

**The Life & Work of
Applewood United Church
an Affirming Congregation**

*"Planting seeds -
watching them grow."*

November 30, 2025
Volume 16, Issue 13



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Minister's Musings

Based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg and the 2004 film, we embarked on a delightful adventure on the Polar Express. If you are familiar with either form of the story, you'll be happy to know that we were served hot chocolate by dancing chefs, didn't lose our gold tickets, and ALL received a bell from the reindeer's harness!



Worshipping with Applewood United - November 30

UPDATE

This Sunday, join us at Applewood United Church or on ZOOM for a service celebrating the first Sunday of Advent with candle lighting, special prayers, and 'the band'. An informal refreshment time will follow the service if volunteers are available. If you are attending on ZOOM, a direct link will be emailed as an attachment on Friday, along with a copy of the service. To participate in the ZOOM worship over your telephone, call 647-374-4685 or 647-558-0588, and when asked enter this meeting ID: 827 5263 8086 and this Pass Code: 753101.

Co-host - Erin Doherty

Announcer - Brian McIntosh

Reader - Brian McIntosh

Greeter - Ian Prentice

Usher - Jo-Anne Prentice

Refreshments - Marie and Jack Doney

Sound - Elizabeth Miller

Tech - William Miller

Meetings and Events - November 30

UPDATE

Sunday	November 30	10:30 am	First Sunday of Advent - Hope
Tuesday	December 2	2:15 pm	Worship at Beechwood Place
Wednesday	December 3	9:30 am	ZOOM Men's Group
		2:00 pm	First Advent Study (P)
Thursday	December 4	9:30 am	Applewood Playgroup (AGCH)
		10:00 am	Knitting Circle (P)
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice (S)

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, December 7	10:30 am	Second Sunday of Advent with Communion - Peace Blessing of Pledges and Mitten Tree Donations
Sunday, December 14	10:30 am	Third Sunday of Advent - Joy
Sunday, December 21	10:30 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love Choir Cantata—A Christmas Celebration—Peace
Wednesday, Dec 24	7:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship with Communion
Sunday, December 28	10:30 pm	First Sunday of Christmas – carols and hot chocolate!

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, November 29 from 10:00am - 12:00 noon.** Cookies for the Elizabeth Fry Society. See page 5 for more details.
- **Saturday, December 6 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm.** The Outreach Committee will be holding their Mitten Tree Drive Through and Santas for Seniors event. See page 6 for more details.
- **Sunday, December 7, 7:00—8:30pm,** [Candlelight Service](#) at Christ First UC (151 Lakeshore Road West). We will gather to light candles, sing carols, and enjoy each other's company. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and find solace in the warm glow of candlelight.
- **Friday, December 12, 1:30 - 3:00 pm,** Minister's Tea, All welcome, especially our seniors and volunteers, and guests from the community. See more information on page 3.
- **Sunday, December 21,** Join us for a musical journey as the Applewood Choir and friends present: Peace! A Christmas Celebration. See page 7.

News You Can Use

Please remember that announcements must be received by **Nancy Beatty** at editor@applewoodunited.ca no later than 10 am on Wednesday so they can be included in the weekly AppleLog. Articles submitted must have the name of the contact person and may be edited for content and/or size.

Applewood has developed a **Media Policy** to ensure that the content included in all our media reflects our inclusive ministry. This policy was approved by our Executive and can be found on our [website](#). We encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the policy as they submit future articles.

Welcome to the Applewood United Church Community!

We are glad you are reading our newsletter! We gather on Sundays for hybrid worship, a combination of live + virtual participation (Zoom, when available). We work to stay connected via our [Facebook page](#), Instagram (applewoodunitedchurch), LED sign, telephone contact, visits, and delivery of materials to those without internet access. We are always looking for more ways to keep in touch! Please feel free to share this AppleLog, website links, contact information and any other documents we produce widely with friends or neighbours.

To access a written copy of our weekly services, or recordings of our services, please visit our website www.applewoodunited.ca, and go to the Worship tab. You can choose 'Worship at home' for the written service, ZOOM recordings for the 'live' version. You can also call one of our friendly helpers, names and numbers listed on the last page of the AppleLog.

