

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, September 13, 2026
Creation Time Begins
(*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: “How Sacred is this Place” VU 392

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

One: Come into this sacred space to worship the Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love....

All: We come to be strengthened for life’s ongoing journey, communing in person and digitally with one another as a family of faith.

One: Let us take some time to open ourselves to God in prayer:

All: Loving God, may you bestow upon us the wisdom to love as Jesus loved, to dare to perceive the risen Christ in each person we meet, to rest in the Spirit’s renewal when weary or discouraged. Strengthen us to trust in the gifts you confer upon each of us—gifts that, when combined, are greater than the sum of the parts. Challenge us to catch your vision of peace and of wholeness for all Creation. Amen.

*(Written by Gord Dunbar. **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2024, page 27. Used with permission.)*

*** Opening Hymn:** “Come In, Come In and Sit Down” VU 395

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

All: Forgiven God, we have entered into a very busy time of year. The slower pace of summer has given way to the flurry of activity that goes with the end of the season. Due to this faster pace, we may have a tendency to let ourselves get wrapped up in the busyness of life and forget to nourish the important connections we have with you and with each other. Help us, dear God, to keep these relationships strong and active each day, no matter how busy or complicated our lives may become. We pray in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

***Musical Response:** "Let Us Praise the God of Truth" VU 237

Scripture Readings: Matthew 18:21-35 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: "A Song of Creation" (*Pat Mayberry, Arr. David Kai*)

Reflection

***Hymn:** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" VU 271

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.

There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Invitation to the Offering

At this time, we share our gifts, given to us by God, in hopes that they will help others in both this church and the wider community. Your offering will now be received.

Offering of Music: “God Who Made The World” (*J. Williams/J. Martin*)

***Hymn of Dedication:** “Grant Us, God, the Grace” VU 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

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

All: **Generous God, we thank you for the many blessings you
 have bestowed upon us. Please accept our offerings of self,
 time, talents, and financial assistance, and allow these gifts
 to help make a positive difference in the lives of your
 children, both near and far. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*spoken*)

***Closing Hymn:** “Great Is Their Faithfulness” VU 288

***Commissioning/Benediction:**

May the grace of God sustain us. May the example of Jesus guide us. May the bravery that comes from the Holy Spirit encourage us today, tomorrow, and in all days and nights ahead. Amen.

*Written by Whitney Bruno. **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2026, page 39. Used with permission.*

***Sung Blessing:** “May the Blessing of God Be upon You” VU 429

Music for Scattering