

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
APRIL 26, 2026**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TlEydzc2aXUra1dDcHdvNlpl4Y3Q4UT09>
Zoom teleconference Link info: Meeting ID: 833 6401 9239 Password: 4745
Via phone: +1 587 328 1099 Canada - dial in . +1 587 328 1099 , , 83364019239 - direct

WELCOME BACK, REV. DEBORAH!

Thanks to the Men's Club for Breakfast This Morning!

HYMN SING

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)

In the darkest valley,
at the banquet table;
in the hard work of life,
at the moments of ease;
in our day-to-day reality,
at times set aside—
like this time, now—
for worship, for listening, for paying attention;
with every step we take:
goodness and mercy follow us;
our cups overflow.

Written by Joanna Harader and posted on **Spacious Faith**. <https://spaciousfaith.com/>
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GATHERING PRAYER

Posted on My Redeemer Lives website. <http://www.myredeemerlives.com/prayers.html> Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #603 “In Loving Partnership We Come”**Verse 1**

In loving partnership we come, seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive, we freely offer them to you.

Verse 2:

We are the hands and feet of Christ, serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice with truthful word and faithful deed.

Verse 3:

Loving community we seek; your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak are brought together in your love.

Verse 4:

In loving partnership, O God, help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire, we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: (Responsive)

On this fourth Sunday of the Easter season,
we rejoice that the gospel story is for us,
that we, too, are included in the
good news of resurrection.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

**We light this candle acknowledging
the presence of the risen Christ among us.**

Hallelujah! Amen.

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JOYS AND CONCERNS**PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS****THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)**

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 those who 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.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES**GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir: “Do Lord, Remember Me”**

Words & Music: Traditional Spiritual. Arr. by Mary Mc Donald

THEME TIME

HYMN: MV #1 “Let Us Build a House”**Verse 1**

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
 a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
 Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
 here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
 All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Verse 2: Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
 where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
 Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;
 here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
 All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Verse 3: Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
 a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
 Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
 as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
 All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Verse 4: Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
 to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known. Here the outcast and the
 stranger bear the image of God’s face;
 let us bring an end to fear and danger:
 All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Verse 5: Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
 and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
 Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
 let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
 All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

**O God, as we open your holy book of words written so long ago,
 open our senses to receive your word for us today. Amen.**

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SCRIPTURE READINGS: SP Reader: Barb Somers

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian
 Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by
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Acts 2:43-47

The believers share everything in common

John 10:1-10

Jesus the good shepherd and the gate

HYMN: VU #747 “The Lord’s My Shepherd”**Verse 1**

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want; He makes me down to lie
 in pastures green; He leadeth me, the quiet waters by.

Verse 2: My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, even for his own name's sake.

Verse 3: Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill; for Thou art with me; and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.

Verse 4: My table Thou has furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Verse 5: Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me, and in God's house for evermore my dwelling-place shall be.

Words Scottish Psalter 1650; Music Jessie Seymour Irvine 1872. Public Domain.

REFLECTION **“We Are All In This Together” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra**

HYMN: MV #161 “I Have Called You by Your Name”

Verse 1

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

Verse 2: I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

Verse 3: I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

Verse 4: I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Words and Music: Daniel Charles Damon 1995. Words and music copyright © 1995 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

INVITATION TO GIVE

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OFFERTORY: VU #537 “Your Work, O God Needs Many Hands” vs. 1

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

- Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt. Music Neil Dougall ca.1831. Public Domain

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (Unison)

**Patient and loving God,
you are always ready to welcome us home,
and you are always ready to welcome our gifts
so that the good news of Jesus Christ
may be preached and lived in our time and place.**

This is why we give.

Receive our giving, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

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WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD**SENDING HYMN: TLUS #99 “I am Sending You Light”****REFRAIN:**

I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you.

I am sending you light to hold you in love.

I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you.

I am sending you light to hold you in love.

Verse 1: No matter where you go, no matter where you’ve been;
you’ll never walk alone. I feel you deep within.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: No matter what you feel, or what you choose to show;
I’m always there for you, and so I want you to know,

REFRAIN

Verse 3: I walk the path with you; go slow, dear one, don’t hurry.
I’ll go just like you need to go; there is no need to worry.

REFRAIN

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CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US (Responsive)

This is still the fourth Sunday of the Easter season.

We extinguish the candle, but we know that the light we have been sent stays with us, just as we know that Jesus himself is with us, and that recognition may be just a moment, a shared meal, a bite of bread away.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Hallelujah! Amen.

COMMISSIONING (Unison)

My dearest Lord.

Be Thou a bright flame before me.

Be Thou a guiding star above me.

**Be Thou a smooth path beneath me.
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me.
Today and evermore.**

Excerpted from a longer prayer by St. Columba. Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE:

SP: VU #974 "Hallelujah Amen"

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, Amen! Sing 3x

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MUSICAL POSTLUDE

A United Church of Canada Historical Moment

April 26, 2026, taken from a: "The work of Mission and Service was started in 1925 and was initially named the Maintenance and Extension Fund; changed to the Missionary and Maintenance Fund in 1926. In 1942, it evolved from being a "Committee" to becoming a "Department". In 1968, the Missionary and Maintenance Department became the Department of Stewardship Service. In 1970, it was renamed to be the Mission and Service Fund and more recently "Fund" was removed."

~ UC of C mail out

ANNOUNCEMENTS APRIL 26, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

WED. MAY 6 7:15 PM WHISPERING WATERS: Please join us for our Monthly Communion Service at Whispering Waters at 7:15. The Choir will attend, then come back to the church for the remainder of the practice. This is a great chance to visit with our friends there!

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 SP "FATHER'S DAY SUNDAE SUNDAY": Instead of Lunch Sunday in June, our Sunday School will be hosting a "Sundae Sunday". If you have any questions, or want to help, please see Rianna Clark.

REMINDERS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 UCW: The UCW will meet on Wednesday, May 6 at 1:30 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 9 "SPRING PRAISE HANDBELL CONCERT" (ST. ANDREW'S) The Parkland Bells Choir from St. Andrew's UC in Spruce Grove is having concerts at 3 pm and 7 pm on Sat. May 9 at St. Andrew's. Admission is free, but a ticket is required due to limited seating. You can get your ticket by calling St. Andrew's Church Office 780 962-0488. Free will offerings gratefully accepted.

