

## Jan's Journal



As we gather for worship on the second Sunday in July, we will continue our exploration of discipleship. In the midst of the 2026 growing season, we will explore the Parable of the Sower. Where do we find “good soil” in which to plant ourselves and our seeds of faith?

A reminder that Barb is now working “**Summer hours**” in the office, which means that the church office is open on **Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Instead of being away on vacation in August, (which was the plan!) I will now be recuperating in August. I am scheduled to have a left hip replacement on August 6<sup>th</sup>. I am very grateful that I am able to have this surgery done so quickly.

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Annual Spring meeting was held on June 26, 27, and 28, 2026 in London Ontario. The meeting was held in partnership with Antler River Watershed Regional Council. East Plains’ Regional Representatives, Callie Archer and Gail Lorimer attended the meeting in person. I attended on Zoom. Each of us attended different workshops on Friday evening. You will hear more about the meeting content, speakers, and what we learned in the coming days.

The Regional Councils are encouraging communities of faith to consider becoming an “**Apartheid-Free Community of Faith.**” This is proposed by the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI), which is the same organization that has offered webinars and educational lectures which I have attended in the past.

Here is the Apartheid-Free Pledge:

**We Affirm** ---- our commitment to freedom, justice and equality for the Palestinian people and all people.

**We Oppose**--- all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression.

**We Declare**--- ourselves an Apartheid-Free Community and to that end...

**We Pledge**--- to join others in working to end all support to Israel’s Apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

Is this something that the congregation of East Plains would wish to pursue? If so, we would need to have the approval of the Official Board. Please consider this prayerfully. For more information, visit the UNJPPI website.

When I visited Israel in 2020, we spent time at the Sabeel Centre, which is a Palestinian Christian organization in East Jerusalem. Sabeel is an Ecumenical organization. We met staff and volunteers from the Anglican Church, and the Mennonite Church, when we visited.

I receive a weekly prayer request list from Sabeel. In recent weeks, the prayers have been for medical personnel who have been arrested in their homes by Israeli forces and for University students who have been arrested either in their homes or enroute to classes. It seems apparent that the Israeli government is actively working to prevent Palestinians from pursuing their educational goals. It also seems apparent that the Israeli government is preventing Palestinian citizens from receiving medical care as medical staff are detained for no apparent reason. Both of these strategies are a violation of basic human rights.

How is God calling us to respond?

Although worship is suspended during August, the cost of running the church and maintaining the building does not change. Please consider making your regular offering donations through PAR (speak to Gayle Burnison) or by increasing your offerings in July. This would be greatly appreciated!!

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