

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH  
JUNE 28, 2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST/CANADA DAY**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church  
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2  
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Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148  
**WELCOME to our service this morning!**

***Celebrating National Indigenous History Month***  
**INDIGENOUS ORIGINS**

**June 28- Kananaskis:** derived from the Cree story about Kineakis (meaning "one who is grateful"), a warrior who survived after receiving a devastating blow to the head with an axe in a fight over a woman at the confluence of the Bow and Kananaskis Rivers.

**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*)**

What does the Lord require of you?

**To do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with our God.**

What does God command of us?

**To love God with all our heart,  
and all our soul,  
and all our mind,  
and all our strength,**

**and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**But to presence, and abundance,  
and grace in our struggle.**

Let us worship the God who believes in us,  
and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,  
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

Written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH. She blogs at <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/> Used with permission.

**GATHERING PRAYER (based on Romans 6:12-23)**

**GATHERING HYMN: VU #395 "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"****REFRAIN:**

**Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.**

**Verse 1:** You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain, for we are a part of the family.

**REFRAIN**

**Verse 2:** God is with us in this place, like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace, for we are a part of the family.

**REFRAIN**

**Verse 3:** There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine, but we are a part of the family.

**REFRAIN**

**Verse 4:** There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call, for we are a part of the family.

**REFRAIN**

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**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE****CONCERNS AND JOYS****PRAYERS OF CONCERNS AND JOYS****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****THEME TIME****LITANY OF PRAISE ON CANADA DAY (*Responsive*)**

For the gift of the Pacific Ocean, its salmon, orcas, and seals

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of the Yukon Territory,  
Land of the Midnight Sun with all its riches:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For gift of the Northwest Territories,  
the MacKenzie, the Nahanni, Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of Nunavut's Arctic islands,  
polar bears, narwhals, colourful tundra and boreal forests:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of British Columbia's majestic mountains  
and towering firs:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of Alberta's grain and oil,  
for the Athabasca, Peace and Saskatchewan rivers:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of Saskatchewan's rivers, lakes,  
open prairies and sweeping sky:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of Manitoba's lakes and forests,  
from its southern border to Hudson's Bay:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For gift of Ontario's Great Lakes, waterways,  
lush farmlands and forests:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of Quebec's St. Lawrence lowlands,  
the Gaspé and Canadian Shield to Hudson's Bay:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of New Brunswick,  
from Fundy's tides and its forested heart, to the Gulf of St. Lawrence:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of Nova Scotia, the Annapolis Valley,  
Cape Breton Highlands and Lobster fisheries:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of Prince Edward Island,  
its Cavendish dunes, fertile fields and peaceful breeze.

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of Newfoundland and Labrador,  
its rocky forests, whales, icebergs, fisheries, and fjords:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of the Atlantic Ocean  
and its riches that supply us with food:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

For the gift of the Arctic Ocean, Baffin Bay,  
Hudson and James Bay and their bounty of marine life:

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

Blessed are you, O God, for the wonderful gifts  
you bestow on us across this beautiful land!

**We praise You and thank You, O God!**

Posted on <http://religiouseducation.rccdsb.edu.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2010/06/Prayer-for-Canada1.pdf> Used  
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### **SINGING OF "O CANADA" (VU #524)**

O Canada! Our home and native land! True patriot love in all of us command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise, the true north strong and free!

From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
 God keep our land glorious and free! O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Words: Robert Stanley Weir 1908; Music: Melody Calixa Lavallée ca. 1880, harm. William Smith Dingman ca. 1930.  
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### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Written by Amy Loving, and posted on The Worship Closet. <http://worshipcloset.com/words-for-worship-18th-sunday-after-pentecost/> Used with permission.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

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**A READING FROM THE PSALMS: Psalm 99                      Praise to God for God’s Holiness**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 10:40-42                      Rewards/A Cup of Water**

**REFLECTION: “Celebrating All at the Table” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra**

**HYMN: (Seated) VU #699    “Live into Hope”**

#### **Verse 1**

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.  
 The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God’s own jubilee!

#### **Verse 2**

Live into hope the blind shall see with insight and with clarity,  
 removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

#### **Verse 3**

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,  
 the right to have one’s daily bread, to hear God’s word and thus be fed.

#### **Verse 4**

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.  
 God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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### **PRAYER FOR JUSTICE**

Written by Damber Khadka, originally published for [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](https://united-church.ca/) in 2025. Posted on <https://united-church.ca/> Used with permission.

**THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION**

### **INVITATION TO GIVE**

Posted on <https://binarybreakingworship.com/2020/10/06> **Adapted.** Used with permission.

**OFFERTORY: Doxology (Tune VU #541)**  
**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;**  
**Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;**  
**Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;**  
**All glory, honour to God's name!**

Posted on <https://www.hillsidemedford.org/transforming-love/doxology> Written by Ruth Duck. Used with permission.

### **DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Responsive*)**

Holy One,  
 you have given yourself to us  
 in Creator, in Christ, in the Spirit.  
 We now give back to you:  
**this money that seems so little;**  
**this worship that seems so small;**  
**these words that never quite get it right.**  
 Receive what we offer  
 and transform it by the power of your Spirit into:  
**enough money,**  
**sufficient praise,**  
**worthy words**  
**for proclaiming and enacting**  
**your peace, justice, and love in the world. Amen.**

Written by Joanna Harader and posted on **Spacious Faith**. <https://spaciousfaith.com/> Used with permission.