Our rooms and building are available for rental for special occasions and meetings. Please contact the office for more information and rates. office@applewoodunited.ca

Minister's Christmas Tea - Friday, December 12, 1:30 – 3:00 pm



You are invited to attend this year's Christmas Tea, a time for singing favourite carols and songs, keeping our minds sharp with some Holiday trivia, and sharing Christmas goodies and some cheer! Everyone in the community is warmly encouraged to attend. Friends, neighbours and family very welcome!

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!



Applewood will be the site of a commercial production on Friday December 5. Access to the building may be limited on that day, especially the sanctuary, parlour & parking. Please contact Ian Prentice for details regarding access.

Ian Prentice - Rental Coordinator

Rev. Joanne will be away visiting with family from November 21-29. If you have a pastoral emergency, she will be available at limited times on her cell phone, or contact the office.



UPDATE

Preparations for the Advent season, which begins on November 30th, are under way with our choir rehearsing special music, prayers and services being written by our minister, and some planning for special events on the horizon.

Nativity Scenes Each Sunday in Advent, we will take a moment to ponder who may have been present at Jesus' birth and begin to build our own nativity scenes in our imaginations and in our sanctuary. Mary and Joseph will begin their travels to Bethlehem, with figures provided by Jan Pelletterio, so look for their arrival in our worship space beginning November 30th! There is still time to provide a Nativity Scene to be displayed during the season. Please reach out to Rev. Joanne or Marguerite Porter if you would like to share.

An **Advent Study** using the weekly devotional will begin next Wednesday, December 3rd at 2:00 pm in person at Applewood for three sessions. Please let Rev. Joanne know if you plan to attend. Pick up your copy of "Starry Nights – An Advent Devotional Full of Light and Wonder". They will be available in the Narthex area near the bulletins. If you would like a digital copy, please contact Rev. Joanne or the office and we will email it to you directly.

The Worship Committee

Advent and Christmas Events at Applewood United Church

Hope

Sunday, November 30 - First Sunday of Advent - Hope
Advent Wreath with Candle Lighting

Wednesday, December 3 - 2:00 pm - Advent Study begins - Reimagining the Light

peace

Sunday, December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent - Peace
Communion and Blessing of Mitten Tree Donations

Don't forget your Mitten Tree donations of warm hats, scarves, mittens or gloves for all ages!

Friday, December 12 1:30 - 3:00 pm - Minister's Christmas Tea

JOY

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

LOVE

Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love
Choir Cantata—A Gospel Christmas Celebration—PEACE!

Wednesday, December 24 - 7:30 pm
Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

NEW

Lives in Transition

We hope this space in the AppleLog will allow the community to share news - joyful and sad - about their friends and family, former members of Applewood, or others who may be known in our faith community. Please send your notes to editor@applewoodunited.ca by Wednesday morning each week. We will continue to inform you directly of deaths in the Applewood family when we have that information to share.

Roy Hicks was in hospital for a time, and has now been moved to St. Joseph's Hospital Reactivation Care Centre. It is located at 200 Church Street, in Weston. His room # is B415-A. I believe it was previously the Humber River Hospital. Roy will most likely be there for some time. He would very much appreciate either a visit, or a phone call. The days are very long in these places. His phone number is 905-625-3018. Please do not email him. He does not have access to email. Please keep Roy in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. Bob Martin



Cookies for the Elizabeth Fry Society



The Outreach Committee is once again happy to support the women of the Elizabeth Fry Society. Your donation of home baked or store bought cookies would be greatly appreciated.

Please bring your cookies in a nonreturnable plastic container or paper bag on Saturday November 29 from 10:00 am - 12 noon. There will be baskets at the front door if you wish to drop off earlier in the week.

Their organization operates two residential facilities in the Peel-Halton region. Ellen House is an adult halfway house designed to accommodate ten women eighteen years of age and older from both the provincial and federal correctional systems. The Marjorie Amos Residence is a ten-bed open custody/ open detention facility for young women between the ages of 12-17 who are in conflict with the law. Their Mission Statement: We empower women and girls through a trauma informed, inclusive, and gender responsive lens. Our client-focused approach strengthens emotional, cultural and social well-being, through prevention, support, reintegration and advocacy.

These women and girls are so happy that someone has thought of them during the Christmas season. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Leslie West on behalf of the Outreach Committee

NEW

Sharing Christmas Greetings



Once again this year, we will provide boxes for anyone who would like to share Christmas cards within the congregation. They will be available beginning December 1 in the narthex. Please 'file' any cards in alphabetical order - after the divider with the first letter of the recipient's last name. Rev. Joanne

Gifts for Others with Mitten Tree



The Outreach committee will be holding a drive through on Saturday December 6th from 12noon-3pm for new hats, mitts, scarves and socks. These gifts of warmth are needed for men, women and children.

