



Bulletin

May 24, 2020

Hope Mennonite Church acknowledges our presence on the lands of the Cree, Ojibway, Dakota, and Metis nations, on Treaty lands, covenanted between Indigenous and settler peoples in 1871. We are grateful to our host nations.

Sunday, May 24

At 9:30 this Sunday, Julie will be sharing a parable, in Godly Play format, on zoom! As many of you know, the Godly Play curriculum, is especially geared toward preschool kids, but older kids (and adults) could easily enjoy it, too! Looking forward to seeing you, and thank you Julie.

We'll be giving thanks for pets, wild animals and farm animals. I'm inviting kids and youth to help out quite a bit with the service. Please feel free to gather a candle and something too light it with.

A. Parents of Children and youth: please get back to me with one of the following possibilities from your kids, so we can include their words in the service: The name of your pet and one or two sentences about what's special about them. **Or** Choose one favourite animal, tell me what's special about it in 1 or 2 sentences.

Please also encourage your children and youth to draw / sculpt their favourite pet or animal, which they will be able to show during the service, May 24th.

B. Adults: If you'd like your pet to be blessed in the service, please tell me the name of your pet and one or two sentences about what's special about them!

Sunday, May 31

We are happy to have four people becoming members at Hope: Chantelle and Nick Wiebe, Selenna Wolfe, and Velma Harder. These four will be sharing their faith stories. Lynell will be leading the service. Curt, Dave and Rachel will be sharing music leadership. We will share a simple communion ritual together – details to follow.

PANDEMIC

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.
And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.
—Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

Poem found by Ron Friesen

Also, we will have an **Adult Ed** time starting at 9:30. This is our second try at studying “Beyond our Fears,” a resource from Mennonite Church Canada for helping Christians respond in times of societal crises. We will end at 10:15, and take a short break before the service starts at 10:30.

Hope News

You are invited to join coffee time with Lynell on Wed at 7:00. We have a short time of prayer at the beginning, and then visit with each other.

Are you interested in joining Hope? There is a group of four people joining on May 31, but we are open to having another sharing/membership service sometime soon. Talk to Lynell if you are interested.

Worship Committee is beginning to plan for “next phase” church gatherings. If you have ideas or input, please contact Lynell, Dori ZC, Matt P, Emily L or Krystan P.

The **Summer schedule** is still needing volunteers – please let Lynell know if you are willing to lead a service. Some services will likely be via Zoom. Others may be in a small group setting. To “provide leadership” to a small group service means to develop a user-friendly service that the host of each small group can use to guide a simple, short worship time.

Hope provides a variety of resources for people in need of support, including subsidized counseling sessions at Recovery of Hope. We also have a variety of gifted resource people available to help you access the resources you might need. Speak to Lynell or Lisa for more information.

MC Manitoba and MC Canada

Camps with Meaning cancels overnight camps for Summer 2020

Sadly, we've had to make the decision to cancel overnight camps for this summer. We are still looking at various day camp options, but most of those decisions will be based on health guidelines that are not in focus yet. It's worth noting that a lack of camper and rental revenue is putting the camp finances in a difficult position.

Please pray for disappointed campers, staff, and the parents who were hoping for a break. Please pray for the ongoing financial health of our camping ministry.

The MCM Executive Minister Search Committee invites your prayers. We will be interviewing Executive Minister candidates in late May, checking references and then discerning our recommendation to the MCM Board. Please pray that God's Spirit will guide the entire process and the choice that is made.

Mennonite Church Canada study conference will be a virtual one-day event on Oct. 24, 2020

Join our nationwide community of faith as we gather virtually for “Table Talk: Does the Church Still have Legs?”, a virtual study conference on the nature and identity of the church and the role of worship. Plenary speakers from Mennonite Church Canada-affiliated universities and colleges will present on themes of ecclesiology and worship. Pre-released and pre-recorded plenaries are planned to allow more time for questions and engagement between speakers and participants. Go to <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020>.

Indigenous theological gathering online – June 4-7, 2020

The North American Institute for Theological Studies (NAIITS) is moving its annual symposium online, bringing Indigenous and settler peoples together to explore “Community Health and Well-Being: Conversations on Wholeness.” Indigenous-Settler Relations would love to see a good number of participants from each of our regional church bodies join in this rich learning. We have several scholarships to help cover the cost of registration. For more information and a schedule, visit <https://naiits.com/sym2020.html#2>. Contact Steve Heinrichs if you would like to receive support from Mennonite Church Canada to attend (sheinrichs@mennonitechurch.ca).

