

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MARCH 15, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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WELCOME to our service this morning!

A United Church of Canada Historical Moment

March 15, 2026 "Since 1984, The United Church of Canada has been one of 15 member churches actively connected with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The partnership is a key part of the United Church's international development work to end global hunger through food assistance, long-term development programs and supporting local growing projects."

- UCC Website

**REMINDER!
STONY PLAIN AGM TODAY AFTER CHURCH**

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD
on traditional territory of Treaty Six Peoples and of the Métis Nation

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

We come from many places, with different stories and hands ready to work.

God who made us calls us to weave life together.

Let us worship in the delights of diversity, and to God who knits community from thread and grace.

We come to craft community, to listen, to heal, to commit.

Come let us worship God who calls us together today.

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TENEBRAE LITURGY:

CALL TO THE LIGHT

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRAYER

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LETTING THE LIGHT IN (*MEW: Uncovering a window SP: Lights up*)

HYMN: VU #82 “A Light Is Gleaming” Refrain, Verse 4, Refrain

REFRAIN:

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God’s radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.**

Verse 4

So let us live in the brightness God has giv’n, and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here a-sparkle and ablaze, warming all our days.

**REFRAIN: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God’s radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.**

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A CANDLE IS LIT

Prayer: (Unison) Week 4 “Illuminating the Light”

Loving God, as I continue this journey, I ask that You pierce the darkness in my life & illuminate my soul with Your light. In moments of struggle, remind me that You are near, & lead me from the shadows into the fullness of Your light. May this light cleanse my heart and renew my spirit.

JOYS AND CONCERNS**PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS****THE LORD’S PRAYER: SING 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.**

Adapt. From a chant by R. Langdon Public Domain

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD FOR OUR LIVES**GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir: “Teach Us to Pray”**

Words and Music by Pepper Choplin. Text based on “The Lord’s Prayer”

THEME TIME**HYMN: VU #371 “Open My Eyes, That I May See”****Verse 1**

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;

place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my **eyes**, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 2: Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my **ears**, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 3: Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere,
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my **heart**, illumine me, Spirit divine!
~ Words and Music Clara H. Scott 1895. Public Domain

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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READING FROM THE EPISTLES:
READING FROM THE GOSPELS:

Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-12

REFLECTION: “And Now We See” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: VU #111 (seated) “As the Sun with Longer Journey”

Verse 1

As the sun with longer journey melts the winter’s snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ’s uprising gently bring our hearts to life.

Verse 2: Through the days of waiting, watching in the desert of our sin,
searching on the far horizon for a sign of cloud or wind,
we await the healing waters of our Saviour’s victory.

Verse 3: Praise be given to the Maker of the seasons’ yearly round:
to the Speaker through the Spoken in their living Breath of love
as the ever turning seasons roll to their eternal rest.

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MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: Then Let Us Sing #60 “There’s Enough For All”

There's enough for all if we would learn to share it,
 there's enough for all, oh, help us to believe.
 There's enough for all. Let's bring our loaves and fishes, and offer them to Jesus.
 There's more than enough for you and me

~ Words & Music: Bryan Moyer Suderman, alt. © 2024 Bryan Moyer Suderman/Small TallMusic. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

May these gifts of talent, time, and money bring encouragement, strength, and peace to each other and to all who need care, O God. May our gifts in some small way, bear witness to our love. Amen.

~Written by George Allan. Gathering Lent/Easter 2026 (*Year A*) page 33. Used with permission.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #117 “Jesus Christ Is Waiting”

Verse 1

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets; no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too. Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Verse 2

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets, where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
 Listen, my Jesus, I am angry too. In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Verse 3

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets; curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
 Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too. Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Verse 4

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets, where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
 Listen, my Jesus, I should triumph too. On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Verse 5

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets, “Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.”
 Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few. Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

Words: John L. Bell 1984. Music French carol, 15th c. Harm. The Iona Community 1984. Words and harmony copyright © 1986 WGRG The Iona Community. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

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SUNG RESPONSE: “Threefold Choral Amen”

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS MARCH 15, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

PURDY'S EASTER CHOCOLATES: Sunday, March 15, 2026 (TODAY!) is the last day to order your Easter Chocolates from Purdy's. Join on-line at Welcome to the Purdy Fundraiser: "Easter Chocolates for Stony Plain United Church" and order at [:https://fundraising.purdys.com/campaign/000024869](https://fundraising.purdys.com/campaign/000024869) Or you may submit a paper form to the office. Thanks for supporting our church

THURS. APRIL 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE/POT-LUCK: This year's Maundy Thursday service will be held at St. Andrew's United Church in Spruce Grove. Please join the folks at St. Andrew's for a pot luck supper starting at 5:30 pm. The service will be held during the meal.

REMINDERS

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 BREAKFAST: The Men's Club will be cooking for us again the last Sunday of the month. Approximately 8:45 to 9:30 am.

LENTEN JOURNEY 2026 "JESUS IS THE LIGHT" – COLLECTION FOR THE FOOD BANK: Again this year, Mewassin has provided us with a Lenten Journey, "Jesus is the Light". As part of this, we are collecting specific items for the Parkland Food Bank each week of Lent up to Palm Sunday. There are sheets on the table outside the Sanctuary and on the bulletin board listing the items for each week. Many thanks to Mewassin (Sunday School) for providing us with this year's Lenten Journey.

STARTING SUNDAY FEB 22 FROM 4 TO 5 PM: LENT PRAYER SESSIONS: Northern Spirit has organized Lenten Prayer sessions every Sunday afternoon from 4 to 5 pm during Lent (Feb 22 to Mar 29). Various churches in our region are hosting the sessions – the schedule is on the bulletin board and also on the table outside the sanctuary. You can join the sessions on zoom with this link: [connection link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86475167860?pwd=HKXBqMbin1oADzFCFbapYgKa9bLz0c.1#success); Meeting ID: 864 7516 7860; Passcode: 803578).
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86475167860?pwd=HKXBqMbin1oADzFCFbapYgKa9bLz0c.1#success>.

PASSING ON YOUR CONCERNS: If you know of anyone who would like a visit or needs a card, please contact the Care Committee, Rev. Deborah or call the Church Office (780 963-4745) or email stonyuc@telus.net.

REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Sun. Mar 15, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. Mar 22, 2026	Rev. Deborah in Devon – recorded service for us.
Fri. April 3, 2026	Sun. Mar 29, 2026 PALM SUNDAY Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP GOOD FRIDAY Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP (9 am, 10:30 am) (Regular service times)
Sun. Apr. 5, 2026	EASTER SUNDAY Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP (9 am, 10:30 am)
Sun. Apr. 12, 2026	Rev. Deborah on Vacation. Pulpit Supply Rev. Sharon McRann

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir: Wednesdays: Ukes 6:00, Choir 7:00 pm
Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. Mar 15 Stony Plain United Church Annual General Meeting
Sun. Mar 15 Deadline to order your Easter Chocolates!
Sun. Mar 29 SP Breakfast (8:45 to 9:30) , thanks to the Men's Club
Thurs. April 2 5:30 at St. Andrew's UC Spruce Grove. Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper/Service
Apr. 9-11 Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit Regions Conference & AGM at Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 – 199 St. N.W, Edmonton

Sun Feb 22-Mar 22 Collection for Parkland Food Bank
Sundays, until Mar 29 4 – 5 pm Northern Spirit Lent Prayer Sessions (see announcement and poster)