you would like it recorded. If no comment is made it will be recorded as Local

- c. *PAR givers* – Send Brion a message stating how much in each category. If no comment is made it will be recorded as Local
- d. *Mail givers* – Write on cheque which category and how much in each. If no comment is made it will be recorded as Local

For any queries or concerns please give Brion Crossman a call at 849-6003 or Hally Kimball at 849-9618.

23. Submitting Announcements: To get your announcement in this weekly notice, we ask that you submit them to Leslie with a **small paragraph** of detail by Wednesday of the week you want your announcement to run. Also include the number of weeks that you want this announcement in the weekly notice (if no number is given we will run it for 4 weeks or until the event has taken place). Send all announcements to Leslie at office@quc.ca