## **WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD**

### **SENDING HYMN: VU #556 "Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"**

**Verse 1:** Would you bless our homes and families, source of life who calls us here;  
 in our world of stress and tension teach us love that conquers fear.  
 Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
 teach us when we face our troubles, love's expressed in many ways.

**Verse 2:** When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that's ours  
 to delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours.  
 When our way is anxious walking and a heavy path we plod,  
 teach us trust in one another and in you, our gracious God.

**Verse 3:** From the homes in which we're nurtured, with the love that shapes us there,  
 teach us, God, to claim as family every one whose life we share.  
 And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain;  
 may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

**Verse 4:** Let us reach beyond the boundaries of our daily thought and care  
 till the family you have chosen spills its love out everywhere.  
 Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
 teach us when we face our troubles love's expressed in many ways.

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### **CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US**

## COMMISSIONING

Written by the Rev. Elsa A. Cook, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She writes liturgies and shares her thoughts on <https://cookingwithelsa.org/>. Used with permission.

## BENEDICTION

### SP SUNG RESPONSE: VU #454 “May God Who Creates You”

May God who creates you, give you light;  
 may God who sustains you, make you wise;  
 may God who protects you, give you joy;  
 may God who surrounds you, give you peace.

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## MUSICAL POSTLUDE

**YOUR OFFERING:** Monetary gifts (cash or cheque) may be placed in one of the boxes next to the doors in the sanctuary; dropped off at the church during office hours; mailed to Stony Plain United Church, Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1Y4; set up through PAR (pre-authorized remittance); or, by e-transfer to [stewards@stonyplainunitedchurch.com](mailto:stewards@stonyplainunitedchurch.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS JUNE 28, 2026

### NEW

**SINGERS WELCOME:** Our choir is on summer break, but anyone who would like to help lead the singing during the church services over the summer is welcome to come up to the Choir Loft.

**REV. DEBORAH ON VACATION:** Rev. Deborah will be away the next 2 Sundays, July 5 and July 12. Please call the Church Office if you urgently need a Minister.

**WHISPERING WATERS SERVICE FOR JULY CANCELLED:** We will not be going to Whispering Waters for our usual Communion Service in July but plan to go the first Wednesday in August.

### REMINDERS

#### MEWASSIN SUMMER SERVICES SCHEDULE

July 5 to Aug 2 inclusive:	<u>No Services</u> (Summer Break);
Sun. Aug 9	<u>Regular Service;</u>
Sat. Aug 15:	<u>100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service;</u>
Sun. Aug 16	<u>No Service;</u>
Sun. Aug 23	<u>Regular (Communion) Service;</u>
Aug 30	<u>No Service</u> (Camping Weekend)

**JUNE: NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH:** An information board, featuring Local Placenames with their Indigenous origins, has been displayed in the Narthex throughout the month of June to celebrate National Indigenous History Month. This is the last Sunday for “Indigenous Origins” in the bulletin. Special thanks to St. Andrew’s United Church for creating the info board and giving it to our church!

**CANADA DAY CAR SHOW - JULY 1ST :** Our Church, in conjunction with the Canada Day Car Show is again running our "SPUC Bistro Cafe" " serving Breakfast, Lunch and Concession - ice cream, drinks, etc. at various times from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Visitors and Volunteers are welcome. Contact the Church office for more info. (Lots of volunteers are needed!)

**MEWASSIN CAMPING WEEKEND AUG 28 – 30:** Camping weekend at Entwistle RV Campground is happening from Friday, Aug. 28 to Sunday Aug. 30. Everyone is welcome – either to come and camp for the weekend or come for a visit. There will be a service & pot-luck supper on Saturday. Watch for more information via e-mail as we get closer to the date. There is no service at Mewassin on August 30.

**MEWASSIN BOTTLE DRIVE SAT. SEPT 26:** The bottle drive is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 26/26. So, if you've got bottles, we hope you can save them until then (if not we can arrange for an early pick-up). Sunday School appreciates our wonderful congregations support.

**M & P ANNOUNCEMENT:** We are looking for a new Church Administrator to fill this position. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested please contact Allan Scherlie for more information. Cell 780 984-5657 Home 780 892 3259

[Click for Position Description.](#)

**TOWN OF STONY PLAIN SUMMER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS:** There are copies of the Town's upcoming event schedule on the table outside the sanctuary, as well as on the bulletin board, along with posters for most events.

**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](mailto:stonyuc@telus.net).

**REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:**

Sun. June 28, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. July 5, 2026	Rev. Deborah on Vacation. NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN
Sun. July 12, 2026	Rev. Deborah on Vacation. NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN
Sun. July 19, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN
Sun. July 26, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

Ukuleles & Choir: No practices until Sept 2 or 9 unless otherwise notified  
Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

**MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

Wed. July 1 NO Whispering Waters Service  
July 5 to Aug 2 inclusive – No Services at Mewassin (Summer Break)  
Sat. Aug. 15 Mewassin 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service  
Sun. Aug 16 NO SERVICE AT MEWASSIN  
Fri. Aug 28 to Sun. Aug 30 Mewassin Camp out at Entwistle RV Campground  
Sun. Aug. 30 NO SERVICE AT MEWASSIN