

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
APRIL 12, 2026**

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=TlEydzc2aXUra1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09>
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 REV. SHARON MCRANN
FOR PREPARING AND LEADING US IN TODAY'S SERVICE.**

*Stony Plain: Please stay for Lunch after the Service.
Thanks very much to the UCW for preparing the meal!*

MUSICAL PRELUDE

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*)

Sometimes the news we receive is so good we have a hard time believing it.

That's true. Too often we are skeptical about positive happenings. We're like Jesus' disciple, Thomas, who doubted the resurrection.

Actually we understand how he felt. It is hard to believe.

That's just where faith comes in - believing where we have not seen.

May God open our hearts and our spirits to receive with confidence the good news of Easter.

GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)

We come here before you and with you, O God, celebrating the changing of the seasons: the coming of spring, longer days of sunlight, new warmth, new growth, and the resurrection of Jesus! Help us make our lives as bright and warm as the season, we pray, with your grace and your love, and the gift of renewed and deepened faith in you today and always Amen.

George Allan, Chatham Ont., 2008, Gathering Lent-Easter, Year A

HYMN: VU #224 "Sing a Happy Hallelujah"**Verse 1**

Sing a happy hallelujah, sing it out with heart and style,
we're the echo of God's laughter, we're the image of God's smile.

REFRAIN:

Hallelujah, all creation, hallelujah everyone!

Hallelujah, all creation, hallelujah everyone!

Verse 2:

We're the proof of God's good humour, we're the twinkle in God's eye,
made to shine, reflect the glory, given light and space to fly.

REFRAIN**Verse 3:**

Sarah laughed at God's good timing, Mary sang and David danced,
Jesus smiled and hugged the children, so is life for us enhanced.

REFRAIN**Verse 4:**

Every day sing hallelujah! We are loved, though so absurd,
human, foolish, chosen people, God still takes us at our word!

REFRAIN

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: (Responsive)

You assure us, Jesus, that wherever two or three are gathered in your name, you are there. We light this candle to remind ourselves and to celebrate your constant presence.

May we always seek your guiding light in our lives.

JOYS AND CONCERNS**PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS****THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)**

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES**SP GIFT OF MUSIC:** Choir "Way Maker"

Words and Music by Osinachi Okoro; Choral Setting Lloyd Larson

THEME TIME "Thomas Asks Questions"

HYMN: MV #92 “Like a Rock” 2x

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.
 Like the starry night sky God is over our head.
 Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.
 Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

REPEAT

~ Words by Keri K. Wehlander, 1998. Adapted to music: Linnea Good, 1999. Words and music copyright © 1999 Borealis Music. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Resurrected God, though we have hidden ourselves in a locked room and huddled together as ones who build barriers, send your Living Word through our locked doors and into our guarded hearts. Grant us the courage to learn and to question and in so doing find the hope that empowers us to keep on going.

— Inspired by Stephen M. Fearing, Wild and Precious Life

SCRIPTURE READINGS: SP Reader: Jon Blois

Psalms 16 VU #737 – Song - “Protect Me, God”

Verse 1

Protect me, God: I trust in you.
 I tell you now, “You are my God, on you my happiness depends.”

REFRAIN: Protect me, God: I trust in you.

Verse 2: Your people are a chosen race,
 and I delight in faithful friends, but pagan ways I will not share.

REFRAIN: Protect me, God: I trust in you.

Verse 3: O God, you are my food and drink,
 my work for you is joy indeed; glad is this heritage of mine.

REFRAIN: Protect me, God: I trust in you.

Verse 4: Thank you, my God, for warning me;
 by night and day you guide my thoughts. With you before me, I stand firm.

REFRAIN: Protect me, God: I trust in you.

Verse 5: So now I’m glad in heart and soul,
 for I have found security; among the dead I shall not end.

REFRAIN: Protect me, God: I trust in you.

Verse 6: Not death, but life, shall be my path;
 abundant joy your presence grants, an honoured place, and happiness

REFRAIN: Protect me, God: I trust in you.

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1 Peter 1:3-9 A Living Hope

John 20:19-31 Jesus appears to his disciples and to Thomas

REFLECTION “In Our Doubt, There is Believing” by Rev. Sharon McRann

HYMN MV #171 “Christ Has No Body Now But *OURS*” ”

(Change “Yours” to “Ours” throughout the entire song)

REFRAIN:

Christ has no body now but ours, no hands but ours.

Here on this earth, ours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

Verse 1: No hands but ours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but ours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but ours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: No eyes but ours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but ours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: No feet but ours to journey with the poor,
To walk this world with mercy and justice.
Ours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.

REFRAIN

Verse 4: Through ev’ry gift, give back to those in need:
As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
With ev’ry gift a benediction, be to the people of God.

REFRAIN: Christ has no body now but ours, no hands but ours.

Here on this earth, ours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

~ Words: Adapted by Stephen C. Warner, 2003, from St. Teresa of Avila; Music: Rick Gunn, 2006; Words copyright © 2003 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION**PRAYER FOR GRACE (Responsive)**

O Christ, when you came and stood among your disciples you said, “Peace be with you.”

Peace is often illusive for us.

We are troubled by what happens around us and by our own failures.

We, like Thomas, know what it is to doubt.

Use our doubts to deepen our faith.

Help us remember we do not need to have all the answers to walk with you in doing what love demands.

Forgive us for those times when we have let doubt prevent us from walking the light -
whether that doubt be in you, or in ourselves, or in your fallible church.

We pray that we might have life in your name, now and always.

Amen.

