

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, August 30, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering: “Imagine” (*Beatles*) “Live A River Glorious” (*J. Mountain, arr. Wilhelmi*)

Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements

We understand that the land on which we live, work and worship is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The territory is mutually covered by the “Dish with One Spoon” Wampum Belt agreement. In the spirit of reconciliation, we commit to building relationships with all created beings, those who were here before, those who have settled, and those who continue to settle on this land. We commit to partnering with our Indigenous neighbours in being stewards and caretakers of God’s Creation. Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we seek to live as reconciled people through our respect for, and our learning and understanding of, our Indigenous siblings.

Centering Music: “Open My Eyes That I May See” VU 371 v.1

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

*** Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:** (*responsive*)

One: We gather in community
All: We gather knowing we are not alone, you are always with us
One: Teach us Ever-creating God to wonder
All: Challenge us to scratch beneath the surface of our comfortable pews to ask questions that may make us uncomfortable.
One: Help us remember that we are the voices, the hands and feet and heart of Jesus
All: Together, we are affirmed in our shared mission and empowered in discipleship.
One: Thank you Eternal One for your grace.
All: Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** “There’s a Spirit in the Air” VU 582

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

Joy and Mystery. You have great expectations of our potential. We have been named beloved, called to be mini arks of the covenant, Saints, and holy ground as the Spirit dwells within us. Help us to be the better people that you envision in your new kingdom. Guide us in your wisdom to stand up for injustice, to take time to learn about our neighbours and, in doing so, share your grace with others.

***Musical Response:** “Moved by the Gospel, Let Us Move” VU 394

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 3:1-15 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Matthew 16:21-28 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir & Congregation: “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying” VU 400

Reflection: “Curiosity killed the cat and empathy brought it back”

***Hymn:** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” VU 575

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Invitation to the Offering

Ground of our being, we offer our resources and our talents as our intention to be a voice for Jesus Christ in the community. Let us be generous with the love you have given us. Amen.

Offering of Music: "Evening and Morning" (*J. Ebeling, Arr. D. Busarow*)

***Hymn of Dedication:** "What Can I Do?" MV 191

*** Offering Prayer:** (*together*)

All: God of abundance, continue to teach us to be generous with our resources as you have been generous in your creation. Empower us to be the neighbour who is aware and does not turn aside but offers a hand in the spirit of compassion. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Let us pray.

Although we are bombarded with constant news of wars and fires and floods, help us to be aware of the almost invisible in our daily lives as well. Inspire us to be a community that reaches out to the invisible by being aware and taking compassionate action. We know that loneliness is reaching epidemic proportions, we know that many elderly people are living alone and below the poverty level. We see in our midst the frustrations of mobility problems, we see the brokenness of those suffering strokes. We understand the constant pressure put on the caregivers of family members who give up their lives to be there. We know that in our lives there are those who abuse alcohol, putting their health at risk and creating despair in families. There are those who abuse drugs and ruin family life with their dependency. Let us be trusted, patient listeners if telling the story eases the pain. Inspire us to learn and have empathy before we judge those who are neurodivergent. Teach us stand up for those who use the language of being on the spectrum to diminish those with invisible needs. We ask for your grace that meets us where we are and take us places beyond our imagination if we are open. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: "Our Father in Heaven" TLUS 70

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** "One More Step Along the World We Go" VU 639

***Commissioning/Benediction:**

Ever-creating God, let us go forth asking to be made anew each day. Let us greet the days with joy and laughter knowing that you have called us by name and we are precious in your sight.

***Sung Amen:** "Grand Amen" TLUS 15

Amen! Amen! Alleluia!

Amen! Amen! Alleluia!

Music for Scattering