

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
JULY 12, 2026

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
Phone: 780 963-4745 **Email: stonyuc@telus.net**
Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra **Cell: 780 983-2148**
WELCOME to our service this morning!

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 - Based on Genesis 32:22 – 31

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

**God of seeds and soil, our time is in your hands. Till our lives and soften our hearts.
Sift the stony places of our souls till there is room to grow.**

Pour out your Spirit upon us in this time of worship.

Together may we create a place where all are welcome, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Wetaskiwin Writers, Grace Lutheran Church and First United Church, Wetaskiwin, AB

GATHERING HYMN: VU# 299 "Teach Me, God, to Wonder"

Verse 1

Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.

**REFRAIN: Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.**

Verse 2: Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: Let me God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take.

REFRAIN

Verse 4: Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet.

REFRAIN

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (Responsive)

As the Spirit blows into our midst, fanning into life the spark of hope in our souls,
**may the light of this candle remind us of the fire that warms our hearts,
 the love that we are called to share, the light that guides.**

<https://worshipofferings.blogspot.com/search/label/Christ%20Candler>

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.

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Heavenly Sunlight"

by Rev. Henry J. Zelley.

THEME TIME**HYMN: VU# 361 "Small Things Count"****Verse 1**

Small things count, so Jesus said: cups of water, crumbs of bread,
 small things done because we're kind count as big things in God's mind.

Verse 2

Small things make the big things grow; grains of yeast inside the dough,
 puffs that fill a big balloon, notes that make a happy tune.

Verse 3

Every hair that's on our head, every sparrow, Jesus said,
 God takes care of, counts and knows, God loves us from top to toes!

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LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION****SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of
 Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
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HEBREW SCRIPTURE: Genesis 25: 19 – 34 Esau gives up his birthright for Jacob's stew.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 – 23. The parable of the sower and the seed.

REFLECTION

HYMN: MV# 174 “Soil of God, You and I” (remain seated)

Verse 1

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear seeds of faith nourished by God’s tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found. All stand together, we are ... Holy ground.

Verse 2

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be part of God’s promise, for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found. All stand together, we are ... Holy ground.

Verse 3

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth, joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found. All stand together, this is ... Holy ground.

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PASTORAL PRAYER

Written by Dianne Astle, Gathering Summer/Autumn year A 2008 page 44.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY: Reverence and Service

INVITATION TO GIVE

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

OFFERTORY: Doxology (Tune VU #541)

Praise God whose love will never cease,
whose justice raises up the least
and sits all creatures at the feast—
God’s mercy is our hope and peace!

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

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

God of the harvest and God of the soil, we bring our talents and our tithes to you for distribution to those places where your creation needs healing, and to the neighbours who are in need. All these things we bring for the building of your kin-dom on earth. Amen.

Jim McKean while at Severn Shores U. C. Severn Ontario. Gathering Pentecost 2023 Page 50

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: MV# 150 “Spirit God, Be Our Breath”

Verse 1

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song. Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn ... Spirit God, be our song.

Verse 2:

Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear. Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear. Patient God, calm our fear.

Verse 3: Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer. Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship and care. Loving God, be our prayer.

Verse 4: Spirit God: be our breath, be our song. Blow through us, bringing strength to move on. Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn ... Spirit God, be our song.

Words and music: Bruce Harding, 1997. Words and music Copyright © 1997 by Bruce Harding. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663.

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US (Responsive)

We extinguish the light of this candle, knowing that the Light goes with us into the world.

As God's Spirit is at work in the world,

May its light brighten our spirits.

May the light of God, shining through us, brighten the world.

COMMISSIONING (Responsive)

We leave this place of worship and go out into the world.

A world tossed around by the winds of change.

As some things end and other things begin, our call remains the same:

we continue to love our neighbours,

we continue to share words of hope and promise,

we continue to live as citizens of God's Reign.

As God has been with you in the past, as God is with you today,
may God be with you tomorrow.

Wherever we go. Thanks be to God.

<https://worshipofferings.blogspot.com/search/label/EndTimes>

BENEDICTION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS JULY 12, 2026

REMINDERS

REV. DEBORAH ON VACATION: Rev. Deborah will be away until Wed. July 15. Please call the Church Office if you urgently need a Minister.

SAT. AUG 15, 2026 MEWASSIN 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: You are joyfully invited to join us in celebrating **100 years** of Ministry at Mewassin United Church on Saturday, August 15 starting at 1 pm. There will be a short service at 1 pm followed by Pig Roast and Brisket with all the

trimmings and Games for the kids. Free will offering gratefully accepted. **Please RSVP to ldonner@cruzinternet.com 780 499-1998 by July 15** so we know how much food to order! This is a perfect time to connect with our Church Family, friends and community members as we come together to celebrate and to honour God's faithfulness over the years.

M & P ANNOUNCEMENT: We are looking for a new Church Administrator. 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.](#)

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

MEWASSIN SUMMER SERVICES SCHEDULE

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

REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

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
Sun. Aug. 2, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN
Sun. Aug 9, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

July 5 to Aug 2 inclusive	– No Services at Mewassin (Summer Break)
Sat. Aug. 15	MEWASSIN 100th 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
Sat. Sept 26	MEWASSIN Bottle Drive