

Greetings to All,

Happy Earth Day! Today is a good day to pause and notice the beauty of creation all around us — even as spring slowly makes its way to us. This Sunday's readings invite us to think about how we recognize the voice and presence of Jesus in prayer, in worship, in community life, and in creation. It's a question worth sitting with this week.

What a wonderful weekend! The Spring Rummage Sale was a great success, and it was so good to see so many family and friends come out to help make this annual event happen. Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, and showed up — it takes a village, and Appleby has a good one.

It's also been nice to have a bit of time off. I was able to do some work around the house with Vince, spend some time on machine embroidery, crochet some poppies, and enjoy a little downtime. Sometimes a slower week is exactly what you need.

I look forward to seeing you either at the Wizard of Oz Tea on Saturday or on Sunday at Worship.

Blessings to you and your family, Rev. Carolin

Reflection – The Gate and the Table

This Sunday we hear two readings that, at first glance, seem quite different — but together they paint a beautiful picture of what it means to belong to a community shaped by God's love.

In Acts 2:42–47, we get a glimpse of the earliest church. The believers devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. They shared what they had. They ate together with glad and generous hearts. No one was left out. It wasn't a perfect community, but it was a faithful one — people showing up for each other day after day.

What strikes me about this passage is how ordinary it sounds. There are no miracles described here, no dramatic healings or conversions. Just people gathering, sharing meals, looking after one another, and praising God. And yet Luke tells us that the Lord added to their number daily. Something about the way they lived together drew others in.

In John 10:1–10, Jesus uses the image of a shepherd and a gate. He says, "I am the gate." It's an unusual image — we're more familiar with Jesus as the shepherd. But the gate is the place of entry, the place of welcome, the opening through which the sheep come and go and find pasture. Jesus is saying that through him, we find our way to life — and life in abundance.

These two readings together invite us to ask a simple question: what does it look like to be a community where people find life? The early believers showed us one answer —

generosity, presence, shared meals, and open doors. Jesus offers another — he is the way in, the welcome, the abundance we've been looking for.

Perhaps this week, we can pay attention to the small, ordinary ways we already live this out — and the places where we might open the door a little wider.

Pastoral Prayer for the congregation during the week:

As we hold these reflections in our hearts, let us also turn to God in prayer for those in our community and in our world who are in need of strength, healing, and peace.

Gracious and Compassionate God,

We come before you this week grateful for the gift of community and for the many ways we are held by one another.

We pray for those who are living with illness, pain, or uncertainty. Bring healing where it is possible, and courage where the road ahead feels long.

We remember especially those named in our community of faith: John, Bruce, Faye, Virginia, Barry, Lynn, Pearl, Wayne, Patty, Doug, Vince, Chris, Dick, Bud, Scott and Jeannette — and those unnamed whose needs are known only to you. Hold them in your loving care, surround them with your presence, and remind them that they are not alone.

We pray for our families and for the burdens many quietly carry — concerns about health, relationships, finances, and the uncertainties that weigh on the heart. In the midst of these worries, grant us patience, wisdom, and hope.

We lift before you the wider world. In these days of conflict, violence, and division — especially where war and political tensions continue to grow — we pray for peace. Soften hearts where anger has taken hold. Guide leaders toward wisdom and restraint. Help people of every nation learn again how to live together in understanding and compassion.

Where healing is needed, bring healing. Where strength is needed, bring strength. Where hope feels distant, breathe new life.

Help us also to be part of the answer to these prayers — through compassion, kindness, and care for one another.

Into your hands we place all these prayers, trusting in your mercy and love.

Amen.

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. – April 26- Scripture Readings

Scripture Readings:

☐ *Acts 2:42-47 NRSVUE The believers share everything in common.*

☐ *John 10:1-10 NRSVUE Jesus the good shepherd and the gate.*

Save These Dates!

- **Wednesday April 22- the flower order deadline**
- **Saturday April 25- Annual Spring Tea Party 2026**
- **Sunday May 3- Saturday May 9-Week of Guided Prayer 2026**
- **Saturday May9- Flower pickup**
- **Sunday May 10- Mother's Day-Sundries Sunday**
- **Monday May 11- Crafting Circle**
- **Tuesday May 12- Morning Glories**
- **Friday May 15- Messy Church**
- **Monday May 18- Victoria Day**

Church Announcements



Change Table

We are looking to borrow a free-standing Change Table, suitable for toddlers, for use in the Family washroom from mid-May to approximately mid-July while the Women's washroom is being refurbished. If you are able to help us source such a Change Table, please contact Jim Keenleyside, Joanna Anderson or Tony van Veen.



Greetings,

Wow – what a Saturday we had at the Spring Rummage Sale!

We had a fantastic turnout of customers – the longest lineup I’ve ever seen – and a fantastic turnout of volunteers.

