

Jan's Journal



This week, we celebrate the third Sunday of the Season of Easter.

Saturday, April 18th to Sunday, April 26th is **Earth Week**. Wednesday April 22nd is **Earth Day**. If you are interested in participating in some local activities you will find information on the City of Burlington website and the BurlingtonGreen website. There is also information on the United Church of Canada website. Perhaps we can all take a few minutes this week to ponder the effects of climate change on this planet, and to consider what we may do personally, to reduce our carbon footprint.

Please remember the Wider Work Team Team's annual **Easter Food Drive**. Please use the new donation envelopes in the pew pockets to make your cash donation and mark the line "Food Banks" or make a donation of non-perishable food items and/or personal hygiene items, to the grocery cart in the Gathering Place. Your donations will go to the Compassion Society. The Easter Food Drive will end on April 26th.

The Community Connections Event on Thursday, April 16th was a great success! Thank you to all the members of East Plains congregation who came to listen and to engage in the conversation. Thank you to the members of the Community Connections Team who have worked so hard to bring this event about. Peart Hall was abuzz with conversation. We met people who are already doing wonderful work in the community, and who are interested in the space available at East Plains! We look forward to further conversations as the journey continues!

Please plan to stay following worship this Sunday, April 19th, for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Copies of the Annual Report for 2025 have been sent out via email to all members who are on the email list. Paper copies will be available on Sunday. The meeting will begin immediately after the worship service finishes. Refreshments will be served.

Mark your Calendar

The week will take place between **May 3rd and May 9th, 2026**. In just **two weeks** time! The trifold display boards are in place at the Peart Hall entrance and also in the Gathering Place, thanks to Karen Maerz. You will find information pamphlets and Registration forms on the table near the display boards. You are invited to participate in "A Retreat in the Midst of Daily Life," as you pray with scripture and then meet with a trained Companion to discuss your prayer experience. The time with your Companion will be arranged to fit your schedule. The registration cost is \$20, which will be used to cover the cost of materials. Those materials are produced by the Week of Guided Prayer Network. If anyone is unable to afford the \$20 registration fee, the church will cover the cost for you. No one will be unable to participate due to financial restraints.

Please submit your completed Registration Form as soon as possible. We need to know how many people will be participating in order to make sure that we have enough trained Companions, and appropriate space designated, as well as how many information packages we

need to prepare. Please place your registration form and fee into the Offering Plate, **OR**, deliver the form and payment to Barb in the church office, **OR** deliver the completed form and fee to our Week of Guided Prayer Registrar : Judy Jefferson!

If coming to the church to meet with your Companion each day is difficult due to mobility limitations, we will provide a Companion who is able to meet with you on Zoom or FaceTime, or telephone.

The Theme for the Week of Guided Prayer is “Hope,” which seems quite pertinent at the present time!

If you have any questions about “A Week of Guided Prayer” please speak to me !!

The AffirmTeam will be hosting an educational event on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026 beginning at 7 p.m.** The guest speaker will be Leanne Rancourt, a representative of PFLAG. Leanne’s topic will be “Learning About 2SLGBTQIA+community, Inclusivity, and Allyship.” Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Please invite family, friends, neighbours to come as well.

For the first time, the Wider Work Team is replacing the spring Rummage Sale with a Trunk Sale, which they hope will be less labour intensive! Vendors and Artisans will rent a parking spot in the west parking lot and sell their items from the trunk of their vehicle, or a table set up behind it. There is also the option for members of East Plains to fill the trunk of your vehicle with items stored in room 14, which did not sell at last year’s spring sale. If you are willing to do this, you will not be asked to rent a parking spot, but to donate the proceeds from your trunk to the church. You could also sell items from home, which you would have donated to the rummage sale! Please support this new experiment! The Trunk Sale is planned for **Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm**. If that happens to be a day of heavy rain or thunderstorms, the Trunk Sale will be postponed to May 30th.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything you have read here, you can reach me at: revjanmcc@gmail.com or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Reverend Jan