



Bulletin

May 3, 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 3

Lynell will be telling 3 short stories about her experience in Ethiopia. Raya is leading worship, Erika and Jason are leading music, Sandy is our Zoom host. After the service, everyone is welcome to stick around for a Q & A with Lynell and Brian about their Ethiopia experience. Kids get first shot at questions.

Sunday, May 10

Darryl Loewen from MCC Manitoba will be speaking. Lynell is leading worship, Kevin and Vi are leading music, Brian is the Zoom host. After worship, we will again do break-out groups, to visit with 4 other households.

Hope News

If you need pastoral care, please contact Lynell or Lisa.

MC Manitoba and MC Canada

The MCM Executive Minister Search Committee is pleased to share that they have received several strong applications for this position. They will remain open to more applications till about May 10 and then proceed. The hope is to prepare for and schedule interviews for some time in mid to late May. They invite your prayers in this time of discernment.

Wet'suwet'en Resistance webinar – MAY 5 @ 7 PM EST

In February and March of this year, Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) sent two teams of legal observers to unceded Wet'suwet'en territory in northern B.C. With no consent from the hereditary leadership of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have

maintained a militarized occupation of their lands in order to enable ongoing construction of a fracked gas pipeline—even during the current pandemic. Join Jennifer Wickham from the Gidim'ten clan and three CPTers – including Mennonite Church Canada's Steve Heinrichs – as they share stories from the frontlines of the Wet'suwet'en resistance on May 5 at 7 PM EST. [Register for free online.](#)

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, visit <https://www.naiits.com/sym2020.html>. Contact Steve Heinrichs if you would like to receive support from Mennonite Church Canada (sheinrichs@mennonitechurch.ca).

Canadian Mennonite University

CMU High School Essay Contest: CMU is inviting high school students to reflect on three possible questions, including whether we should be concerned if our phones are listening to us? Check out all essay question topics and details. Enter by May 5 to be eligible to win cash and CMU tuition credit. cmu.ca/docs/enrolment/CMU_Essay_Contest.pdf

Online Webinars: CMU's Admissions Department is offering information webinars online every Wednesday at 2:00 PM CDT. These webinars are designed particularly for prospective students and their parents. Go to cmu.ca/campuvisit for webinar information.

Due to the ongoing travel restrictions and social distancing directives in place around the world, CMU's **Canadian School of Peacebuilding** (CSOP) is offering three fully online courses this spring including: *Leading in an Age of Polarization, Does Religion Cause Violence?* and *Reconciling Stories: Indigenous Laws and Lands*. Go to csop.cmu.ca for details and to register.

Mennonite Central Committee

Share a prayer of hope and comfort during your next worship service. Hear Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director of MCC Canada, share a prayer for a time of viral isolation. View the video here tiny.cc/MCC-prayer-for-isolation.

Selah's Song, a heartwarming musical tour by Theatre of the Beat, has been cancelled due to the coronavirus. The group will be hosting a virtual watch party on May 5th from 6:30-7:30. Visit theatreofthebeat.ca/selahs-song for more details.

Meet Haneen. She lives in Syria and is 9 years old. Learn about Haneen's story by visiting mcccana.ca/stories/hello-syria-video. Find more exciting resources and videos to keep you busy at tiny.cc/Covid-19-Resources.

Craving a bowl of homemade soup and a slice of fresh bread? Sam's Place is now open

for pick-up and delivery! Visit their website for their delicious menu and delivery details sams.place.

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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