

Applewood United Church
an Affirming Community
Sunday, June 28, 2026
Marking the End of a Pastoral Relationship
*(*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: "Siyahamba" VU 646

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

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

One: Today, God calls us to witness change in our community,
All: but also, to give thanks for the ministry evident here.
One: Today, God's love surrounds us

as we say words of farewell,

All: and as we worship in covenant with one another for a final time.

One: Today, with hope and gratitude, with words and symbols, with sacrament and song, God calls us to worship.

All: Today, in prayer and praise, carrying our joy and pain, we offer our praise and prayer in response to God's call.

One: Let's lift our voices together in prayer:

All: Holy God, Source of life and love, throughout time you have sent gifts of leadership to your people as they gathered. You have called us all to minister to one another, to times of both leading and following. You have called some to the vocation of ministry, to leadership that is both practical and spiritual. We give you thanks for the faithful ministry and leadership of those who have been called and served in our midst at Applewood United Church. We thank you for the worship, the learning, and the service that have been ours together. Be with us now as we mark the end of our latest pastoral relationship, and guide us by your Spirit along the next steps in the path of our life with you. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn:** "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" MV 30

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation: A Meditation on a Leaf

***Musical Response:** "Spirit God, Be Our Breath" MV 150 Verse 4

Scripture Readings: *(Inclusive Bible)*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Matthew 10:40-42 *(Inclusive Bible - Anne Moore)*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Baba Yetu"

Reflection: A 'good' goodbye

***Hymn:** "Who Is My Mother?" MV 178

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "Make a Joyful Noise"

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

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

All: We bring our gifts to you, Generous God.
Here is the work of our hands,
and here is the love of our hearts.
Accept them and use them,
bless them and bless us,
in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God!

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

One: Eternal God, Maker of heaven and earth,
we join with all your people to give you thanks and praise.

Two: You formed the universe in your wisdom
and created all things by your grace.
We praise you for all your good gifts:
the witness of saints and prophets;
the work of faithful women and men;
this earth in all its blessing and promise;
and this bread, once scattered,
now brought together and made one.

One: In the hope that your people
may be brought together from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and compassion,
we gather with those of every time and every place
to give you praise and glory:

All: (sung) MV 203

One: On the night before he died,
Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to those who sat
with him, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Two: In the same way he took the cup, saying:
“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.”

Two: Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ,
we offer you our praise,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: (sung) MV 204

One: We pray you, God of Love,
send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here,
that we, and these gifts,
touched by your Spirit,
may be signs of life and love to each other,
and to all the world.

Two: At this time, we also remember
all with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain . . .
all who are ill or alone . . .
all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger . . .

for all whom the world counts as last and least
We pray for the church and its varied ministries . . .
for nations as they strive for peace and justice . . .
for all our families and friends
And we lift our voices to sing together
with words that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*) VU 960

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 trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

(please come forward to receive the elements – you may wish to respond to the words “Jesus Christ the True Vine” and “Jesus Christ the Bread of Life” with the words “amen” or “thanks be to God”)

Choir: "Come Be Fed"

Prayer after Communion:

All: Life-giving God,
 may we, who share Christ's body, live his risen life;
 we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others;
 we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Amen

A Liturgy to End a Pastoral Relationship

Words to begin

Hugh Miller, General Chair

One: Almost twelve years ago, in October of 2024, the Applewood United Church Pastoral Charge and what was then Halton Presbytery and Rev. Joanne Hedge entered a covenant of ministry. It is now time to mark the end of that covenant, giving thanks for the life and

the ministry we have shared together in this place and as God's people. We begin with prayer:

**All: Tender and Compassionate God,
be with us in these moments of ending,
as we open ourselves to your Spirit
guiding and holding each of us.
Help us to cherish our memories,
and to move forward with your grace.
Amen.**

Symbols of Ministry

*Rev. Joanne: Friends, you called me into your midst,
to serve with you in the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care and Education. Today,
symbols of the ministry we have shared will be returned to you all.*

Bible *Ministry and Personnel Committee – Sharon Konyen*

One: I served among you as one who was called to share the Word of God in many ways – preaching, teaching, living.

**All: We will continue to place scripture at the centre of our life. The Word of God lives among us.
Thanks be to God.**

Bread and Wine, Pitcher of Water, Bubbles *Worship Committee*

Ian Prentice, Sophie Cook, Joan Marshall, Peter Kite

One: I served among you as one who joyfully administered the Sacraments of Communion and Baptism, and who created and presided over worship.

