

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
OCTOBER 4, 2026 – Creation 4
World Communion Sunday**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TEYd2c2aXUra1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09>
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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

BACKGROUND ON THE SEASON OF CREATION AND WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (one voice)

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me..."

Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.

Taken from the Season of Creation 2026 Celebration Guide. Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

Written by Michael Brooks. **Gathering Pentecost 2 2026 (Year A) page 27.** Adapted. Used with permission.

GATHERING HYMN: VU #395 "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

Verse 1 You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain, for we are a part of the family.

REFRAIN:

Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

Verse 2 God is with us in this place, like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace, for we are a part of the family.

REFRAIN:

Verse 3 There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine, but we are a part of the family.

REFRAIN:

Verse 4 There's rest for the weary and health for us all; there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call, for we are a part of the family.

REFRAIN:

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CONCERNS AND JOYS

PRAYERS OF CONCERNS AND JOYS

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
--

SPUC SPECIAL MUSIC Come, Share the Lord

THEME TIME *different types of bread are displayed*

HYMN: VU #412 "This Is the Day"

Verse 1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice, and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

Verse 2 Open to us, open to us your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in, to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God, we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us your gates, O God.

Verse 3 You are our God, you are our God,
 we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
 we will give thanks, we will give thanks, for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness. You are our God, we will
 praise your name,
 we will give thanks for your faithfulness.

You are our God, you are our God, we will praise your name.

Words: v.1 unknown; vv. 2,3 R. G. Hobbs 1987. Music: Fijian folk melody arr. Darryl Nixon 1987. Words v. 2,3 and arr. copyright © 1987, 1995 Songs for a Gospel People

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Posted on <https://pcusa.org/> Adapted. Used with permission.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: SPUC Reader: Mary Hankewich

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RESPONSIVE PSALM 65:5-13

5 God our Savior, You answer us
 with awesome and righteous deeds,
the hope of all the ends of the Earth
and of the farthest seas,

6 who formed the mountains by your power,
having armed yourself with strength,

7 who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.

8 The whole Earth is filled
 with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.

9 You care for the land and water it;
 you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.

10 You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

11 You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.

12 The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.

13 The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

**ALL: Glory be to God Almighty, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now
 and ever shall be. Amen.**

Taken from the Season of Creation 2026 Celebration Guide. Used with permission.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 7:37-39

Rivers of Living Water

SERMON by Rev. Deborah Hoekstra “Hands, Paws, Fins and Wings

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

We believe in God, who creates all things,
 who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
 who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life,
 who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one,
 the poor one, the malnourished one,
 the climate refugee - who loves and cares for this world
 and suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
 who came to reconcile and renew this world
 and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
 who moves with God
 and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

(Lutheran Theological College, South India, adapted)

Taken from the Season of Creation 2026 Celebration Guide. Used with permission.

HYMN (*seated*) VU #394 “Moved by the Gospel, Let Us Move”

Verse 1 Moved by the Gospel, let us move with every gift and art.

The image of creative love in-dwells each human heart.

The Maker calls creation good, so let us now express
 with sound and colour, stone and wood, the shape of holiness.

Verse 2 Let weavers form from broken strands a tapestry of prayer.

Let artists paint with skilful hands their joy, lament, and care.

Then mime the story, Christ has come. With reverence dance the word.

With flute and organ, ching and drum God’s praise be ever heard.

Verse 3 O Spirit, breathe among us here, inspire the work we do.

May hands and voices, eye and ear attest to life made new.

In worship and in daily strife create among us still.

Great Artist, form our common life according to your will.

Words: Ruth Duck 1992 Music Gottfried Wilhelm Fink 1842 Words copyright 1992 G.I.A Publications Inc.

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION**WORDS OF INVITATION****OFFERTORY TLUS #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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water — the waters on the Earth, and under the Earth, the waters above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's waters, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us. Accept the first fruits we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

(All Creation Sings, Augsburg Fortress, 2026)

Taken from the Season of Creation 2026 Celebration Guide. Used with permission.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Taken from calltoworshipjournal.org/october-4-2026-nineteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-proper-22 ibid.

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INVITATION TO THE TABLE**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,
loving God, creator and sustainer of life.....

.....Therefore we praise you, joining the faithful who hunger and thirst
for righteousness and singing the hymn of the whole creation:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you, most holy God, for Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.....

