

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Creation Time 2
September 14, 2025

Gathering In Community

Prelude

Introit

Peace Greeting: God rejoices in you. As we share the peace of Christ, we take comfort in the knowledge that each and every one of us is highly treasured. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Opening Hymn

Love Is the Touch

MV: 89

Territorial Acknowledgement

Joyce Smith

At this time, let us acknowledge that we are worshipping on the ancestral land of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, and Mississaugas of the Credit. We live, work, play and pray on these Treaty lands. May we live in harmony and respect with all those who share the earth with us. May we be thankful to God as we move into a peaceful and healthy future together.

Announcements

Reverend Jan

Words of Welcome

Theme Introduction

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Gather in, fellow travellers.

Gather in this sanctuary and bring your prayers,
your wounded spirits and your questions,
your hopes and fears.

**We wake to a world of beauty and catastrophe,
a world of vision and violence,
compassion and cowardice.**

**We wake and gather and pray and seek the God
who is always looking for, and loving, the lost.
Come, let us worship God together.**

Opening Prayer:

**God of Grace, we come,
remembering your amazing welcome
of all who are lost and fallen.**

**Sometimes we feel as if we too belong in this group,
for we have fallen short of who we might be.**

**We welcome you, Spirit of Mercy,
into the space we have prepared,
in this room and in our hearts.**

**Dwell in and with us,
shower mercy on us,
renew us for life.**

Amen

Hymn A Woman and a Coin – The Coin Is Lost VU: 360

Seeking to Grow Spiritually

Sharing Our Memories

A presentation by Karen Maerz

Prayer for Illumination

Joyce Smith

Let us pray:

You, God, light up our lives when we are open to your presence and your Word. We are here to open ourselves to your presence and to be guided by your truth. Help us to open our hearts and minds to receive your message for us through the reading of scripture.

Hebrew Testament Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Job 38: 1; 4-7

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:
Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone

⁷ when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings [\[a\]](#) shouted for joy?

Gospel Reading

New Revised Standard Version

Luke 15: 1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search

carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

**God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
Herein is Wisdom. Thanks be to God.
Amen**

Gift of Music

Sam Vacca

Message: The One God – Doctrine Isn't Dusty, Reverend Jan

Hymn The Kingdom of God (repeat 3 times) MV: 146

Responding In Care

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU: 541

Offering Prayer

We turn our thoughts to you,

the Finder of the Lost,

praying that in our offerings,

you will find money

to finance the work of your kingdom,

providing and inspiring

compassion for those who are sick or lonely,

support for the exiled and the refugee,

food for the hungry and warmth for the homeless.

Use these gifts, as you use us,
to spread your message of love
throughout the world.

Amen

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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,
forever and ever.

Amen

Reaching Out In Love

Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace

VU: 266

Commissioning

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources: *Gathering Magazine Pentecost 2, 2025 Year C* (page 11, 25-41); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (pages 209-213); *Feasting On the Word, Year C, Volume 4* (pages 68-73); *Texts For Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year C* (pages 514-516). Used with Permission.

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH AFFIRM STATEMENT

We celebrate the richness of our community when we have diversity in age, ability, gender identity, racial/cultural backgrounds, economics, class, sexual orientation, and family configurations fully participating in all aspects of the life and work at East Plains United Church. We commit to continuing education to promote understanding and create a safe environment for all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WIDER WORK COMMITTEE—Meeting on Wed, Sept 24th at 1:00 pm in the Campbell Room.

SOLO is celebrating 10 years!
Puccini Tosca at Burlington Performing Arts Ctr.
Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 7:30 pm

~~~~~

## Jan's Journal



The days are flying by and it is mid-September already! I hope that you have had some time this week to get outside and enjoy the lovely weather! There is quite a lot of news to share this week:

The Coffee and Conversation Group will resume meeting this week. Come to the Campbell Room on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am to join in conversation with a focus on faith formation and community. We usually choose a theme around which to focus our conversation. We pursue one topic for a few weeks and then, when that conversation draws to a close, we choose something different. This fall, we will begin with Eco-Theology and then move on to an Autumn Stroll from The Prayer Bench. All are welcome!

The Lunch and Lectionary Group will resume meeting on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, on Zoom. We will begin with discussion of the Scripture passages listed in the Lectionary each week. We may choose a book to read and discuss. The Group meets on Zoom between 12:30 and 2 p.m. each Thursday. All are welcome! Please let me know if you plan to join the group, as I will need to send you the Zoom link for the meeting.

Beginning this week, you will find a reflection from **Theology of Place** and some accompanying questions printed in the Bulletin. The Community Hub Ad Hoc Team is hoping that you will take the pages home and spend some time reflecting on the ideas presented and on the questions that pertain to those ideas. You are encouraged to discuss these ideas and questions with family, friends, colleagues on ministry teams at the church, etc. There will be a different reflection and accompanying questions each week. During the time for refreshments and fellowship following worship on October 5<sup>th</sup>, we hope that you will join in conversations about the first three reflections and the series of questions you have considered. All of this is important in the discernment of the path for future ministry at East Plains. Your responses are valuable!!

As the **Theology of Place** is based upon **A Song Of Faith**, excerpts from **A Song Of Faith** will also be printed in the Bulletin each week. This is the most recent Statement of Faith created for the United Church of Canada. It was adopted in 2006, but was being created for several years prior to that. What do we believe? As individuals and as a congregation? How do those beliefs impact our ministry in the community? These are important questions to ask ourselves at any time, but particularly as we plan for the future.

Did you know that you could build a home in your back garden for a family member or a friend to live in? Apparently, this is true. A Program called **Home Suite Hope** has been promoting this concept for a number of years. Now, with affordable housing difficult to find for many people, the organization is encouraging homeowners to build a 800 square foot home on their property which could be rented to suitable clients. The rent would be affordable for the occupant, geared to their income and subsidized by **Home Suite Hope**, while providing rental income to the homeowner. There will be a meeting at Port Nelson United Church at 7 p.m. on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, if you are interested in learning more about this program.

The annual **Walk To the Lighthouse 2025** will be held on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. You are encouraged to walk in support of Mental Health Programs offered at Joseph Brant Hospital. You can walk as an individual or in a group. Perhaps we can create a group representing East Plains? If you don't wish to walk, you could donate online at: <https://walktothelighthouse.com>

Pre-walk activities begin at 12:30 p.m. The walk begins at 2 p.m. The walk begins at Joseph Brant Hospital and ends at the lighthouse adjacent to the lift bridge at the entry to Hamilton Harbour.



As always, I am available to discuss any of the information written in this "Journal."

You can reach me at: [revjanmcc@gmail.com](mailto:revjanmcc@gmail.com) or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Pastor Jan