The tree will be set up outside for you to view while a member of the Outreach committee takes your donation from your vehicle, or you are more than welcome to park and decorate the tree yourself.

Gift cards from Walmart, Dollarama, Shoppers Drug Mart, Giant Tiger, Tim Horton's and grocery stores are also greatly appreciated. Please no denominations over \$25.00 and write the dollar amount on the gift card.

As you arrive for in person worship on Sunday December 7th the tree will be at the front door for you to decorate or hand your items to a committee member.



Santas for Seniors is a community initiative in Peel Region to reach socially isolated seniors with lower incomes during the Christmas season to ensure they receive a gift, a visit, and some cheer! The holidays can be a lonely time for many, especially those who have no family close by, and/or health and mobility issues preventing them from getting out of their home.

Local Peel long-term care facilities, retirement homes and churches have identified the seniors in our community most in need this time of year.

The Outreach committee are inviting you to donate items to this project on the same day as the Mitten Tree drive through on Saturday December 6th from 12-3pm. We will be decorating and filling these shoe boxes during this time.

Suggested items on what to include are: toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, lip balm, body lotion, tissues, hat, mitts, scarf, anti slip socks, journal, pens, pencils, small photo frame, word search books, playing cards, chocolates, hard candies, small flash light and a Christmas decoration. Please remember these items must be able to fit inside a shoe box, we cannot accept anything bigger.

Thank you, Leslie West on behalf of the Outreach Committee

Wondering what to put in your SMILE BOX?

<input type="checkbox"/> TOILETRY ITEMS	<input type="checkbox"/> PUZZLES
<input type="checkbox"/> HAT/MITTS/GLOVES SCARVES	<input type="checkbox"/> SLIPPERS
<input type="checkbox"/> ANTI SLIP SOCKS	<input type="checkbox"/> STUFFED ANIMAL
<input type="checkbox"/> ADULT COLORING BOOK	<input type="checkbox"/> BOOKS/MAGAZINES
<input type="checkbox"/> PENCIL CRAYONS/PENS/PENCILS	<input type="checkbox"/> CHOCOLATE/HARD CANDY
<input type="checkbox"/> JOURNALS/DIARIES	<input type="checkbox"/> SOFT COOKIES
<input type="checkbox"/> PHOTO FRAMES/ALBUMS	<input type="checkbox"/> LIPSTICK/NAIL POLISH, NAIL FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> CRAFT KITS/KNITTING SUPPLIES
<input type="checkbox"/> WORD SEARCH BOOKS	<input type="checkbox"/> TISSUES/HANDKERCHIEFS
<input type="checkbox"/> PLAYING CARDS	<input type="checkbox"/> A HAND WRITTEN CARD OR PICTURE WITH WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE FOR THE NEW YEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> LIP BALM/LOTIONS	



Applewood Choir and Friends
present

Peace

A Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 21, 2025

10:30 am

Original and familiar carols are sure to inspire
and warm your heart! You'll be singing along!

Applewood United Church, 2067 Stanfield Rd. Mississauga, ON 905-277-4162



December Dates of Significance

December 1 - World AIDS Day



Since 1988, World AIDS Day has become one of the most recognized international health days. It raises awareness of the continuing struggles of those with HIV and commemorates those who have died. HIV remains a major health issue that affects millions of people worldwide. At the end of 2024, it is estimated that 40.8 million people were living with HIV. Of these 1.5 million are children (0-14 years old). The number of deaths from AIDS-related illnesses was about 630,000 people.

This year's theme is "Overcoming disruptions, transforming the AIDS response". Funding cuts for HIV services and their equal access, and the rise in punitive laws for AIDS sufferers and those in the LBGTQIA+ community have made international co-operation urgent to strengthen health systems and to advocate reforms to laws, policies and practices.

"In a time of crisis, the world must choose transformation over retreat," said Ms Byanyima, UNAIDS executive director. "Together, we can still end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030—if we act with urgency, unity, and unwavering commitment."

December 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities



First proclaimed in 1992, this day is about promoting understanding of disability issues and mobilizing support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society.