.....Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION ELEMENTS****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Unison*)**

Blessed are you, our God, creator and ruler of the universe, for you have satisfied our souls with this feast of your grace. Keep us faithful in your service until your realm of glory comes; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD
CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US**SENDING HYMN: VU#425****“God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”**

God, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace; O refresh us, O refresh us, travelling through the wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound; may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and live abound; may your presence, may your presence, with us evermore be found.

COMMISSIONING

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BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #646

"We Are Marching"

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

(the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)

We are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)

We are marching in the light of God.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen, kwenkhos', Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen, kwenkhos', Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

(khanyen' kwenkhos'.)

Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo, (hamba,)

Siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (khanyen'kwenkhos'.)

Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo, (hamba,)

Siyahamb', ekukhanyen'kwenkhos'.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

(the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)

We are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)

We are marching in the light of God.

Words and Music: South African traditional song 20th century. Trans. And Arr. Anders Nyberg.

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POSTLUDE

YOUR OFFERING: Monetary gifts (cash or cheque) may be placed in one of the boxes next to the doors in the sanctuary; dropped off at the church during office hours; mailed to Stony Plain United Church, Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1Y4; set up through PAR (pre-authorized remittance); or, by e-transfer to stewards@stonyplainunitedchurch.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OCTOBER 4, 2026

MEWASSIN

SUN. OCT 11/26 Bring your Thanksgiving offerings of fresh garden produce and/or non perishable food items to church next week (Thanksgiving Sunday). Additional non perishable food items can also be brought to church on October 18 as we celebrate World Food Day. PLEASE NOTE THAT GARDEN PRODUCE WILL ONLY BE COLLECTED ON THANKSGIVING SUNDAY - OCTOBER 11.

SUN.OCT 18/26 9am The Congregational Board Meeting will be held. The Sunday service will begin after the meeting followed by Coffee Sunday and viewing of the power-point presentation from our 100th Anniv. Joann will add pictures from that day as well.

WED. OCT 21/26 6pm There will be a sustainable discussion evening with a chili supper held in the Church. A congregational email will be sent regarding food contributions.

STONY PLAIN

SUN. OCT 4/26 Coffee will be served after the Service, please stay if you can.

WED. OCT 14/26 1:30pm UCW meeting will be held in the Church. Sharon McRann will do a Thanksgiving program. Everyone welcome.

FALL FOOD DRIVE- Leading up to Thanksgiving we will be collecting items for the Parkland Food Bank. If you are able, please bring non-perishable food, hygiene products, baby food, pet food and toilet paper. Items can be dropped off at the Stony Plain United Church.

COMMUNITY

BROADVIEW MAGAZINE October is the time to renew your subscription, or begin a new subscription. The group rate is still \$30 per year and you may pay with cash or a cheque made out to Stony Plain United Church with **BROADVIEW on the memo line**. Sample copies of this award winning journal are on the table in the narthex. The renewal list must be submitted to Broadview by **Oct 21, 2026**. Susan Oleskiw will be available Sundays Oct 4, 11 and 18 to receive your money. Changes of address or contact information must be submitted at the same time.

TOWN OF STONY PLAIN has announced the upcoming programs and events for the month of October. Please see the bulletin board for more information including phone numbers and email addresses or go to the Town of Stony Plain website for more information.

REFERENDUM October 19, 2026: The 10 referendum questions are quite long and somewhat confusing. As you prepare to vote, here is the link to see the potential implications from the Northern Spirit Regional Council's perspective: [Know the Nine](#). And here is a link to the plain language questions: [Alberta's 10 Referendum Questions — and Which Results Bind](#)
Please be informed. And please vote.

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

REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Sun. Oct 11/26	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon SP Presider: TBD MEW Presider: Fran Scherlie
Sun. Oct 18/ 26	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.
Sun. Oct 25/ 26	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.
Sun. Nov 1/26	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon SP Presider: TBD MEW Presider: TBD
Sun. Nov 8/26	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukelele & Choir practice
Card Recreators 10:00am SP Thursdays

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. Oct 11 **MEW food drive pick up**
Sun. Oct 11 **Coffee after service in Stony Plain**
Wed. Oct 14 **1:30 UCW meeting**
Sun. Oct 18 **9am MEW Congregation Board meeting & Coffee Sunday**
Mon. Oct 19 **Referendum vote**
Wed. Oct 21 **6pm MEW Sustainable discussion & chili supper in Church**