

Haliburton Pastoral Charge

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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Pentecost, 2026

"When the Day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place" Acts 2:1

Dear Friends,

There are many forces in our world which pull us apart from our fellow humans, but God is always at work to bring us back together. A little history: In Bible times the Pentecost festival was a huge obligatory gathering of the Hebrew people to celebrate the wheat harvest. Since they were continually being dispersed further from Jerusalem, this was a key means of re-uniting them, especially in the practice of knowing and worshiping the one true God.

Fast forward to the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, and we find that this was the very day when the Holy Spirit was 'poured out' on Jesus' gathered followers. The Holy Spirit gave them courage and words to witness to Jesus, but he also bound them together in an astounding never-before-seen community of love. We're told that in those early days "All the believers were together and had everything in common"! Acts 2:44 Key words here are 'gathered' and 'together'.

The church of Jesus Christ is not an association of remote yet like-minded individuals. We are the 'body of Christ', the 'family of God', the 'assembly'. In short, we're meant to be together and live in community. This is, of course, difficult, since there are inevitably strong opinions, personality conflicts and lots of immaturity, selfishness and prejudices to contend with. If you look closely at St. Paul's list of the fruit of the Spirit – "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control" Gal. 5:22f – you'll see that they almost all have to do with how to get along graciously with others. This is the Holy Spirit's miraculous work!

Pentecost Sunday is coming up on May 24th and we will be celebrating together our Lord's Supper. I hope you will gather with us!

In Christ's love, Harry