It also celebrates the advantages to be derived from the inclusion of persons with disabilities at home, work, school and in all areas of community living.

The 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability shows that 27% of Canadians aged 15 years or older, or 8 million people, have one or more disabilities, and that 72% of people with disabilities experience barriers to accessibility in their day to day lives.

In 2025, the emphasis is on creating inclusive environments (home, school, work, community) that support the rights and participation of people with disabilities. The theme of the International Day of Disabled Persons 2025 is "Fostering Disability Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress".

Submitted by Sophie Cook

Sunday Morning Coffee!

We need YOU to make and serve coffee! There are still spots in December available. Please sign up now!

Applewood Playgroup

Join us for Applewood Playgroup on Thursdays, from 9:30—11:30 am. If you know anyone who might be interested in participating, please let them know. All are welcome! Annemaria Bakker

"Pause, Pray, Disrupt"

NEW

Political and military plans and actions imposed by Israel and its allies, esp. USA, on Palestine and the State of Palestine do not result in truth, justice, or peace. They produce more suffering by means of bombing and shooting of children and their parents, the denial of food and clean water and other necessities of life, the destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, churches and other essential infrastructure for fully human existence.

In fact although the Palestinian people are the targets for all this, any plans for ceasefire and reparations omit the involvement of Palestinians - as if they don't exist. There is no room for self-determination and fundamental human rights in the plans. There is no will to honour Palestinian rights to life in their ancestral lands - they are ethnically cleansed out, they are displaced to alien settings, they are massacred without mercy, they are starved to death.

Given this intractable reality, and given the laments and cries for solidarity of Palestinians, faithful people remember to rely on spiritual practices drawing on the divine Spirit to transform individuals, collectivities, institutions, and nations - and to be transformed themselves.

As a step in that direction, a solidarity team for Palestine invites you to participate in the practices of vigil (initiated in October by a team led by UCC Moderator Kim Heath), in a three-session Advent vigil entitled "Pause, Pray, Disrupt".

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17

Time: 9:00-9:30 am PST, 12:00-12:30 pm EDT

Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/QgQwKUUVSC-OBtRcc0n5-w>

In 30 minutes, each vigil will include silence, prayer, song, readings of scripture and wisdom, and collective sharing for further action. **You are invited.**

Submitted by Brian McIntosh

A purple poster for the "Pause, Pray, Disrupt" Advent Vigil for Palestine. At the top, a yellow starburst contains the word "NEW". The central graphic features a circular wreath of olive branches with green and purple olives, set against a glowing yellow arc. The title "Pause, Pray, Disrupt" is written in a large, white, serif font, with "Advent Vigil for Palestine" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Below the title, the text "Inspired by Pray, Fast, Act: Stand for Gaza vigil" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. The dates and times are listed in a white, sans-serif font: "Wednesdays", "Dec 3,", "Dec 10,", "Dec 17", "9:00- 9:30 am PST /", "12:00-12:30 ET", and "Via Zoom". To the right of this text is a QR code. Below the QR code is the word "Register" in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "Instead of QR, type this in your browser: bit.ly/4o74Byi" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font.

The Palestine Land Exercise (PLE) is an engaging educational experience that shares the history and background of the oppression of the Palestinian people from the beginning of the 20th century to today. In 2-3 hours this interactive exercise will explore the truth, through storytelling and documented history, about the major events that have led to Palestinian land dispossession, mass migration, starvation, and attempted cultural genocide. It will also uncover the persistent peaceful resistance and unwavering resilience of the Palestinian people, and urge participants to take up suggested actions of solidarity with them.

The truth about the Palestinian's situation is far different from the mainstream media's portrayal, and has many parallels with both the historic apartheid regime in South Africa and the oppression of the Indigenous peoples who live in what we call Canada.

If you would like more information about the PLE, see a copy of the one-page description available in the hallway or ask me.

Submitted for the Affirming Committee by Brian McIntosh



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
FOR A:



Palestinian Land Exercise

Join us for a storytelling workshop all about learning,
conversation, and action for justice & peace in
Palestine/Israel.

Have you been feeling overwhelmed trying to learn and make sense
of everything you are seeing in the news?
Have you been looking for a way to connect with community on the
issue of Israel/Palestine?
Here is your chance to come together with others in response to one
of the largest humanitarian crises of our time!



