

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

*“Planting seeds -
watching them grow.”*

May 3, 2026
Volume 16, Issue 34



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Minister's Musings



Last week, in conversation our office administrator Jo-Anne, I discovered that mushrooms were growing in the green space between the parking lot and the church building. Like most of us, I have at times been annoyed by mushrooms sprouting on my lawn after the removal of trees or bushes when the roots nourished their growth. But the mushrooms growing in our space are not just 'any' fungi, but morel mushrooms which are considered

a culinary delicacy and highly prized for their meatiness and taste. They are a particular favourite of Jo-Anne's husband Ian, chair of the worship committee and our rentals coordinator. He has been eating them for several years after discovering them at their cottage near Parry Sound.

Morels have resisted cultivation, and are usually only found by foraging, which can be difficult as they blend in so convincingly with their environments, and which has made them quite expensive. Like other mushroom varieties, they have look-alike 'cousins' that are poisonous, and these false morels may grow right beside the 'true' ones. So, care is needed to determine that you have picked the non-poisonous mushroom, and that after identifying the true one you cook it to destroy the toxins that all morels contain.



What a delight to discover that we have this rare mushroom growing right in our church yard! Perhaps God is sending us a reminder that there are still valuable surprises to be found at Applewood United Church, and that we can be both nourished and excited by them. Perhaps we are also being reminded that we need to be cautious about what we 'consume' as a church and as individual followers of Jesus – careful that we are not poisoned by what looks like truth but cannot truly sustain us and may even harm us.



Whatever the reason for their appearance, I wish Ian a *Bon Appetit* as he enjoys his morels, and a discovery-filled week for the rest of us!

Worshipping with Applewood United - May 3



This Sunday, join us at Applewood or on ZOOM for a service marking Mental Health Sunday with 'the Band'. During our service, we will lift up mental health in general, name some mental health challenges, and share stories of journeys with mental health concerns, remembering that we are all held in God's inclusive care. 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 -
Announcer - Sara Moore
Reader - Sara Moore

Greeter - John Spence
Usher - Linda Spence
Refreshments - Donna Conforzi and Lynda Kudrewatych

Sound - Wayne Detcher
Tech - Elizabeth Miller

Meetings and Events - May 3



Sunday	May 3	10:30 am	Mental Health Sunday & prayers for Red Dress Day with the band
Monday	May 4	10:00 am	Worship Committee Meeting (P)
Tuesday	May 5	2:15 pm	Worship at Beechwood Place
Wednesday	May 6	9:45 am	ZOOM Men's Group
Thursday	May 7	9:30 am	Applewood Playgroup (AGCH)
		10:00 am	Knitting Circle (P)
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice (P)

Upcoming Worship Services

- Sunday, May 10 10:30 am** Social Justice Sunday and Communion with The Very Reverend Carmen Lansdowne
- Sunday, May 17 10:30 am** Victoria Day long weekend
- Sunday, May 24 10:30 am** Pentecost with the band
- Sunday, May 31 10:30 am** Trinity Sunday

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, May 9, 8 am -12 pm** - Garage Sale at St. Stephen's on-the-Hill United Church (998 Indian Road). Housewares, recreation, books, jewelry, toys and much more!
- **Saturday, May 9, 9 am to 1 pm** - Lawn and Trunk Sale at Christ First United Church (1700 Mazo Cres). Books, toys, housewares, sports, jewelry. BBQ, facepainting, baking and Trunk Sale.

Interfaith Connections for Wellbeing: Fasting, Food and Faith

Wed. May 20 - 6:30 – 8:30 - The Interfaith Council of Peel - Mississauga Valley Community Centre

A panel discussion with speakers from a diverse range of faith traditions will share information and continue to build understanding and relationships between the many faith communities in Peel. Light refreshments. Contact Rev. Joanne for more information, or if you might have some time or some interest in volunteering for this event. See page 5.

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

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for **June 7**. All Annual Report submissions should be in to the office no later than **May 11**. Please send to the [office email](#), no longer than a half page for each committee or group submission.

Please send all Committee Lists to [Lynda Kudrewatych](#), even if there are no changes.

Jo-Anne Prentice on behalf of the AUC Executive.

YOU and Applewood United Church

There are many ways to be part of our faith family here at Applewood United. Some of us are 'adherents' who are active in the life of the community but not 'full' members, some of us have more casual connections, and some of us are 'full' members with a more formal connection.

If you would be interested in exploring your membership and connection to Applewood, with a view to becoming full members of the community, please reach out to Rev. Joanne before May 1.

