Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

Know, Grow together in Faith

November 1, 2026

Gathering Music

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (VU#575)



Welcome


Announcements

Erin United Church

invites you to our

DRIVE-THRU HAM DINNER

SATURDAY NOV 14, 2026

All Tickets $25 each

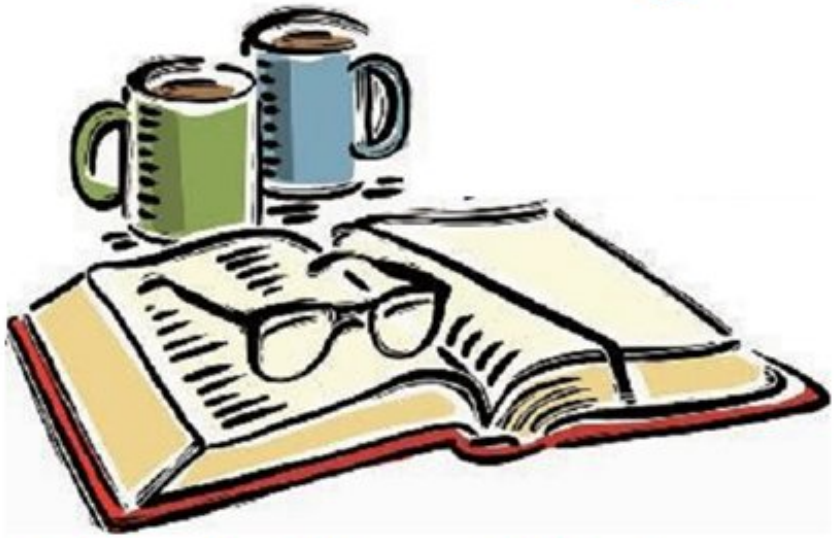
YOU WILL ENJOY HAM-ON-THE-BONE, SCALLOPED POTATOES, MIXED VEGGIES, COLESLAW, ROLL, AND A SWEET CHOICE OF A HOMEMADE DESSERT



5:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Tickets are limited and must be pre-ordered by calling Colleen Hawes at (519) 994-1923 no later than November 9th.
PICK-UP at the back of church - 115 Main St., Erin - watch for signs.
Payment can be made by e-transfer when placing your order, OR by cash at pickup.

Bible Study



Christian Living

All are welcome !

Wednesday

November 4

@ 7:00 pm

By Zoom

Each session is a complete unit, so you can join anytime.

