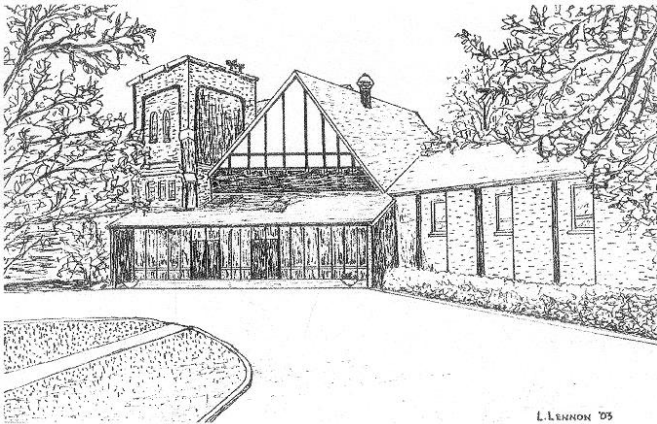


# West Plains United Church

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*November 19, 2023*  
**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**



## West Plains Mission Statement

*We are an active faith community, seeking to deepen our relationship with God through thoughtful worship, prayer, uplifting music, outreach, friendship and study, inspired by a setting overlooking nature. We are a growing church family welcoming people of all ages to follow Jesus' teachings in their lives.*

*\*Indicates an invitation to stand, as you are able.  
VU - Voices United hymn book, MV - More Voices hymn book.*

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

*We begin with a time of reflection.*

**Prelude:** "Chaconne in G major-Theme and Variations 1-6"  
-G.F. Handel

### **Opening Words**

**\*Hymn:** "This Day God Gives Me" VU 410

### **Opening Prayer**

One: Gracious God, you are so good to us.  
Today we offer a prayer of thanksgiving  
for all of the blessings revealed to us  
through camping ministries.  
For the gifts of your good creation,  
for forests and fields, beaches, streams and lakes,  
sunrises and sunsets, wind and rain,

**All: we give you thanks, O God.**

One: For your gift of time and the cycle of nature;  
for opportunities in the outdoors to reflect,  
and to feel your presence very near to us;  
for rest and recreation,

**All: we give you thanks, O God.**

One: For the dedication of countless people  
who have supported camping ministry through  
offerings of time and talent:

builders, counselors, and instructors;  
for the gifts of all who create and maintain  
an environment of faithfulness and healing  
through their example,

**All: we give you thanks, O God.**

One: For the blessings you make known to us through  
those who participate at United Church camps;  
for the questions and discoveries;  
for the friendships and fun; for the music and  
stories, we give you thanks, O God.

**All: Bless, O God, the ministry of camps and retreat  
centres, a ministry which is ours in Christ's name.  
Amen.**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations**

## ***PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD***

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Scriptures:**

Responsive Psalm #78, Part 1 VU 792

*"We will tell new generations of the wonders God  
has done."*

Second Reading: Mark 4: 26-34

**\*Hymn:** "Deep in Our Hearts" MV 154

**Presentation:** "Cave Springs Camp" - Lance Wright

**Anthem:** "Beautiful Saviour" -W. Riegger

## **GIVING THANKS TO GOD**

**\*Dedication of Offering:**

VU 541

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures high and low,  
Give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayer Refrain:** “Lord, Listen to Your Children”

VU 400

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

**Pastoral Prayer & Prayer of Jesus**

## **GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME**

**\*Hymn:** “Draw the Circle Wide”

MV 161

**\*Commissioning & Benediction**

**\*Threefold Amen**

**Postlude:** “Chaconne in G major - Variations 39-42”

-G.F. Handel

*You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude is concluded to  
enjoy a time of meditation as we conclude our worship service.*

*Hymns Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-715986*

**Minister: The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner**  
**Music Director: Lianne Tan**  
**Office Administrator: Wendy Thomson**  
**Video Technician: Jacob Sadler**  
**Caretakers: Maria DaSilva and Will Fennema**

~

***The flowers in the sanctuary are in memory of  
Ernest Albert Buxton:  
Loving Father and great mentor of the late Keith Buxton;  
missed for many years.  
Remembered in thought over the years by Christine,  
Stuart and family.***

~

**Please keep in your Prayers this week:**

Irene Jacobson, Tony Vandervlist, Jan Hazelton, Marnie Gaylard,  
Joan King, Danvers Leng, Tillie Hazzard and the Hazzard family.

*First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are mindful that West Plains stands on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishnabe and Neutral Peoples and that we are all treaty people, parties to the Dish With One Spoon and the Upper Canada Treaties. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with all who live, work and worship on it.*

**A funeral service for Lawrence Hazzard will be held at West Plains at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.** Reception will follow in the Hall downstairs.

**Next Sunday, Nov. 26th** – we will celebrate the final Sunday of the church year, *The Reign of Christ*. Advent begins December 3<sup>rd</sup>.