

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, October 18, 2026
World Food Sunday
*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering: "Autumn Etude" (*Dan Coates*)

Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements (*Silent*)

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.

Words of Welcome

Centering Music/Prelude: "Simply to Be" TLUS 1

***Call to Worship**

***Opening Hymn:** "When Morning Gilds the Skies" VU 339

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awakening cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

To God, the Word on high,
the hosts of angels cry:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let mortals, too, upraise
their voice in hymns of praise:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th'eternal song,
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: We light this candle as a sign to show the presence of the spirit within this sanctuary. It is known as "Ner Tomid," the eternal light of the world; that shines for everyone, no matter where we are, no matter who we are.

All: **At this time of pressing need throughout the world, we reach out to the light to guide us and keep us.**

May this time of thoughtfulness help us to be a wise and understanding people, eager to live as brothers and sisters in creation, making a difference in this world.

(Light the Christ candle)

Lighting the Candle of Peace.

One: We light this candle for peace, and as we do so we pray:
for all victims of violence
for marginalized people,
for those who have been bullied, brutalized and cast aside on the refuse pile of everyday life.

All: **Let us pray for tolerance and peace, justice and forgiveness, right relations and reconciliation with our indigenous neighbours so that we may find lasting solutions to prejudice, bigotry and bias, hate, terrorism and crime.**

(Light the candle)

Time with the young at heart

Opening Prayer of Confession

One: Eternal one who sees all, open our eyes that we, too, may see the need of others,
All: open our ears that we may hear their cries,
 One: open our hearts so that they need not be without succour.
All: Let us not be afraid to defend the weak, because of the anger of the strong,
 One: nor afraid to defend the poor,
 because of the anger of the rich.
All: Show us where love and hope and faith are needed,
 One: use us to bring these three things to those in need, no matter where they may be.
All: Open our eyes and ears that we may, this coming day, be able to do some work of peace for you.
 One: Jesus, you understand what it is like to be hungry; teach us to have grateful and generous hearts in the effort to level the playing field of food inequity.
All: Forgive us when we make selfish choices or remain silent in the face of injustice.
 One: Jesus, You welcomed all to your table. May we recognize our interconnectedness, with all our siblings at home and throughout the world.
All: Nourish us as we advocate for change, and seek to make food readily available for all.
*(*Shona prayer, Zimbabwe. In: "The Prayers of African Religion", John Mbiti*

***Hymn:** "Christ Taught us of a Farmer"

(Tune Auralia "The Church's One Foundation")

Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.
 A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds.
 But others agree till harvest in soil that was so good.
 O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.

You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.
 Your message found as welcome, your word began to grow.
 By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.
 The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow too.

We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways.
 For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise.
 For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.
 The seeds you planted grow here: we grow in Jesus Christ.

In times of joy deserve you, in struggling times we search.
 And always we are learning to be your faithful church.
 Your spirit gives us vision, and hearts and lives made new.
 Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work for you.

Scripture Readings: *(Inclusive Bible)*

Genesis 1:25-28

Psalms 99 with refrain VU 819

One: You reign, O God, and the peoples tremble,
you sit enthroned upon the cherubim, and the earth is quaking.

**All: You, O God, are great in Zion,
you are exalted over all the nations.**

One: Let them praise your great and awesome name:
holy are you and mighty, a ruler who delights in justice.

**All: You have determined what is fair,
you have done in Jacob what is just and right.**

Refrain

You rule with justice in delight, and faithfulness maintain.

One: Moses and Aaron were among your priests,
Miriam* among those who called on your name;
they called to you, God, and you answered.

**All: In the pillar of cloud you spoke to them,
they kept your teachings and the law that you gave them.**

One: O God, our God, you answered them;

**All: to them you were a forgiving God,
though you punished their offences.**

One: Proclaim the greatness of God
and worship on God's holy hill;

All: for God, our God, is the Holy One.

Refrain

You rule with justice in delight, and faithfulness maintain.

Mark 4:1-9

The Parable of the Sower

Again Jesus began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around, that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd remained on the shore. Jesus taught them many things in parables, and in the course of teaching he said to them: 'Listen carefully! Imagine a sower going out to sow, scattering the seed wildly. Some seed fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had little soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and it withered from lack of roots. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it produced no crop. Other seed fell into good soil and grew tall and strong and produced a crop of thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' Jesus ended by saying "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

One: For the word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Anthem of Gratitude"

Thoughts for Living: "Ask the Question"

Time of Thanksgiving

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "Fall Colours" (*Mark Kellner*)

Offertory Response: (sung)

Tune St. Anne

**Praise God for earth in love bestowed
for use and daily care!**

The fruits that once as seed we sowed now gratefully we share!

Words, Mary Lutti

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People/Communal prayer

When you hear the words "Eternal spirit of the Harvest" the response is, "**Hear our Prayer.**"

.....Help us to recognize the interdependence of all of life

and the importance of just relations and community, and help us become good stewards of all
you continue to give us,

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

Ministry of this Church (*announcements*)

***Closing Hymn:** "Sing Out! Sound the Trumpets! Proclaim Jubilee!"

tune – "To God Be the Glory"

Sing Out! Sound the Trumpets! Proclaim Jubilee!

Through words from Isaiah, we came to be free;

For blest by the spirit, Christ read from that scroll,

Proclaiming a mission to make our lives whole.

Refrain

*Hear the word! Sing it out! It's good news to the poor! Christ is come! Let us shout! We are
captive no more!*

Lost sight is restored, and God's world is set free;

Christ came to our world to proclaim jubilee.

But still, women struggle for lives free and fair,

And children go hungry, and loved ones despair.
Still, those long oppressed or in prisons of fear
Are longing to call this their jubilee year.

Refrain

Hear the word! Sing it out! It's good news to the poor! Christ is come! Let us shout! We are captive no more!

*Lost sight is restored, and God's world is set free;
Christ came to our world to proclaim jubilee.*

O God, through your Christ, you knelt down to the earth,
And by your own spirit, you gave us new birth.
May we as your church have a passion to share
Your Jubilee love with the world everywhere.

Refrain

Hear the word! Sing it out! It's good news to the poor! Christ is come! Let us shout! We are captive no more!

*Lost sight is restored, and God's world is set free;
Christ came to our world to proclaim jubilee.*

***Commissioning/Benediction**

***Franciscan Blessing**

***Sung Blessing:** "May the Peace of Christ be with You" TLUS 104

Music for Scattering

Next Week (Sunday, October 25, 2026)

Reformation Sunday

Thoughts for Living

"Ask For the Gift of Sight"

Mark 10:46-52