Happy Birthday

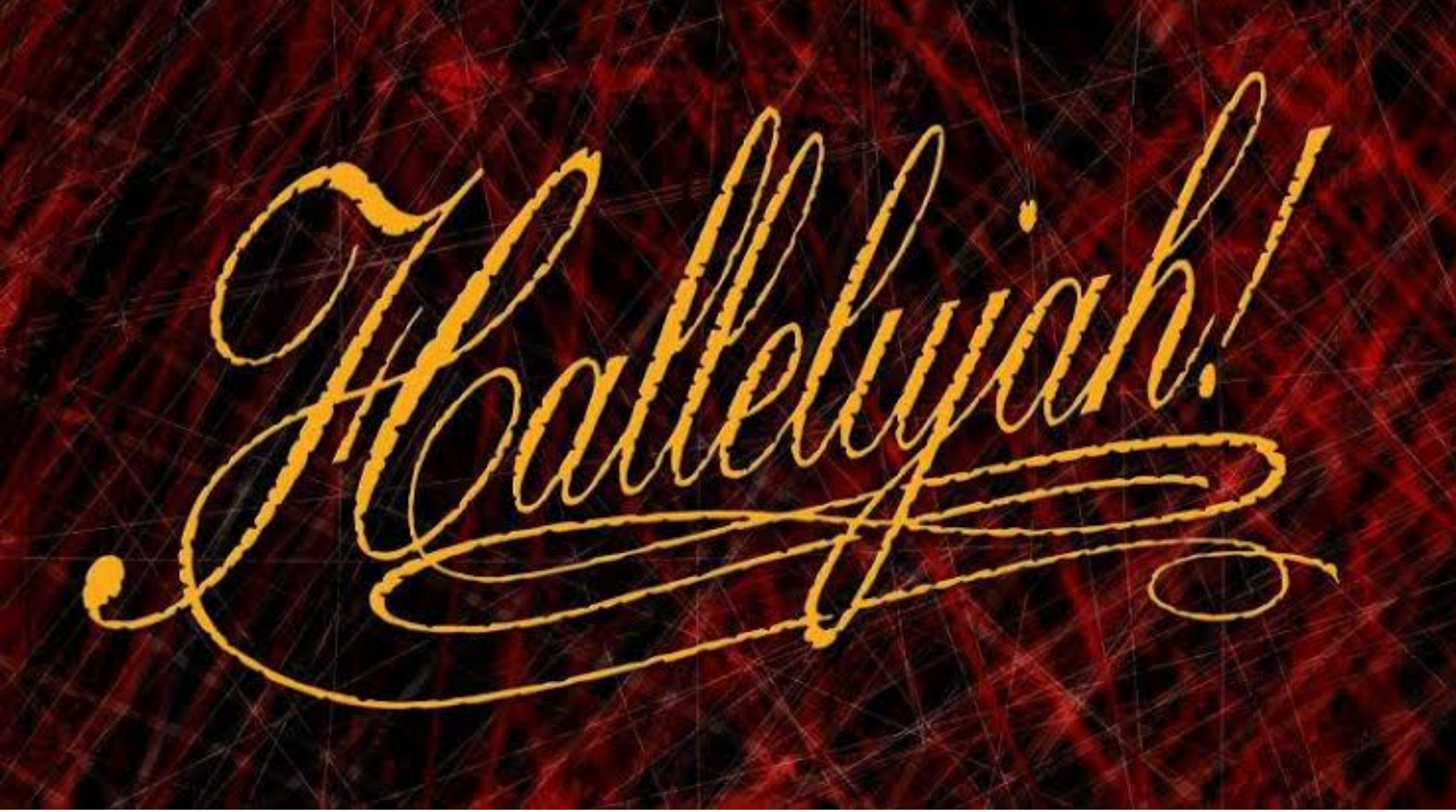
Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday
We Love You
Happy Birthday and may all your dreams come true
When you blow out your candles,
One remains aglow
Its the love-light in your eyes
Where e'er you go



Light the Christ Candle



Dawn arrives later each morning as we head into the colourful days of Fall. Dusk arrives earlier each evening as the days shorten with the approaching Winter Solstice. Into the growing shadows of night comes the ever-bright light from one single candle reminding us that Christ is the Light of the World. We light the Christ candle with gratitude and humility. Amen.



Prelude

"When the Saints/ Glory, Glory Hallelujah"

Call to Worship

We do not come to worship or to this space, without story.

We come with the legacies of our shared history.

What stories do you bring into our worship ?
What memories ? What hopes ?

We come to worship in this space in the presence of God who flows among us like a river. We come to worship in this space bringing our hopes with us.

Let God make glow the hearts that worship in spirit, in truth, and in love.

Come, let us worship our God. **Amen.**

Hymn VU # 706 *"Give Thanks For Life"*

1 Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,
Hallelujah, hallelujah !

2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,
Hallelujah, hallelujah !

3 And for our own, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time or death or dread,
Hallelujah, hallelujah !

4 Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain
lying in darkness does its life retain
in resurrection to grow green again,
Hallelujah, hallelujah !

Prayer of Confession

What do you remember of the beginnings of your story ? Of your first experiences of a faith community ? In the first stirrings of awareness of God as part of your story ? *(silence)*

The story, and our beginnings, continue to unfold.

What do you remember of the turnings in your story? Of asking "where" and "why" of God ? Of trust lost and found ? *(silence)*

The story, and our choices, continue to unfold.

What do you hope will be remembered of your story ? Of what has been accomplished and what needs to be passed on to others ? Of the witness of your story to God's story ?
(silence)
The story, and our legacy, continue to unfold.

Words of Assurance
New beginnings continue, for we live and move and have our being in God's unfolding story.
Fresh choices continue, for we live and move and have our being in God's unfolding story. We will be remembered, for we live in God's unfolding story.

Thanks be to God, the dwelling place of all generations. Amen.

