

## Jan's Journal



The Season of Easter, also sometimes referred to as Eastertide, is the fifty-day period between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday. It is a time during which Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Scripture passages selected for the Lectionary during the early weeks of Eastertide focus upon Jesus' renewal of his connection with his disciples following the crucifixion and resurrection. It is also a time of reflection on new life and renewed faith. This Sunday, we will hear of Jesus' appearance to his disciples in the upper room, and Thomas's need for personal proof that his colleagues did actually see Jesus.

Please remember the Wider Work Team's annual **Easter Food Drive**. Please use the new donation envelopes in the pew pockets to make your cash donation and mark the line "Food Banks" or make a donation of non-perishable food items to the grocery cart in the Gathering Place. Your donations will go to the Compassion Society.

It seems as though the Community Connections Team has been planning the upcoming Community Event for a very long time! It is hard to believe that it is actually happening this week! The event, hosted by the East Plains United Church Community Connections Team and Community Development Halton, will take place on **Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> between 1 and 3 p.m.** It is important that as many members of the East Plains congregation as possible be present for this event. We all need to listen to the voices of the community, to learn what is needed in Aldershot, in order that informed decisions can be made regarding the future focus of the ministry of this congregation. It is also important that many of you are present to ask your questions. This is not just important for the members of the Official Board, the Board of Trustees, and the Chairs of the various Ministry Teams. It is important for us all.

## Mark your Calendar

April 19, 2026 - The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place following worship. Please plan to attend.

## Looking ahead to May

The week will take place between **May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. The trifold display boards are in place at the Peart Hall entrance and also in the Gathering Place, thanks to Karen Maerz. You will find information pamphlets and Registration forms on the table near the display boards. You are invited to participate in "A Retreat in the Midst of Daily Life," as you pray with scripture and then meet with a trained Companion to discuss your prayer experience. The time with your Companion will be arranged to fit your schedule. The registration cost is \$20, which will be used to cover the cost of materials. Those materials are produced by the Week of Guided Prayer Network. If anyone is unable to afford the \$20 registration fee, the church will cover the cost for you. No one will be unable to participate due to financial restraints.

If coming to the church to meet with your Companion each day is difficult due to mobility limitations, we will provide a Companion who is able to meet with you on Zoom or FaceTime, or telephone.

The Theme for the Week of Guided Prayer is “Hope,” which seems quite pertinent at the present time!

If you have any questions about “A Week of Guided Prayer” please speak to me !!

The AffirmTeam will be hosting an educational event on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026 beginning at 7 p.m.** The guest speaker will be Leanne Rancourt, a representative of PFLAG. Leanne’s topic will be “Learning About 2SLGBTQIA+community, Inclusivity, and Allyship.” Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Please invite family, friends, neighbours to come as well.

For the first time, the Wider Work Team is replacing the spring Rummage Sale with a Trunk Sale, which they hope will be less labour intensive! Vendors and Artisans will rent a parking spot in the west parking lot and sell their items from the trunk of their vehicle, or a table set up behind it. There is also the option for members of East Plains to fill the trunk of your vehicle with items stored in room 14, which did not sell at last year’s spring sale. If you are willing to do this, you will not be asked to rent a parking spot, but to donate the proceeds from your trunk to the church. You could also sell items from home, which you would have donated to the rummage sale! Please support this new experiment! The Trunk Sale is planned for **Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm.** If that happens to be a day of heavy rain or thunderstorms, the Trunk Sale will be postponed to May 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything you have read here, you can reach me at: [revjanmcc@gmail.com](mailto:revjanmcc@gmail.com) or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Reverend Jan