

Jan's Journal



This week, we begin the Season of Pentecost, which lasts until the beginning of Advent. This time may also be referred to as “Ordinary Time” which does not mean that the weeks are dull and boring! Ordinary Time covers the time outside of the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Ordinary Time includes 33 or 34 weeks, which is more than half of the year. The liturgical colour is green, which symbolizes spiritual growth, new life, and hope. Included within Ordinary Time is the Season of Creation which begins on the first Sunday after Labour Day and continues through to Thanksgiving Sunday. “Ordinary” is derived from the Latin word *ordinalis* which means “ordered” or “counted” using ordinal numbers. Spiritually, Ordinary Time is designed to help Christians live out their faith in the routine of their daily lives.

May 31st is Trinity Sunday. The first Sunday after Pentecost celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three aspects of God form the one God of our Christian faith. Come and learn more this Sunday!

Thank you to everyone who has committed to helping with the Trunk and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 31st. Hopefully, the weather will co-operate this week and provide us with a lovely day!

Last Sunday, I mentioned during the Announcements, that United Church of Canada has created a fund to support regular Retreats for Northern Indigenous Ministers. You can make a donation in support of this fund through Mission and Service or through this link:

uccf-northern-ministers-retreat.plenty.com

You may recall that, a couple of years ago, congregations were asked to review a few hymns from a new Hymn Book which was being created. The choir sang a few of the hymns and we listened to a few others on video. The new hymn book, titled ***Then Let Us Sing!*** has recently been published and made available for purchase. East Plains has purchased one copy for Sam and the Choir to test and for the Worship and Sacraments Team to evaluate. Hopefully, you will hear some of the new hymns soon! We will then decide whether to purchase more copies.

It is hard to believe that June begins on Monday. We have had a handful of warm days, but as I write today, the temperature is just 17 degrees Celsius. Tonight's forecast low is just 7 degrees! I have not yet put out my tropical impatiens, because it is too cool for them. I imagine that we will be complaining about the heat soon enough...

Mark your Calendar

There is something special to celebrate on every Sunday during the month of June!

On Sunday, **June 7, 2026**, we will mark the 101st Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Do you remember all the special events we enjoyed last year, as we celebrated the 100th Anniversary?

June 7th is also the date for the **35th Annual Case For Kids Walk** in support of Wesley Urban Ministries programs for children and youth. Please sign up to walk with the East Plains Team and canvas your neighbourhood for pledges of support, or make a cash donation to this worthy cause.

There will be a **PFLAG Family Fun Event on Saturday, June 13th from 1 to 4 p.m.** This is jointly sponsored by PFLAG Halton and local Affirming United Churches. (East Plains United, Grace United, Munns United, Norval United, Port Nelson United, and St. Paul's United, Oakville) The event will take place at **Roseland Park**, 3076 South Drive, Burlington. This is a small park adjacent to the Roseland Park Country Club, which offers tennis courts, bocce ball and more. It is located opposite Port Nelson United Church, on the west side of Rossmore Blvd.

East Plains will have a table at this event. The event includes:

- Hands On Exotics featuring reptiles, birds, and unusual animals. Shows will take place at 1:30 and 3 p.m.
- A Bouncy Castle
- A Fire Truck
- Art activities
- Games

Invite your family friends and neighbours to join you for an afternoon of fun in support of PFLAG and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Volunteers are needed. Please consider whether you might like to help.

On **June 14, 2026**, we will celebrate both **Father's Day** and **Pride Month**.

June 21st is **National Indigenous Peoples Day**, which will be reflected in our Worship service.

On **June 28th**, we will celebrate **Canada Day**, a few days early, in the worship service.

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