Time with the Young People

by Rev. Yun-Hee

Children Song

“Jesus Bids us Shine”



Musical Offering VU # 540



**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully**

Offering Prayer

Understanding God, sometimes certain challenges mean that financial support is how we can serve the Church, and sometimes certain challenges mean that it is with our serving actions that we support the Church. Sometimes we give you our commitment to take up the banner of our elders and add both our labours and our money, so together we may all love, as Christ loves, your diverse family.


(The children may now proceed with their guardians to have sharing time.)

The Scriptures *read by Bill*

First Reading Psalm 107:1–7, 33–38

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the LORD say this - those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.
Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.
Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.
He turned rivers into a desert, flowing springs into thirsty ground, and fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who lived there. He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs; there he brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle. They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest; he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and he did not let their herds diminish.

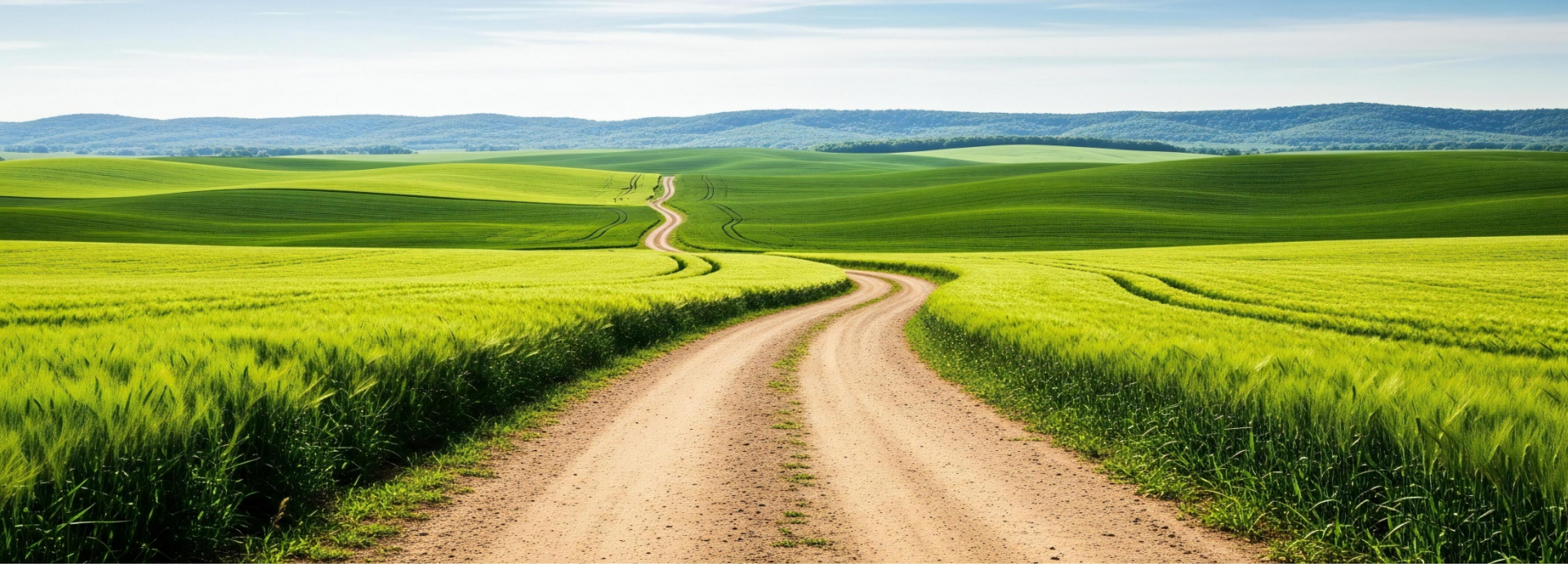
Second Reading Matthew 23:1–12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:
“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.
“Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;

they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others. "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God !



Introducing Myself *Linda J.*

Hymn VU # 595 (V.1) *"We Are Pilgrims"*

1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.



Introducing Myself

Wanda

2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
‘til we've seen this journey through.

Prayers of the People

Gracious God, may you watch over and bring Peace the people where there is war, hope where there is despair, healing where there is pain, and love where there is hatred.

Generous God, may you comfort those who are grieving, protect the innocent, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and strengthen those who feel forgotten or alone.