**All: We will continue to break the bread and share the cup, we will continue to offer the welcome and sacrament of baptism, we will continue to share lively and creative worship that sustains us,
with God's help.**

Hymn book

Choir - Lynda Kudrewatych

One: I served among you as one who cherishes the sharing of music, praying twice as we sang and moved and created safe, meaningful and jubilant worship through music.

All: We will continue to share the ministry of music that includes, uplifts and nourishes us all, with God's help.

AppleLog

Outreach Committee - Carol Culbert

One: I served among you as one who encouraged and supported acts of caring and connection with others.

All: We will continue to engage the community around us to support, to seek connections, and to serve, with God's help.

Pride Flag and Candle

Affirming Committee – Anne Moore

One: I served among you as one who was buoyed up by the works of justice-seeking, teaching, solidarity and advocacy we shared.

All: We will continue to offer radical welcome and show up and stand with those on the margins, with God's help.

Pocket Prayer Shawl *Jan Pelletterio, Prayer Shawl Group*

One: I served among you as one who prayed with and for you, walking together in times of joy and challenge.

All: We will continue to offer care, challenge, and encouragement to one another, sharing all that we are and have, with God's help.

Bulletin, USB, directory *Applewood Staff – Christina Mulligan, Jo-Anne*

Prentice, Leslie West, Katrina Kite

One: I was among you as a colleague and co-worker, sharing the work of leading and caring for this community.

All: We will continue to care for our members, our shared life, and our ministry with the support of staff, and with God's help.

Office door sign, clown nose *Executive Committee – Bob Martin and Lori Coleman*

One: I served among you as a leader, teacher, learner and priest, with love and hope and humour.

All: We will continue to grow and change, we will continue to build, to dream, discerning the will of God for us in our time and place.
Thanks be to God.

Alb and Stole *Former members of the youth and children's programs*

All: We will continue to be transformed, to face change

with courage and faith and remember that we are called to share God's love and justice at all times, in many ways, with God's help.

Litany of Thanksgiving and Forgiveness

Hugh Miller, General Chair of the Congregation

Linda Alcock, Outgoing Chair, Ministry and Personnel

Rev. Joanne Hedge

Hugh: We are all called by God to offer our unique gifts and work.

All: But some are called to lead in particular ways.

Hugh: We are all called by God to speak our faith.

All: But some are called to preach to the community with prophetic words of compassion and justice.

Hugh: We are all called by God to comfort those who suffer.

All: But some are called to share in the pain of the entire flock.

Hugh: We give thanks for Rev. Joanne, who has been the shepherd in our midst.

All: One who has led us, taught us, challenged us, and shared both our suffering and our joy.

*Joanne: I give thanks for the prayers that surround me
as I complete my ministry among you,
and I ask you to forgive me for the mistakes I've made, the dreams not realized, and the expectations not met.*

**All: Yes, we forgive you and bless you.
We rejoice in the ways we have been blessed
by your ministry among us.
We ask your forgiveness for mistakes made
and for expectations not met.**

Joanne: I receive your gratitude and forgive your shortcomings.

Linda: Do you, Joanne release this pastoral charge from the vows and promises made at your covenanting?

Joanne: I do, God being my helper.

Linda: Do you, the members and friends of Applewood United Church, release Joanne from the duties of ministry among you?

All: We do, God being our helper.

Linda: Let's pray together:

**All: Creator God, Holy One,
Great Spirit of Mystery and Love, God of Covenant,
we give thanks for remembered times**

when we have shared the life of faith that is your gift.

We thank you for playful moments, worship moments, tears and laughter and service shared.

We pray that Rev. Joanne will be aware of your

guiding Spirit, as she moves into retirement,

and we pray that your Spirit continue to inspire

Applewood United Church and Horseshoe Falls Region in our ministries.

May we all know God's presence and blessings

as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*** Closing Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide" MV 145**

*** Shared Commissioning:**

**All: We are sent by God, who,
in love, sang the universe into being.
We are accompanied by Jesus Christ,
who is God's love song to the world.
We are surrounded by the Holy Spirit,
who sings God's love
into each and every heart, each and every day.
Amen.**

***Sung Blessing: "My Wish For You"**

Music for Scattering