Fantastic volunteers + fantastic donations + fantastic number of customers = fantastic profit for Appleby.

So many people to thank – 75 of you were at church on Friday and Saturday devoting hours and hours of time to bring together the items from the bags and boxes and transform each church room into special little stores. Thanks go to Joanna Anderson for co-ordinating the very charming students from Nelson and Aldershot High Schools who all worked so well together and with Appleby’s volunteers.

Thanks go to every section of our sale: Rummage Rangers, The Set-up Team, Furniture Dept., Beads ‘n Baubles, Computer Cove, Men’s Den, Twice As Nice Boutique, The China Cupboard, Books & Toys, The Appleby Café, the Main Hall of Rummage (including the Stop/Drop/Keep Shopping Team), Clean Up, Packing Up, Truck Rental & Drop off, plus our Counting Crew.

Together we helped raise an outstanding all-time total (before the addition from FUNDrive/Value Village): **\$9,467!!**

I hope that you had as much fun as I did.

Helen Lewis and I used to give each other high fives after finding out the total – so the next time I see you, prepare to be high-fived!

**Kind regards,
A grateful Anne**

A Guided Prayer Retreat Aka Week Of Guided Prayer

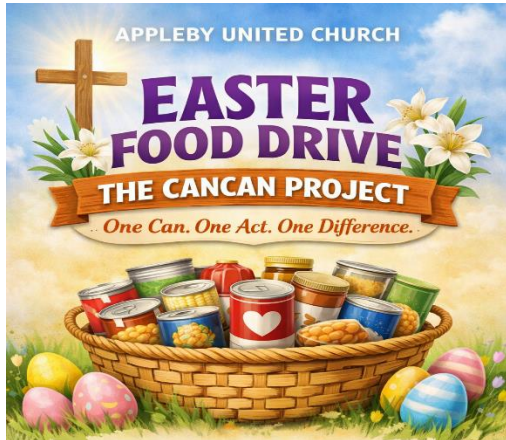


Appleby United Church and East Plains United Church will be hosting a Guided Prayer Retreat Sunday, May 3rd to Saturday, May 9th. Rev. Carolin MacMillan and Rev. Jan McCormick will co-coordinate the retreat.

A Guided Prayer Retreat is a retreat in the midst of everyday life. There is an Opening Service on the Sunday afternoon at Appleby where retreatants will be introduced to the theme of HOPE and meet their companion for the week. Then with guiding materials, retreatants will spend 30 minutes at home reading the scripture and meditating/praying in Lectio Divina style, followed by 30 minutes at the church (at a time of your convenience) with their companion discussing their experience. The next days are the same, following each day's materials.

On the Saturday morning there will be a Wrap-up Service at East Plains United Church. A Labyrinth will be available in the Hall for all during the week.

Please consider going on this journey of a Guided Prayer Retreat. Poster, Pamphlet and Registration Form is available outside the sanctuary doors.



Easter Food Drive

THANK YOU

For your generous contributions.
437 lbs of canned fruits, vegetables, soups,
beans etc. were collected in support of
Burlington Food Bank

Reminders

Coffee at 10 continues every Monday morning. Join us for coffee and fellowship in the parlour.

Men's Group every Tuesday from 9 to 10 am in the Parlour.

Watch our Sunday Services online via our [YouTube channel](#).

FundScrip Find out how to sign up by visiting our website or see Keith Pepper. Up to 10% of your everyday purchases at participating local retailers such as Fortinos, No Frills, and Food Basics will be automatically donated back to Appleby.

Planting Seeds
Appleby United Church

Ways to Donate to Appleby United Church

- By Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) (See Doug Walters)
- By Envelope on the Offering Plate
- By Envelope delivered to the church's Spruce Ave. mail slot
- By Interac e-Transfer to applebyoffice1@gmail.com
- By clicking the "DONATE" button on the Appleby website.

Thank You!

Community Announcements

- **Thursday April 23-26- Harold Pinter's The Lover** at West Plains Church, 549 Plains Road West, Burlington, ON.
- **Saturday April 25, 2026- Burlington Welsh Male Chorus** at Burlington East Community Church, 505 Walkers Line Burlington ON.
- **Sunday April 26- Rejoice and Sing** at MacNab Street Presbyterian Church, 116 MacNab St South Hamilton, ON.
- **Saturday May 2- Spring Vendors Market** at Grace United Church, 2111 Walkers Line, Burlington, ON.
- **Monday May 4- The Importance of Social Connections as we Age** at Grace United Church, 2111 Walkers Line, Burlington, ON.
- **Saturday May 9- Songs of Gordon Lightfoot** at Lowville United Church, 5800 Guelph Line, Burlington, ON.
- **Monday May 11- Homeowner and Faith Leaders Information Session** at Port Nelson United Church, 3132 South Dr, Burlington at 7:00 PM

Thank you for being part of our church family. Have a blessed week.