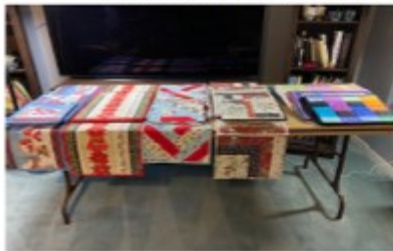
PALESTINIAN LOSS OF LAND 1946 TO PRESENT

Date: Saturday, Dec. 13
Place: Applewood UC
2067 Stanfield Rd.
Mississauga
Time: 9:30 to noon
Registration required:
office@applewoodunited.ca

Marilyn & Nancy's 9th Quilts, Pottery and More Sale



Note: Pictures are from our 2024 sale. Some items are no longer available.



**Saturday, November 29th — 10:00am - 4:00pm and
Sunday, November 30th — 12:00pm - 4:00pm (*new hours)**

LOCATION:

1594 Sherway Drive, Mississauga

Christmas Events

Saturday, November 29, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Vendor Fair at St. Dominic's Church (625 Atwater Ave). Hand crafted items, jewelry, knitted and crocheted items and much more. Lunch available.

Saturday, November 29, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, 6th Annual Merry Market at the Small Arms Inspection Building (Dixie and Lakeshore). Local vendors, arts and crafts, antiques, home décor and much more! Tickets are \$5.00.

Dec, 6 and 7 from 10 am to 4 pm., FAIRdecember Indoor Winter Marketplace at Cawthra Park Secondary School (1305 Cawthra Road). Over 60 artisan vendors. \$5 Adults, Seniors over 65 and youth under 16 are free. <https://fairdecember.ca/>

This holiday season, immerse yourself in the sublime beauty of Handel's Messiah with Masterworks of Oakville Chorus & Orchestra!

Friday, November 28 at 8:00 pm
Saturday, November 29 at 8:00 pm
Sunday, November 30 at 3:00 pm



St. Andrew Catholic Church, 47 Reynolds St., Oakville

We return to our great love, and probably the greatest expression of Christianity in the English language, Messiah! In celebration of Jubilee Year 2025, we are returning to our original home base, St. Andrew Catholic Church. Three performances, featuring Oakville soprano Ana Isabella Castro.

Tickets are \$35 adult, \$30 senior and free for those 30 years of age and under. Tickets at www.masterworksofoakville.ca



**OAKVILLE
CHORAL**

presents

Light, Falling Snow

An immersive, mystical music experience

SATURDAY DEC. 13, 2025 at 7:30pm

St. John's United Church, 262 Randall St., Oakville

Katie Kirkpatrick, Flute

Nicholas Wanstall, Piano

Kai Leung, Music Director/Conductor



Non-perishable food will be collected at the concert door for Oakville's Food Bank or please scan the QR code to make a donation. Thank you!



[CLICK HERE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS!](#)

Giving Tuesday: Strength for Today. Hope for Tomorrow

NEW



Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm, has left massive destruction in Cuba, Jamaica, and other places across the Caribbean; devastating homes and vital infrastructure. Our Mission and Service partners are currently providing immediate relief, including food, water, and shelter. This [Giving Tuesday](#), your gift through Mission and Service helps provide both immediate survival aid and critical long-term support needed to rebuild homes, schools, and livelihoods, ensuring communities can move from survival to renewal.

The United Church of Canada E-ssentials - November 25, 2025



Men's Coffee Group

Wednesdays @ 9:45 am via ZOOM

Contact the church office - 905-277-4162 or office@applewoodunited.ca



Computer Help



If you need help accessing ZOOM, our 'Worship at Home' links, or our website, please call one of the volunteers below. They are 'standing by' to help! Rev Joanne

Erin Doherty (evenings) 647-209-1677 - Jo-Anne Prentice 905-272-4424

Anne Moore 905-279-0557 - Christina Miller 416-436-9234

Len Vantol 905-823-0574 - Blair Carruthers 905-275-5724/647-609-5723



Donations to the Church by Interac e-Transfer

Go to the Interac transfer feature on your financial institution's website, enter treasurer@applewoodunited.ca in the recipient box and follow directions.

There may be a small charge for this service, depending on your bank plan.

The AppleLog is published weekly. It is available on our website and is emailed and distributed in paper form by request to members and adherents of Applewood United Church, 2067 Stanfield Road, Mississauga, L4Y 1R4, 905-277-4162, www.applewoodunited.ca.

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