

**Applewood United Church  
an Affirming Congregation  
Sunday, March 15, 2026  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
P.I.E. Day  
(\*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.

**Choral Centering Music:** "We Are Here, Lord"

**Call to Worship:** (Ephesians 5:8-14)

Following Jesus,  
rise each day to walk the walk:  
be light to the world.  
*Jeff Shrowder, 2026*

**\* Opening Hymn:** "Praise to the Lord" VU 220

**Prayer for Reflection and Revelation**

Over time, over matter, over space,  
You are our God, in all and through all  
The noises of war are loud in your ears,  
As is the cry of the newborn infant,  
You share the excitement of those pioneering research  
As well as the last breath of those nearing death  
And in Christ, all the pain and potential in the world  
Are held together in the hope of healing  
Be present to us here, gracious God

And let your Spirit open us to glimpse that fairer world  
Which you intend for us and for all people Amen

**Scripture readings:**

1 Samuel 16:1-13      *(Inclusive Bible)*  
Psalm 23 VU 747      "The Lord's My Shepherd" (Sung)  
John 9:1-41            *(NRSVUE)*

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

**All:            Thanks be to God**

**Music for Reflection:** "A Loving Heart" *Timothy G. Bushong*

**Reflection:**    "Children of Light"

**\*Hymn:** "He Came Singing Love" VU 359

**Invitation to the Offering**

Give glory to God! One thing we know, that though we can be willfully blind, in Christ our eyes can be opened. In gratitude, let us joyfully praise God with our tithes and offerings.

**Offering of Music:** "Danny Boy" *Frederic E. Weatherly*

**\* Hymn of Dedication:** "Jesus Christ is Waiting" VU 117 verse 3

**Prayer of Dedication**

Good Shepherd, you seek us and all your lost sheep. Use these gifts, and those already given through PAR and online, to comfort and guide the weary, to bind up those who are broken-hearted and strengthen those who are weak, and to feed those who hunger. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**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 pow'r and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

\* **Closing Hymn:** "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" VU 651

\* **Commissioning/Benediction**

\* **Choral Benediction:** "This Place"

**Music for Scattering**