

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TiEy2c2aXUra1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09>
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

**Thank-you to our Presiders this morning:
Lesley Janke at Stony Plain and
Sheri Watson at Mewassin.
Thanks to Rev. Deborah for preparing the service.**

***STONY PLAIN - THANKS TO THE MEN'S GROUP
FOR BREAKFAST THIS MORNING!***

HYMN SING

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.

Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,

We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.

In this time of reflection and repentance,

We affirm our identity, we claim our security, as children of God.

~Submitted by Gill Le Fevre. Posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/> Used with permission.

TENEBRAE LITURGY:

CALL TO THE LIGHT

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRAYER

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

LETTING THE LIGHT IN (*Uncovering a window*)

HYMN VU #82 “A Light Is Gleaming “ (Refrain, verse 1, Refrain)

REFRAIN:

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God’s radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.**

Verse 1

When light comes pouring into the darkest place, it hurts our eyes to see the glow.

Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears, our memories and tears.

REFRAIN

~ Words and Music by Linnea Good 1992. Words and Music copyright © 1992 Borealis Music
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A CANDLE IS LIT

PRAYER: (*Unison*) *Lent 1 - Seeking the Light*

Dear Lord, as I journey through this Lenten season, I ask that You shine Your light into the hidden places of my soul. Uncover the shadows that bind me, and fill those spaces with Your grace, patience, and love. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and let Your light guide me.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD’S PRAYER: *Sung version VU #960*

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 them that 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.**

Adapt. From a chant by R. Langdon

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

SP GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir “Seek Ye First”

Words and Music : Karen Lafferty; Johann Pachelbel. Arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

THEME TIME

HYMN: VU #113 “To the Desert Jesus Came”**Verse 1:**

To the desert Jesus came, to wrestle and to seek God's way.
 Sun and moon rose high above to watch him as he'd fast and pray.
 Together through the valley, the tempter led him around.
 Together through the valley, so Jesus answers found.

Verse 2: Like the Hebrews long ago who ventured through the desert sand,
 did he find a rock of faith, where streams of living waters ran?

Together through the valley, so shall we make our way.
 Together through the valley, we'll walk for forty days.

Verse 3: In the desert we may find the mystery of who we are,
 following a faithful God, so very close and yet so far.

Together through the valley, we'll gather our dreams in prayer,
 together through the valley, and find God's presence there.

Verse 4: From the ashes to the hill, we'll travel on our Lenten road.
 Hand in hand we'll cross this sand, and share each other's heavy load.
 Together through the valley, we'll watch the changing sky.
 Together through the valley, as Easter's dawn draws nigh.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS: SP Reader: Percy Janke

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READING FROM THE EPISTLES:**Romans 5:12–19****READING FROM THE GOSPELS:****Matthew 4:1–11****REFLECTION: “Resisting Temptation” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra *(Recorded)*****PRAYER**

Posted on the Monthly Prayers of the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/> Used with permission.

HYMN: VU 112 (seated) “O God, How We Have Wandered”**Verse 1**

O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face,
 in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
 But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
 as distant but compelling, you call us each by name.

Verse 2: And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
 by faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
 In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
 in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

Verse 3: O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

Words: Kevin Nichols 1980, alt. Music: Henry T. Smart 1836. Words copyright © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights Reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

Posted on <https://united-church.ca/stories/heart-winter>. Used with permission.

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: Then Let Us Sing #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

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

Generous God, through your Son, Jesus Christ,

you have shown us what it means to love.

And you call us to follow Your example—

to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Continue to write your law of love on our hearts.

Give us an unwavering passion for justice, and a tenacious faith that will not rest until the hungry are fed, the oppressed find relief, and the outsider finds a welcome. Amen.

Written Christine Longhurst, in *Hunger for Justice: World Food Day 2016*, posted on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank website. <http://foodgrainsbank.ca> Used with permission.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #264 “Immortal. Invisible, God Only Wise”

Verse 1

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Verse 2: Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Verse 3: To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life, thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Verse 4: Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see 'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!

~ Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt. 1987. Music: Welsh folk song, arr. John Roberts (Heullan) in Caniadau y Cyssegr 1839. Public Domain

COMMISSIONING

Written by Joanna Harader, and posted on <http://spaciousfaith.com/> Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: Three-Fold (Choral) Amen

MUSICAL POSTLUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS FEBRUARY 22, 2026****NEW OR REVISED****LENTEN JOURNEY 2026 “JESUS IS THE LIGHT” – COLLECTION FOR THE FOOD BANK:**

Again this year, Mewassin has provided us with a Lenten Journey, “Jesus is the Light”. As part of this, we will be collecting specific items for the Parkland Food Bank each week of Lent, starting Sun Feb 22, the first Sunday in Lent, up to Palm Sunday. An insert is in today’s bulletin listing the items for each week. Many thanks to JoAnn Hohnstein (and Mewassin Sunday School) for providing us with this year’s Lenten Journey.

STARTING SUNDAY FEB 22 FROM 4 TO 5 PM: LENT PRAYER SESSIONS: Northern Spirit has organized Lenten Prayer sessions every Sunday afternoon from 4 to 5 pm during Lent (Feb 22 to Mar 29). Various churches in our region are hosting the sessions – the schedule is on the bulletin board and also on the table outside the sanctuary. You can join the sessions on zoom with this link: [connection link](#); Meeting ID: 864 7516 7860; Passcode: 803578).
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86475167860?pwd=HKXBqMbin1oADzFCFbapYgKa9bLz0c.1#success>.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 - CATERING SERVICES COMMITTEE: We will have a meeting after church on Sun. March 1. We will be going over menus, pricing and scheduling.

WED. MAR 4 UCW MEETING: Noel Cairney is well again and will present her program the Spirituality of Laughter. We have our program before the meeting, so any interested woman is invited to attend.

REMINDERS

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 4:00 PM - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This year’s Annual World Day of Prayer service will be held at St. Augustine’s – Parkland Anglican Church, 131 Church Road, Spruce Grove on Friday, March 6 at 4:00 pm. This ecumenical worship service is open to everyone and was written and prepared by WDP Nigeria. For more information, please see Karen Fitzgerald.

PURDY’S EASTER CHOCOLATES: As Easter is early this year, now is the time for our popular fundraiser! Since 1907, Purdy’s fine chocolates have been proudly made in Canada, with premium quality ingredients and sustainable cocoa. Get your holiday gifts for your family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers by supporting our church. There are no-sugar and vegan options. Join on-line at Welcome to the Purdy Fundraiser: "Easter Chocolates for Stony Plain United Church" and order at: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/campaign/000024869> Alternatively, you may submit a paper form to Cathy Yamada-Swan or the church office, with cheques addressed to Catherine Yamada.

Place Orders & Pay By: Sunday, March 15, 2026 at the latest.

Pickup: April 2, 2026 (or earlier - you will be notified when the orders arrive)

At: Stony Plain United Church, 5012 – 51 Ave, Stony Plain

Questions: Call or text Cathy at 825-966-8562 or email cymada70@gmail.com

Thanks for supporting our church! - Cathy Yamada-Swan

MARCH 8, MARCH 15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS: The Community of Faith AGM will be held on Sunday March 8, and Stony Plain United Church's AGM will be on Sunday, March 15. Both meetings will take place right after the morning service.

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

REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Sun. Feb 22, 2026 Rev. Deborah in Devon – recorded service for us.
Mew Presider Sheri Watson; SP Presider Lesley Janke.

Sun. Mar. 1, 2026 COMMUNION Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW

Sun. Mar 8, 2026 Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW

Sun. Mar 15, 2026 Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW

Sun. Mar 22, 2026 Rev. Deborah in Devon – recorded service for us.
Mew. Presider Lisa Furry; SP Presider Linda Maki

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir: Wednesdays: Ukes 6:00, Choir 7:00 pm
Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun Feb 22-Mar 22 Collection for Parkland Food Bank (see insert)

Sun. Mar 1 Communion at both churches

Fri. Mar 6 4:00 pm World Day of Prayer at St. Augustine's-Parkland Anglican Church, Spruce Grove

Sun. Mar 8 Community of Faith Annual General Meeting

Sun. Mar 15 Stony Plain United Church Annual General Meeting

Apr. 9-11 Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit Regions Conference & AGM at Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 – 199 St. N.W, Edmonton

Sundays, Feb 22 to Mar 29 from 4 – 5 pm Northern Spirit Lent Prayer Sessions (see announcement and poster)