Canadian Mennonite University

Study Science at CMU - Join this online webinar to learn about distinct features of CMU’s Science degree options, pre-requisites, labs and opportunities for research and fieldwork. In addition, you will interact with CMU science faculty. **Wednesday, June 3, 3:00 -4:00 PM CDT.** www.cmu.ca/campusvisit

On **June 5** CMU Alumni from across Canada and beyond, are invited back to the cafeteria - this year for a **Virtual Chicken Fingers and Fries**. The evening’s program will feature diverse musical guests including the renowned George Herberts! Full details coming soon at www.cmu.ca, or email j.derksen@cmu.ca for details.

The **CMU Farm** is celebrating 10 years of learning, growing, and farming for change. The Metanoia Farmers’ Cooperative is a group of CMU students and alumni who are responsible for running both the CMU Farm on campus, and working 14 acres of associated land near the village of Neubergthal. All of them are emerging farmers: lovers of God’s good creation motivated by their faith to learn and develop skills they may or may not have grown up with, in order to learn and practice sustainable agriculture. Read about their story at <https://media.cmu.ca/story-cmufarmtenthanniversary>.

This month on **Sunday@CMU**, CMU’s President Dr. Cheryl Pauls, opens and reads selections from **The Believer’s Church Bible Commentary series** (7 of which have been, or are being written, by CMU faculty). These excerpts, framed under the theme, **A Way into Scripture for All**, act as a form of meditation and reflection. The **Sunday, May 24** program is focused on the commentary on **Joshua**, written by Dr. Gordon Matties. <https://media.cmu.ca/sunday-at-cmu-may-2020>

Mennonite Central Committee

Thank you for helping MCC scale up our work to respond to the needs of vulnerable people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so grateful for our loyal supporters and donors who are ensuring MCC is there in times of crisis. However, due to new financial realities, we have made several key decisions regarding programming and staff. Read more about these changes here: mcccanada.ca/mcc-manitoba-covid-19-updates

During these uncertain times, we want to thank you for your part in supporting MCC. Share this video, "You are a bright light" with your congregation as a thank you from us. Find the video here: mcccanada.ca/stories/you-are-bright-light-video

Looking for something to do? MCC Thrift Shops are looking for volunteers under 50 years old! Thrift Shops are taking extensive precautions to protect volunteers, staff and

customers. Some of our volunteers are unable to come back at this time, and we are in need of a few extra hands to help! To find and contact a thrift store near you visit thrift.mcc.org/mcc-thrift-shop-locations.

Grow Hope by sponsoring an acre of farmland and help feed hungry people around the world. Follow this interactive guide to learn about global hunger and what you can do to help: mcccanada.ca/media/resources/10794

With thanksgiving, we are reconciled for ministry. In 2020, MCC is celebrating 100 years of sharing God's love and compassion with people in the name of Christ. We invite you to use these worship resources as you reflect on God's work of reconciliation in your life, in the church and around the world at mcccanada.ca/centennial under *Resources*.

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Ruth Plett (chair), Sandy Koop Harder (treasurer)
Adam Klassen Bartel, Anna Schaefer, Daniel Epp

Thoughts on Worship

Because we live most of the time in a culture preoccupied with the ego and the small self, we all need to be reminded of how the culture of Christian faith is different. Each week, we need to hear once again why we have come. We need words that are direct and concrete to usher us into an alternative time and space.

In worship we come not to succeed and be noticed, not to achieve or to prove ourselves. We come rather to lose ourselves. We come to die to all our petty concerns and fears and to be submerged once again into the being and the story of God, so that we may rise to new life in Christ. We come to return to the source of true joy and sustenance.

Christian worship is a counter-cultural activity, and it requires clear signals and rituals if it is to draw us out of the culture of narcissism. Preparing ourselves for worship requires disciplined work. To the outsider, it may seem a strange and unnecessary activity. But when we finally arrive and settle in, we will surely remember why we have come.

Scott Brubaker-Zehr, from "Receiving before Responding" Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology, Fall 2005, Vol 6, No 2