

**Applewood United Church**  
**an Affirming Congregation**  
**Sunday, February 22, 2026**  
**First Sunday of Lent**  
**Celebrating Black History Month**  
*(\*please stand in body or in spirit)*  
***Bold* words are for all to share**

Music for Gathering: "I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel to Be Free" (*Nina Simone*)

**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 Our Hearts" MV 21

Call to Worship:

One: We come to worship today determined to follow the Christ

**All: who calls us to a new understanding of fishing.**

One: We come to worship with open hearts and minds

**All: and a soul ablaze for justice and equality.**

One: We come to meet God and each other.

**All: Let us worship in love and understanding.**

\* Opening Hymn: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom" VU 356

Opening Prayer

Scripture readings:

Romans 5:12-19 (*Inclusive Bible - Jan Pelletterio*)

Psalm 15 VU 736 with refrain (*Jan Pelletterio*)

Matthew 4:1-11 (*NRSVUE - Rev. Alison*)

For the word of God in Scripture  
For the word of God among us  
For the word of God within us

**Thanks be to God**

Musical Reflection: "Sound Over All Waters" *Choir with Soloist Quisha Wint*

Reflection

\*Hymn: "Forty Days and Forty Nights" VU 114

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "A Change is Gonna Come" (*Sam Cooke*)

\* **Hymn of Dedication:** "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" VU 544

\* Prayer of Dedication: (*together*)

**All: Holy One, we offer back to you these gifts, and those given already through PAR and online, fruit from the bounty you have given us. Use them to feed those who might otherwise go hungry physically or spiritually. Bless them for the ministries here and for ministries across the world through Mission and Service. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the glory, forever, Amen.**

\* Closing Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" TLUS 123

\* Commissioning/Benediction

\* Grand Amen: TLUS 15

Music for Scattering

*The floral basket on the communion table is from Doris Bertram (daughter) in remembrance of Ann and Percy Boulton Family*