



GLADWIN HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH
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www.gladwinheightsunitedchurch.org
Gladwin Heights is a member church of Affirm United

Announcements for August 3rd, 2025

**We look forward to seeing you all this
Sunday at 9:30 with St. Andrew's & Trinity!**



Jennifer Hiebert August 10



Summer Schedule



Date	Location	Reverend
August 3	Gladwin Heights	Tim Bowman
August 10	Gladwin Heights	Tracy Fairfield
August 17	Trinity Memorial	Tim Bowman
August 24	Trinity Memorial	Tracy Fairfield
August 31	Trinity Memorial	Tim Bowman

Please bring your offering envelopes!

Minister's Message

When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?

- 1 Corinthians 6:1-6

Siblings in Christ,

How should we respond when someone publicly misuses Christianity to promote racism, homophobia and other views that we find abhorrent? Sean Feucht, an American preacher, has been in the news because of his cross-Canadian tour, framed as public worship services. Mill Lake in Abbotsford is one of his proposed locations.

Opposition to his views and presence have been loud, swift, and widespread from all segments of society. As Christians we are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to think carefully about how to live faithfully in our time and place. That faithfulness requires us to speak up when God's children, especially those on the margins, are persecuted, and especially when that persecution is conducted in the name of God.

I was also invited to write an email to Abbotsford City Council, urging them to deny a permit for Feucht's event. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I oppose Feucht's message, but I was conflicted about this request.

The cultural context of Paul's injunction to the Corinthian church – to not drag each other into civil court (i.e. to not sue each other) - is grounded in his particular cultural context. Courts tended to be biased in favour of the rich; indeed, it was almost always the rich taking their inferiors to court, not the other way

around, and judges were notoriously corrupt. Paul understands civil lawsuits among Christians as a failure to live up to a higher standard of Christian community: to take a sibling in Christ to court is a rejection of the kingdom of God. It is to assume a superior position over them and deepen animosity rather than striving for unity.

I am a Christian citizen of a mostly free democratic society, but even despite that – indeed, because of it - I am not sure that using civil procedures such as petitioning the government to revoke or deny permits for those we disagree with is the appropriate course of action unless that behaviour rises to the legal definition of hate speech. I wonder if suppressing those we disagree with only leads them to come back more violently, with the conviction that democracy itself is against them. I wonder if this is partly the reason for the MAGA determination to destroy democracy. Perhaps Paul's recommendation not to engage the civil apparatus against such people is still wise: it deepens antagonism. Christian community, and democracy, might be better served by allowing all voices to be heard, considered, and judged.

While I am still developing my thinking on this question, I am of the opinion that we should publicly proclaim love in the face of public hate, especially when that hate is cloaked in Christian guise. But I am not sure that shutting them down is the long-term way to further the kingdom of God, nor democracy.

I realize this is probably a controversial opinion. I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Yours in Christ,

Tim

Weekly Worship Elements

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 2:1-8, 18-24

Psalm 8 - VU 732

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

HYMNS

MV 27 – “Creator God, You Gave Us Life”

MV 156 – “Dance with the Spirit”

VU 606 – “In Christ There Is No East or West”

VU 960 - The Lord’s Prayer

MV 185 – “Ev’ry Day is a Day of Thanksgiving”

VU 601 – “The Church of Christ in Every Age”

MV 219 - “Amen!”

Gladwin Events

CAMP SPIRIT the Mid-Fraser Church Cluster presents a week of fun and faith at Gladwin Heights United Church August 5th-8th for ages 6-14. For more information and to register, please visit www.campspirit.ca

Gladwin’s Recurring Events

5/2 MINISTRIES WITH B’HAI we are making sandwiches to distribute to those who are homeless. We meet at the church on the **first Tuesday of the month at 3:30pm**

Cluster & Shared Announcements

BOB TROUT It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bob Trout. Bob passed away in hospice on Sunday at midday. Please keep Janet and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers.

ROMEO Retired Old Men Eating Out: **Every second Friday, 7am** at JoJo's Restaurant, Abbotsford. For more information, contact Don Strangway at Trinity.

Please Note!



FACEBOOK SERVICE We broadcast our in-house service via Facebook Live, for those of you who are unable make it in person. Go to the Gladwin Heights Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/Gladwin-Heights-United-Church-699893126828536>) and look for the Service by date. If you are unable make it at worship time you can view it anytime on Facebook.

GLADWIN HEIGHTS IS A SCENT FREE ZONE

Please do not wear scented products in our building.

Coming soon

Please let us know if you have contributions to include in our announcements



Gladwin Height is a recipient of a Seeds of Hope grant in support of our redevelopment plans

Minister: Rev. Tim Bowman
Song Leader: Rita Green
Pianist: Jacob Greenan
Office: Melissa Boisclair

Church Reception Hours

St. Andrew's Office

Monday 8:30am-4:30pm

Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

Gladwin's Office

Tuesday 8:30am-4:30pm

Thursday 9am-12pm

Reverend Tim

10am-5pm