We will be distributing the Applewood Benevolent Fund envelopes this Sunday for those who wish to donate. Thank you for the support this initiative has received.

Underwear/Diaper Drive



The Outreach Committee will be holding an Underwear/Diaper Drive drop off at Applewood United Church on Saturday May 2nd from 12-2pm. We welcome your gifts of new underwear, socks, long johns, undershirts and diapers for babies, children, men and women. Also being accepted at this time are gift cards for Shoppers Drug Mart, Walmart, Dollarama or grocery stores. Please no denominations over \$25.00 and write the dollar amount on the gift card.

Members from the committee will be on site to accept your donations directly from your vehicle. Please enter through the parking lot and exit by the church. If you are coming to worship on Sunday May 3rd there will be baskets and an Outreach committee member to accept any items from you at the front door. Thank you, Leslie West on behalf of the Outreach Committee

A colorful graphic with the text "Happy Retirement!" in a mix of fonts and colors, surrounded by confetti and stars.

Happy Retirement!

Retirement Luncheon - Save the Date!

As we enter the last few weeks of Rev. Joanne Hedge's ministry at Applewood United Church, we want you to know that we're planning a special Retirement Luncheon celebration to take place after her last Service on June 28th, beginning at 12:30 pm. More plans will be communicated at a later date, but we hope that you will join us - and if you have any digital pictures that could become part of a slideshow of memories, please send them to the church office by June 12th at the latest. Submitted on behalf of the Retirement Luncheon Planning Committee

Minister's Spring Tea



You are invited to join us on Friday afternoon, May 29, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm for a special Spring Tea.

Music, games, goodies, and of course tea and coffee provided. All are welcome! RSVP to the office if you know you are able to attend. Rev. Joanne

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.

From the Affirming Committee

NEW



We are excited to welcome to Applewood The Very Rev. Carmen Lansdowne on May 10th. She is the guest speaker for our Social Justice Sunday worship as we celebrate 12 years of being an Affirming congregation. Rev. Lansdowne is Past Moderator of the United Church of Canada and is currently the Assistant Professor of United Church of Canada Studies, Emmanuel College, Victoria University in the University of Toronto.

Submitted by Anne Moore

The Indian Act has been divisive and exclusionary since its inception, but it is still creating problems today for Indigenous people in Canada. As a current example, a group of Indigenous people in Quebec have had their "Indian" status approved and removed in the past several years, all due to how a missionary from the 18th century chose to document their ancestors, 2 Innu women who married non-Indigenous men. Under the Indian Act, this had stripped them of their status as well as their children. Recently, the federal government has made amendments to the Indian Act, but it is very controversial and not a straight-forward process. Please read more [here](#).

Submitted by Christina Miller

NEW



THE
INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF PEEL
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US!
Interfaith Connections For Well-Being
Fasting, Food and Faith



Wed May 20th, 6:30-8:30pm

2026

**Mississauga Valley Community Centre
1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd**

ALL ARE WELCOME

RSVP REQUESTED InterfaithCouncilPeel@gmail.com

Learn more about ICP





May Dates of Significance



In Canada, May is Asian Heritage Month. It is a chance to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of those Canadians who can trace their roots back to many areas of Asia. Their strength, talents and knowledge have contributed to the growth and prosperity of Canada from arts and science to sports, business and government.



May first marks the beginning of Canadian Jewish Heritage Month, a time to celebrate Jewish culture, faith, and history in Canada. Canada is home to an estimated 400,000 people of Jewish heritage, making it the fourth-largest Jewish community in the world. Jewish Canadians have made and continue to make important contributions to our society, including medicine, theatre, engineering, music, architecture, academia, politics, law, the arts, and more.

During this month, we also recognize the courage, determination, and resilience that members of Jewish communities have shown throughout history. (from Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada website)



May is Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) Awareness Month and May 15 is PWS Awareness Day. It is a rare genetic disorder affecting approximately 1 in 15,000 people—males and females equally, from all races and ethnicities. PWS is a life-threatening medical disorder caused by loss of active genetic material on chromosome 15. This affects: hormones, muscle strength, appetite, behavior, cognition and learning, temperature regulation, pain tolerance, and sleep patterns. Nearly every system in the body is impacted by a PWS diagnosis. Currently there is no cure for PWS, but early diagnosis and careful management of symptoms can

improve the lives of people with PWS. For more information and resources, go to www.pwsausa.org to learn about personal experiences, research, education, and support for PWS individuals and their families and loved ones.