Dianne Astle, Vancouver Island, BC, Gathering 2008 Lent-Easter Year A

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Responsive)

Hear the good news of Easter. There is hope. There are miracles. There is light and love, where sometimes there appears only dark emptiness. Our God does wonders things.

Because of Christ we are assured. We are each forgiven. We are each promised hope. Thanks be to God!

Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Port Perry, Ont., Gathering 2008 Lent-Easter Year A

INVITATION TO GIVE

Gloria Wray, Peterborough, Ont., Gathering 2011 Lent-Easter Year A

OFFERTORY: VU #537 “Your Work, O God Needs Many Hands” vs. 1

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

- Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt. Music Neil Dougall ca.1831. Public Domain

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (in unison)

O God, fill us with the exultant joy of your love, which is more precious than gold. May we be bold to proclaim the glorious news of salvation with glad hearts and with deep and genuine trust. Grant us the opportunity, through these gifts and in our daily living, to lead others to a life-affirming faith, in Christ's name we ask it. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: MV #165 “There Is a Time”

Verse 1

There is a time that we must rise, there is a time that we must stand
there is a time that we must come together
for blessed are our lives blessed our love and blessed the promise gathered now.

Verse 2: There is a time that we must leave go from the place where hatreds breed
and, turning, feel the spirit breathe us together
for blessed are our lives blessed our love and blessed the promise gathered now.

Verse 3: There is a time we know the way, there is a time we watch and pray
in living faith we make our way together
for blessed are our lives blessed our love and blessed the promise gathered now.

Verse 4: Upon the dry a cloud will rise and truth will shine among the lies
and wisdom sing as we arise together
for blessed are our lives blessed our love and blessed the promise gathered now.

Verse 5: There is a bow within the rain and it will come and bend again
and colours shine where we have been together
for blessed are our lives blessed our love and blessed the promise gathered now.

Words and Music: Carolyn McDade. Arrangement: Lydia Pedersen, 2006. Copyright © Carolyn McDade Music. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING (in unison):

**In the power of the Holy Spirit we now go forth into the world,
to fulfil our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.**

BENEDICTION**SUNG RESPONSE: MEW: Three-fold Amen
SP VU #806 "O God Our Help in Ages Past" vs. 1 & 6
Verse 1**

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Verse 6: O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts 1749 alt. Music attrib. William Croft 1708. Public Domain

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

A United Church of Canada Historical Moment

April 12, 2026 "The Women's Christian Temperance Union advocated strongly against any form of alcohol. Preachers too warned of its dangers. The church has since relaxed its stance. In 1960, General Council determined that while it was "the wisest and safest course", abstinence was not a condition of church membership."
- Gayle Simonson

ANNOUNCEMENTS APRIL 12, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

REV. DEBORAH AWAY: Rev. Deborah is on vacation until April 22. If you need a Minister, please talk to Rev. Sharon McRann (780 823-9794).

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 SP LUNCH: After the service today, lunch will be served! Thanks to the UCW for planning and preparing the meal.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 SP BREAKFAST: The Men's Club will be preparing breakfast for us on Sunday, April 26, approximately 8:45 am to 9:30 am.

SATURDAY, MAY 9 "SPRING PRAISE HANDBELL CONCERT" (ST. ANDREW'S) The Parkland Bells Choir from St. Andrew's UC in Spruce Grove is having concerts at 3 pm and 7 pm on Sat. May 9 at St. Andrew's. Admission is free, but a ticket is required due to limited seating. You can get your ticket by calling St. Andrew's Church Office 780 962-0488. Free will offerings gratefully accepted.

REMINDERS

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 AN EVENING OF CHOCOLATE, CHARCUTERIE AND MUSIC: Catering will be hosting an evening of Live Music and Chocolate on Friday, April 17. There will also be Charcuterie Boards. Doors open at 5:30 pm, Buffet opens at 6 and music starts at 6:30. You are encouraged to "Dress to impress" (Formal wear)! Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for young adults (13 – 18 years) and will be available in advance. If you'd like to join in the music, please bring your instrument and there will be opportunities to jam. (There will be a piano available).

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 95th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR DORIS COLE: The family of Doris Cole would like you to join us for an open house to celebrate her 95th birthday on Saturday, April 18th from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the Stony Plain United Church.

MEWASSIN APRIL 19 NO COFFEE, BUT PANCAKES AT KEEPHILLS HALL: We are cancelling coffee Sunday on April 19 because you are invited to: Keephills Community Pancake Breakfast at Keephills Hall Sunday, April 19 2026, 10 am - 12 pm. \$10.00/adult \$5.00 under 12 (if you get order your tickets by Monday, April 13) – let Sandra know \$15.00/adult at the door

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. Apr. 12, 2026 Rev. Deborah on Vacation. Pulpit Supply Rev. Sharon McRann

Sun. Apr. 19, 2026 Rev. Deborah on Vacation. Pulpit Supply Terry Blois

Sun. April 26, 2026 Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP

Sun. May 03, 2026 Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC

Presiders: Mew: Sheri Watson; SP: Linda Maki

Sun. May 10, 2026 Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir:

Wednesdays: Ukes 6:00, Choir 7:00 pm

Card Recreators:

Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. April 12

SP Lunch – Thanks to the UCW

Fri. April 17

5:30 pm Live Music, Charcuterie and Chocolate Night

Sat. April 18

1:30 to 4 pm Birthday Party for Doris Cole.

Sun. April 26

SP Breakfast 8:45 – 9:30 am Thanks to Men's Club

Sat. May 9

St. Andrew's, SG Parkland Bells "Spring Praise Handbell Concert"
3 pm and 7 pm. Free tickets available from St. Andrew's