

EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Creation Time 6
Thanksgiving Sunday
October 12, 2025

Gathering In Community

Prelude

Choir Introit

This Is the Day

by M. Blankenship

Peace Greeting: Pray for the peace of the places you are sent, the people with whom you dwell, and the world in which you reside. In this spirit of shalom, let us share signs of peace and love.

The Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

Opening Hymn

Make a Joyful Noise

VU: 820

Territorial Acknowledgement

Joyce Smith

This is the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, and Mississaugas of the Credit, shared with us through the signing of a treaty that outlined rights and responsibilities for the people who live here. Reflection on these relationships has led us to engage in a journey toward reconciliation. This includes a reminder and an acknowledgement of the land upon which we reside and on which we gather to worship. We acknowledge with respect this land and we covenant to live as Treaty people.

Announcements

Reverend Jan

Patti Martin: Arts & Crafts

Words of Welcome

Theme Introduction

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

We gather this morning to celebrate Thanksgiving!

We are surrounded by the beauty and bounty of the earth.

We gather with hearts filled with gratitude,

Our senses can hardly take in all that we have received:

the warm embrace of our church family,

the sight of produce fresh from the garden, orchard, and field;

the aroma of roast turkey and freshly baked pumpkin pie;

the sound of wild geese overhead and the crunch of leaves under our feet.

With praise and with gratitude,

for all our bountiful blessings

Let us worship God

Opening Prayer:

For what we have received, O God,

May we be truly thankful.

For the breath of life,

for the tears that fall,

for the moments of love,

for the times we are not sure

quite what to do next.

From our hearts, with our hands, through our voices, in our love,

we thank you, God!

For every sunrise and sunset,

for every smile and tear,

for every moment that has passed,

and for every moment yet to come.

May our thanksgiving

fill the world with gratitude and joy. Amen

Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

VU: 236

Seeking to Grow Spiritually

Prayer for Illumination

Joyce Smith

Let us pray:

Like autumn leaves as the season deepens, we come in all shapes and sizes, O God.

We come with your spirit whispering to us.

We come waiting to see your glory revealed.

Sometimes we feel as transient as autumn leaves,

blown by every breeze,

rustling restlessly,

only to fall into a pile on the ground.

Just as autumn leaves shed their summer green,

and transform to vibrant colour,

so we come, seeking your revelation to us.

We come seeking new life and restored hope.

We come that your Word may speak---

to us, in us, and through us.

Amen

Hebrew Testament Reading
Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

New Revised Standard Version

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it

and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Gospel Reading **John 6: 25-35**

New Revised Standard Version

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his

**May God bless this reading of the Holy Word to our insight
and our understanding. Thanks be to God.
Amen**

Gift of Music The Lord God Made Them All J. M. Martin

Message: Gratitude Reverend Jan

Hymn For the Fruit of All Creation VU: 227

Responding In Care

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU:541

Offering Prayer

**Holy One, the fall fairs are testimony
to the abundance of this earth.
The Farmers' Markets and roadside stands
overflow with fresh produce.**

Children run joyfully through apple orchards
and pumpkin patches.

We celebrate the bountiful harvest, on this Thanksgiving
Sunday.

Our offering this morning is a symbol of our witness and our
work----

in our collective discipleship,
in your work among and within us,
in our commitment to the good news,
in what continues to emerge from us in faith.

Bless and use these gifts—and us--- in Jesus' name,
for your work in the world.

Amen

Pastoral Prayers

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

Let All Things Now Living

VU: 242

Commissioning

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources: *Gathering Magazine Pentecost 2, 2025 Year C* (page 15, 25-41); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (pages 229-233); *Feasting On the Gospels: John, Volume 1, Chapters 1 to 9* (pages 182-193). 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

Congratulations to Barb and Herb Teather who will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary Oct 15th!



CLIMATE CHANGE READING GROUP GET-TOGETHER

Sat, Oct 18 – 7:00-9:00pm Campbell Room

MEAT PIES ARE BACK IN PRODUCTION!

The Support Group is again making 4" lean ground beef meat pies with onion and carrots. Cost is \$5 each. Fresh baked are available for pickup at noon to 1 pm on Wednesday, Oct 15, 2025. Frozen pies will be available the Friday after: Oct 17. To order: call or email Gayle Burnison: 905-630-3525 or gburnison@gmail.com. Get your order in early.... they sell out quickly!

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**Thanksgiving Food Drive**—Food and money collected for the Thanksgiving Drive will be donated to the Compassion Society of Halton.

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ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW AND SALE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

Please take a poster or 2 of our upcoming annual sale to post in your neighbourhood or give to friends. They are available in the Gathering Place.

Jan's Journal



Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! I hope that you will have some time with family this weekend! I also hope that you will be able to enjoy some turkey and pumpkin pie!

Over the past two weeks, East Plains' challenging situation, brought on by the discovery of an unknown oil tank between the building and the cemetery, followed by the unexpected unearthing of a disturbed grave site, has drawn quite a bit of media attention. A couple of weeks ago, I was approached by a reporter from the Burlington Gazette. Shortly after that, a call came from Burlington Today,

another online publication. Next came an interview with a reporter for the Hamilton Spectator and that article was printed on the front page of Tuesday's paper. After Coffee and Conversation on Tuesday morning, a reporter from CHCH TV News arrived with his video camera and lots of questions!!! His report aired on the news at 6p.m. that evening.

There seems to be quite a lot of interest about our rather unique story! We are hopeful that this interest will inspire some online donations.

There has been no activity in terms of the Archaeological investigation this week, as we eagerly wait for the test results on the soil samples which were taken on September 30th. When the test results arrive, we hope that the Burial Site Assessment will begin again. Pat will keep you updated on any developments.

The fiftieth Annual Arts and Crafts Show and Sale is just three weeks away! Please prayerfully consider how you might help and then contact either Patti Martin, or Gayle Burnison to let them know your availability. If working at the Bake Table is your preference, please contact Grace Boogers.

Andy and I will be moving to our new home on October 20th. I will be away from the church from Wednesday, October 15th through to Wednesday, October 29th to pack, move, unpack and get settled!! The contractor has begun the renovations to our new home this week—which is wonderful, except for the fact that it means we will be moving into chaos!

I'll be back to help at the Arts and Crafts Show and Sale and to lead worship on November 2nd.

Thank you to the Wider Work Ministry for volunteering to lead worship on Sunday, October 19th. This will be an Outreach Service.

Thank you to Reverend Harold Wells and Carolyn Wilson for volunteering to lead a Hymn Sing service on October 26th

For the past few weeks, an excerpt from a **Theology of Place** and **A Song of Faith**, have been printed on an insert in the Bulletin. Each week, the colour of the paper they are printed on changes. This is designed to help you ensure that you are up to date on your reading and reflecting! 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. Following worship last Sunday, the reflection questions from the first three inserts were discussed. Thank you to everyone who stayed following worship to enjoy refreshments and some lively conversation. Your input is very much appreciated!

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

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

Blessings,

Pastor Jan