May 1

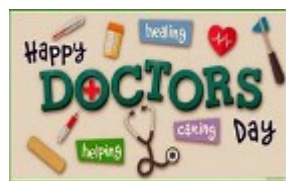
May 1 marks an ancient festival of spring and a current traditional spring holiday in many European cultures.

May 1 - International Workers' Day



In 1889, May 1 was chosen as the date for **International Workers' Day**, a celebration of labourers and working classes. It commemorates the achievements of the labour movement in campaigns for an eight-hour day, worker protection and safety on the job and universal peace. It is marked as a public holiday in over 80 countries.

May 1 - National Physicians' Day



In Canada, **National Physicians' Day** is celebrated on May 1. It is a day to recognize the dedication, skill and compassion of Canada's doctors and their commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of all Canadians. In 2025, there were about 99,000 physicians in Canada. It is held on May 1 in recognition of the birthday of Dr. Emily Stowe, the first female physician to practice in

Canada and a strong advocate of women's rights. She co-founded Women's Medical Hospital in 1833 to provide medical education for women. In celebration of National Physicians' Day, various events and activities including educational programs, public awareness campaigns and tributes to distinguished physicians are held across the country. #NationalPhysiciansDay

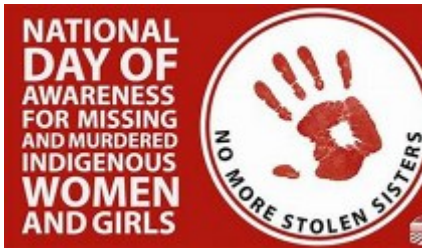


May Dates of Significance continued

May 5 - Red Dress Day”

National Day of Awareness and Action of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People

May 5 is a day to raise awareness and advocate for change as we remember Indigenous women, girls, 2-spirit and gender diverse people who have lost their lives to race and gender-based violence, and their families and communities that live daily with the grief of losing loved ones.



MMIWG2S has also become known as Red Dress Day. It began in 2010 when Jamie Black, a Metis artist, wanted a visual, public display of red dresses to raise awareness to over 1200 missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. The dresses are empty to honour the spirits of the women who should be wearing them. She described her artwork: “draw attention to the gendered and racialized nature of violent crimes against Aboriginal women and to evoke a presence through the marking of absence.” The *REDress Project* is now a

permanent exhibit at the [Canadian Museum for Human Rights](#) and has been exhibited in Canadian universities, legislatures, hospitals and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. Red dresses are also frequently hung outside, from trees, houses, or statues, to bring awareness to the crisis.

While we may wear red in support, it is only through the permanent commitment of individuals, interest groups, institutions, and governments to end and redress the systems and actions that have constituted trauma, economic and social marginalization that true change will happen. Until then, the disproportionate rates of violence and death will continue to fuel this human rights crisis and the cycle of prejudice and hate.

Submitted by Sophie Cook

MISSISSAUGA FESTIVAL CHOIR | MFC | THE VOICES OF MISSISSAUGA

JEREMY DUTCHER
IN CONCERT WITH MFC & MSO

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 @ 7:30PM
LIVING ARTS CENTRE
WWW.MFCHOIR.COM

WITH SPECIAL GUEST, DEANITHA EDMUNDS, AWARD-WINNING INDIE SOLOMART

In furthering our commitment to learning more about our Indigenous neighbours, the Affirming Committee would like to invite you to the Mississauga Festival Choir’s May concert. MFC will be exploring Indigenous music from across Canada, and they are bringing in Jeremy Dutcher as a special guest. Jeremy identifies as Two-Spirit and is from the Wolastoqiyik Nation in New Brunswick. Through his music he explores Wolastoq music and incorporates it with western composition, blending it with his own unique style to create gorgeous pieces. He has won the Polaris prize (twice) and Juno awards. Please consider attending the concert on Saturday, May 2nd, 7:30pm, at the Living Arts Centre. You can purchase tickets [here](#) or at the LAC box office. And, while you’re there, you can try to spot AUC’s own Bob Martin and Christina Miller in the choir!

Submitted by Christina Miller



May is PAR Month!



Looking for ways to inspire, invite, and thank people in your community? [PAR \(Pre-Authorized Remittance\) Month](#) is an opportunity to encourage consistent monthly giving—and to invite those already participating to consider increasing their support.

All the resources you need are now available in one convenient file on the United Church PAR webpage. Find sample letters, social media content, a sermon, and a planning template to help you get started.

The United Church of Canada E-ssentials - April 28, 2026



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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