Healing God, please be with the families who are suffering, the children who are afraid, the sick who are fighting to heal, and everyone silently carrying a heavy burden. Let them feel your presence and know they are not alone.

Governing God, we are living in difficult times. May you help us soften our hearts, teach us to be kinder to one another, and help us choose compassion over judgment, forgiveness over anger, unity over division, every nation find harmony, every family find comfort, and every heart find a reason to hope. Let your light shine even in the darkest places.

God, please listen to our sincere prayer, protect your people, guide us through these difficult times, and remind us that love is always stronger than hate. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer VU # 960

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU # 589 *"Lord, Speak to Me"*

1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your straying children lost and lone.



2 O lead me, so that I may lead
the wandering and the waivering feet;
O feed me, so that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

3 O teach me, so that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many'a heart.

4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.



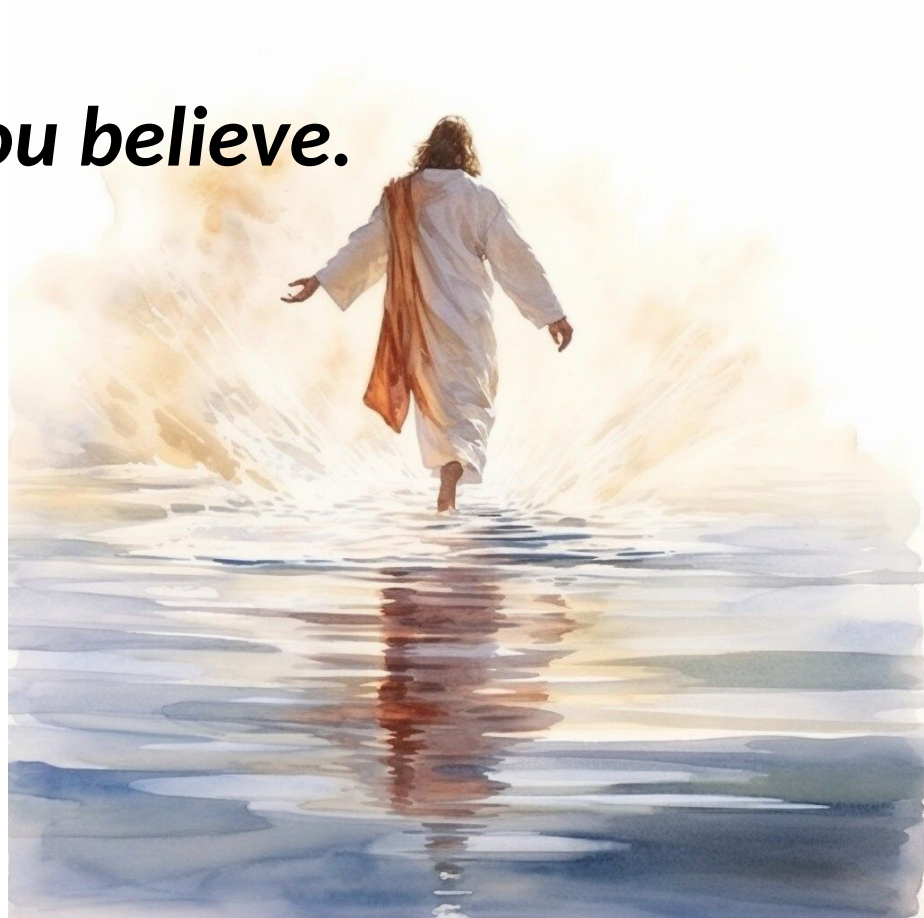
Blessing

In God, even our endings find new beginnings.
Go out into this new week, nourished by the Grace of God. May God's love sustain you through the challenges you face and inspire you through the blessings you receive.
In every moment, may you bear the fruit of God's eternal love, offering up praise and thanksgiving.
Amen.

Commissioning "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others
so all the world can see.
God will be there within,
around, above.
Go now in peace,
in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.





God, we thank you for being with us.
And thank you Congregation for worshipping today in person and by Zoom !
Special thank you for your participation !

(adapted from the United Church of Canada's Resources, 'Gathering' and *"Seasons of the Spirit". Images from the public domain)*