

Greetings to All,

Here we are already on the second Tuesday in September. The year seems to move so quickly, and I don't know about you, but I've always found September to have a bit of a reset feeling to it.

Children and young people are back to school, and some are returning to college or university over the next few days. Families are settling back into routines — packing lunches, getting everyone out the door on time, and adjusting once again to busy schedules. Many of us are feeling that familiar shift from the slower rhythms of summer into the patterns of fall.

Even though I'm no longer heading back to school myself, I still appreciate that sense of beginning again.

This past Sunday, we brought our six-week summer Reflection Series, The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss, to a close with Horton Hears a Who! It's been a fun and meaningful journey together. Over these weeks, we've laughed, rhymed, revisited familiar stories, and discovered some surprisingly deep connections with scripture and faith. Thank you to everyone who shared how much you enjoyed the series.

If you missed any of the Services, you can still find the full series on Appleby United Church's YouTube channel, beginning with The Sneetches on Sunday, August 2nd.

Now we begin Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost — a time that invites us to notice God's presence in creation, to give thanks for the world around us, and to reflect on how we live faithfully within it.

This coming Sunday, September 13th, is our Welcome Back Sunday. The choir returns after their summer break, which is always one of those wonderful signs that the fall season is beginning again at Appleby.

Following Worship, the Scouts will host their Annual BBQ, with desserts provided by the Social Committee. Plan to stay and enjoy some food, fellowship, and time together.

We hope you'll join us as we gather again into the rhythms of fall.

Blessings to you and your family,

Rev. Carolin

Pastoral Prayer for the congregation during the week:

Gracious and Loving God,

As September gets underway and the rhythms of fall return, we give thanks for the gift of new beginnings.

We pray for children and young people returning to school, for those beginning college or university, for teachers, staff, and families adjusting once again to busy schedules and changing routines.

Give confidence to those who are anxious, patience to those who are tired, wisdom to those who teach, and joy to those discovering new friendships and opportunities.

We give thanks for the beauty of creation that surrounds us and for this season that invites us to notice the changing world around us. As we enter Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost, help us to see your presence in the earth, the water, the sky, and in every living thing.

We lift to you our friends and loved ones who are living with illness, pain, uncertainty, or difficult circumstances: John, Bruce, Faye, Virginia, Barry, Lynn, Pearl, Wayne, Patty, Doug, Vince, Chris, Dick, Scott, Jeannette, Mitchell, Victoria, Savannah, Pat, Jan, and Wendy.

You know each one, God. You know what's spoken and what remains unspoken. Surround them with your healing presence. Give strength to those who are weary, courage to those who are afraid, comfort to those who are grieving, and hope to those who are waiting.

We pray especially for Mary and her family as they grieve the death of Bud. Surround them with your comfort and peace in the days ahead, and hold them close as they prepare to celebrate his life.

We pray for relationships that are strained and for people carrying hurt, anger, or resentment. Teach us the difficult work of forgiveness. Help us to receive grace and to offer it, even when it isn't easy.

We pray for our world, for people living with war, violence, hunger, displacement, and uncertainty. Bring protection to those in danger, wisdom to those who lead, and courage to those who work for justice and peace.

As we begin this new season together, renew us in faith, strengthen our life as a congregation, and help us to move forward with gratitude, hope, and trust in you.

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

Amen.

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. — September 13

Welcome Back Sunday

Creation Time 1 in the Season of Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

 Exodus 14:19–31 — God parts the sea for the Hebrew people

 Matthew 18:21–35 — How many times must I forgive?

Reflection — How Many Times?

This Sunday brings us into a new season in the life of the church.

We move from our summer Dr. Seuss series into the five weeks of Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost.

In Exodus, the Hebrew people stand at the edge of the sea with danger behind them and no obvious way forward. Then God makes a way where there seems to be no way.

In Matthew's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus a question many of us have probably wondered ourselves: how many times do I have to forgive?

Jesus' answer pushes us beyond keeping score and into the much harder territory of grace.

Together, these readings place us before two difficult questions: can we trust God when the way forward isn't clear, and how far does forgiveness reach?

As we begin this new season together, we'll reflect on what it means to live as people shaped by trust, mercy, and grace.

Save These Dates!

Sunday, September 13 — Welcome Back Sunday

The choir returns after their summer break. Following the Worship Service, join us for the Scouts' Annual BBQ, with desserts provided by the Social Committee. Come and enjoy food, fellowship, and time together as we begin the fall season at Appleby.

Please include the following information in the Newsletter:

Reception to follow in our Hall. All are welcome.

Monday, September 14- Crafting Circle

Watch this space for weekly announcements

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!

