

## Greetings to All,

*What a meaningful week it has been. Our Week of Guided Prayer has now come to a close, and what a gift it was to witness so many in our community taking intentional time to slow down, to listen, and to draw closer to God. Thank you to everyone who made that experience possible — the guides, the volunteers, and all who entrusted themselves to the journey. We hold in gratitude everything that was shared and everything that was stirred.*

*To all who were unable to join us on Sunday — Happy Mother's Day! We hope your day was filled with love and joy.*

*A warm thank you to Shannon MacDonald for picking up such lovely carnations for our Sunday service. It was a beautiful way to honour the women of our congregation, and the gesture was so warmly received.*

*Blessings to you and your family,*

*Rev. Carolin*

## Reflection — The Prayer He Prayed for Us

*This Sunday, we sit with two passages that belong together in the most profound way.*

*In Acts, we watch Jesus ascend — taken up into the cloud while his disciples stand looking upward, wondering what comes next. It is a moment of leaving, yes. But it is also a moment of commissioning. The disciples are not abandoned. They are sent — back to Jerusalem, back to the upper room, back to one another — to wait and to pray together.*

*And in John 17, we are given a window into something extraordinary. Before any of this unfolds — before the arrest, before the cross, before the ascension — Jesus prays. Not for himself, but for the ones he loves. He lifts his eyes and asks that all who follow him may be one, held together in the same love that holds him and the Father together.*

*What strikes me about these two passages side by side is this: Jesus leaves, and yet Jesus prays. The physical presence is withdrawn, but the intercession continues. He carries his people with him — into that prayer, into that love, into that unity that no distance can undo.*

*There is so much in our world right now that pulls at us. We worry for our children and our grandchildren. We watch the news and feel the weight of wars that seem to have no end, of an economy that feels increasingly uncertain, of a world that can seem to be spinning faster than any of us can keep up with. It is easy, in moments like these, to feel very small — and very alone.*

*And then we come to John 17, and we discover that Jesus already knew. He saw it coming — the scattering, the fear, the uncertainty — and his response was to pray. For us. Not just for the disciples gathered in that upper room, but for all who would come to believe through them. That includes us. We are in that prayer. We have always been in that prayer.*

*That is what we carry into this week. Not a tidy answer to everything that troubles us, but the knowledge that we are held — by a love that prays for us, that gathers us together, and that refuses to let us face any of it alone.*

### **Pastoral Prayer**

*Gracious and Ever-Present God,*

*We come to you at the beginning of a new week, grateful that you are already here. You are the God who prays for us, who holds us together, and who meets us in the middle of everything we are carrying.*

*We lift to you our friends and loved ones who are living with illness, with pain, and with uncertainty: John, Bruce, Faye, Virginia, Barry, Lynn, Pearl, Wayne, Patty, Doug, Vince, Chris, Dick, Bud, Scott, Jeannette, Dawn-Lea, and Beki. Surround each one with your healing presence, and give strength to all who love and care for them.*

*We pray for families who are worried — for parents and grandparents carrying concern for the ones they love, for all who are watching the world and wondering what lies ahead. Remind them that they are not alone, and that you are already holding what they cannot.*

*We give thanks for our Week of Guided Prayer and for all who travelled that journey this week. May what was stirred continue to grow in the days ahead.*

*We pray for our world — for peace where there is conflict, for steadiness where there is fear, and for justice where it is long overdue. Give us the courage to be your people in the middle of it all.*

*Into your hands we place everything we are carrying. We trust in your mercy and your love.*

***Amen.***

## **Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. – May 17- Scripture Readings**

### **Scripture Readings:**

***📖 Acts 1:6-14 — The Ascension of Jesus***

***📖 John 17:1-11 — Jesus prays that all may be one***

### **Save These Dates!**

- **Monday May 18- Victoria Day**
- **Monday May 25- Crafting Circle**
- **Wednesday June 3-Women's Day**
- **Friday June 5- Messy Church**
- **Thursday June 18- Muppets Graduation**
- **Sunday June 21- Father's Day**
- **Monday June 22- Crafting Circle**

### **Church Announcements**



### **The Week of Guided Prayer**

The Week of Guided Prayer jointly hosted by Appleby and East Plains was held May 3-9. It was a wonderful week of prayer, hope and refreshment for all who participated. We give thanks to everyone who supported us in our retreat.

Special thanks go to Rev. Carolin MacMillan and Rev. Jan McCormick who put in countless hours planning, meeting with us in groups and individuals, and many travel kilometers.

Thanks Patricia Miskimins, Sonia Ireson and Lorne Robertson for your assistance setting up the Opening Service, and your efforts to provide a beautiful meal for Coordinators and Companions during the week. An extra thanks to Pat for her creativity in the final touches of the Memento Bookmarks.

Thank you John and Dickson for your support throughout the week.

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

### **June Pare**

## **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.

## WASHROOM REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

The Men's and Women's Washrooms will be closed for refurbishment from May 19, 2026 through to approximately mid-July. During this time the Family Washroom will remain available to all building occupants. The east corridor adjacent to the Men's and Women's Washroom as well as the east parking lot entrance to the church will be closed off but will be accessible on Sundays as well as in the event of emergencies. In mid-July, upon completion and reopening of the Men's and Women's Washrooms, the Family Washroom will be closed for refurbishment until approximately Labour Day. We ask for your understanding and cooperation while we update these important areas of our church building.



**Planting Seeds**  
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](mailto:applebyoffice1@gmail.com)
- By clicking the "DONATE" button on the Appleby website.

Thank You!



## Community Announcements

- **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>- Rummage Sale** at Emmanuel United Church, 871 Upper Ottawa St, Hamilton.
- **Tuesdays May 19-June 23- Powerful tools for Caregivers** at Patty's Place, Walmley Club, 2250 Speers Road, Oakville.
- **Tuesday, May 26 – Enchorus & Friends** at Knox Presbyterian Church, 461 Elizabeth St, Burlington.
- **Saturday, June 6- Yard Sale** at Grace United Church, 174 Caithness St. E, Caledonia.
- **Saturday June 13- Strawberry Thanksgiving and Communion event** at Six Nations Polytechnic, 2160 4th Line, Ohsweken.
- **Sunday, June 21- Retirement Celebration for Rev. Dr. Philip Gradner** at West Plains Rd W Burlington.

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