

**Applewood United Church
An Affirming Congregation**

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Pride Sunday

*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*

Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering

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: "There is Room for All" MV 62

***Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:**

One: Come, you who have been created,
knitted together in the depths of the earth.

**All: Come, you who have been searched
and accompanied by God all your days.**

One: Come, you who have been known and
loved by God.

**All: All who are fearfully and wonderfully made,
come and worship our God.**

One: Let us pray together:

**All: Loving God, creator of diversity,
You who created countless, diverse colours,
a multitude of different flowers
and thousands of different animals;
You who created the gentle fish fathers,
who care for their little ones,**

**and the strong lion and hyena mothers,
who hunt and protect;
You created the yew tree, the fish,
and the reptiles who change sex,
and the flowers and snails that are male
and female at the same time:
You saw that it was good - very good!
Open our hearts and minds
to appreciate and celebrate
all of the creation and our own rich
and beautiful diversity. Amen**

(Call to Worship by Rev. Dr. Miriam Spies, in consultation with the Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith and the Apology Task Group. Opening prayer by Urzula Glienecke from the collection "Grace Like Glitter". Both used with permission)

***Opening Hymn:** "Sing a New World Into Being" Tune VU 232

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

God of the Rainbow,
More than those who watch for morning,
Our souls wait, for the day when each of us,
of every gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation
knows that we are meant to be:

loved, cherished, and protected; and
that we are to be:

proud of our identities; and
celebrated.

For we are your imperfectly perfect children,
called to reflect Christ's radiant light,
embody Christ's radical love; and
build your beloved community,
especially when storms of fear and hatred rage around us.

And so, more than those who watch for morning,
we, in our great diversity,
wait for your promised rainbow of peace,
as we work towards a world where every gender expression, gender identity, and sexual
orientation is affirmed as beloved; and,
every soul's spirit is able to sparkle, shine and sing your dream with pride.

May it be so,
Amen.

by Alydia Smith from <https://united-church.ca/prayers/waiting-gods-rainbow>

Musical response: "We Are a Rainbow" TLUS 30

Scripture Readings:

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 18-19, 27 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Romans 8:31-32, 35-39 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Faith, Hope and Love Abide"

Reflection: Standing with Pride

***Hymn:** "Will You Come and Follow Me" VU 567

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "Love Over Hate" (*John Oldham/Pat Mayberry*)

***Hymn of Dedication:** "Know That God is Good" MV 104

Know that God is good,
know that God is good,
know that God is good,
God is good, God is good.

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

**All: God of persistent love, of healing and wholeness,
may what we share bring life to your church.
May what we bring reflect our gratitude,
may what we offer be blessed and blessing.
Amen**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*inclusive form*)

**All: Source of all life, our Companion in Heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your community come,
your vision be realized on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today all that sustains us,
free us from the harm we do**

and heal us from the harm done to us.

**Shield and guide us in the times of trouble
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the community, the vision and the joy are yours
now and forever. Amen**

(by Urzula Glienecke from the collection "Grace Like Glitter". Used with permission)

***Closing Hymn:** "My Soul Cries Out" MV 120 verses 1, 3 and 4

***Commissioning/Benediction**

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

Amen! Amen! Alleluia!

Amen! Amen! Alleluia!

Music for Scattering