

***A place to belong and grow in faith***

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**September 24, 2023**

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59 September 24, 2023 10:00 Service No. 39

**Gathering**

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship Kenton Janzen

Song – “In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful”

“You Are Holy, You Are Whole”

Prayer

**Life Together**

Announcements

Ministry time

Pastoral Prayer

Song – “Gentle Shepherd” #352

**Hearing the Word**

Scripture – John 16:16-33

Message – **God’s got this** Craig Frere

**Responding**

Song

Offering & Prayer

**Going**

Song – “As You Go Out From Here”

Blessing

Musicians – Gayle Neufeld & Friends

Scripture Reader – Mike Frena Jr

**Welcome here!**

We’re glad you came! Your being here is a sign of God’s love for the world and encourages other Christians. We hope our worship together helps you find

***A place to belong and grow in faith***.

**Praise and Concerns**

***Prayers:***

* Dora Fisch-Willms at Garden City Manor
* Dawson King receiving treatment for a blood clot in his leg
* Gayle King is dealing with some health concerns
* Kim Salierno daughter to Ted & Syl, receiving treatment for breast cancer
* Sheila Gayman - undergoing cancer treatment
* Our sister church in Pereira, Colombia

*We are so blessed to have a new fridge* that works in our kitchen to accommodate all the events throughout the year. A big thanks to those who made it possible. Anyone wishing to donate towards the cost of the fridge can mark their envelopes “Bethany Women”.

**A Communion Service** will be held on Thanksgiving, Sunday, October 8th.  Communion cups, with bread and drink will be available for pick up as you enter the service.  Those worshipping at home are invited to prepare their own bread and cup, and grapes and crackers for your kids. We are all invited to prepare ourselves as we remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

**Bethany Announcements**

**Spiritual Formation Opportunities Today:**

* 10:00 Worship Service
* 11:10 No Sunday School today

**Coffee Time** is back, but we need volunteers to help make the coffee. Please sign up on the sheet in the kitchen.

**Local Food Bank Drive:** Area food banks inform us that donations are down 30% this year while need is up 20%! Your continued support for our food drive to local food banks is much appreciated. Please drop off your donations in the food bin at the front door. Foods and snacks for breakfasts and school lunches are especially appreciated.

**Neurographic Art** – Thursday, September 28th from 6-8 PM at Bethany. Neurographic Art is a therapeutic form of art that creates a mindful, meditative, yet aware state through the creation of new neural connections. The idea is to focus on an issue or question while working

on an artwork to help direct your neurons to enhance your ability to problem solve and make decisions. Presented by Niagara North Family Health Team. Call 289-272-0180 to register.

**World Communion Sunday -** on Sunday, October 1st we will be celebrating communion with Niagara United Mennonite Church at 7 pm.

**Quilting** or more accurately tying of our comforters is starting again on Tuesday, October 3rd at 9 a.m. till 12 noon. Come and go as your time allows. Everyone is welcome and no experience required. Any questions, please contact Sue Weier..

**Empowering Parents in the Digital Age** - an evening with Paul Davis. The internet is an incredible tool, but it is also a dangerous place for kids. At this seminar Paul Davis will give parents, grandparents, and guardians some of the tools we need to navigate the challenges of parenting in the digital age. Join us November 4th at 6:30 pm at Bethany Mennonite Church.

**Our Donations Touching Lives**

**You can make your offering to Bethany by:**

• **E-transfer** to office@bethanymennonite.ca

• **Mail** to church at Box 249, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0

• **Drop in the mailbox**  beside the front door on Wednesdays or Thursdays 8:30-3:30 and let Marianne know.

• **Canada Helps** button on [www.bethanymennonite.ca](file:///I:\Bulletins\www.bethanymennonite.ca). CanadaHelps charges 3.75% of the donation, but you will be receipted for full amount.

***Prayers:***

***Mennonite Church Eastern Canada***

* Please pray for Brussels Mennonite Fellowship. Ken Gazley provides pastoral leadership for the congregation. Pray for them as they minister in their community.
* Please pray for MCEC as we seek someone to fill the key leadership position of Operations and Finance Director. Pray for those who view and apply to the opportunity, those involved in the interview process and for the individual who will accept the call to this position. We ask for God’s wisdom and leading.

***Mennonite Central Committee***

* Pray for all levels of government to collaboratively work together on funding for community programs like Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) that support individuals returning from prison.
* We give praise for eight sponsoring groups who have welcomed 27 newcomers over the last three months. May these newcomers experience love, peace and belonging in their new community of settlement.
* Please pray for refugess waiting for the Canadian resettlement process to unfold,who fear deportation in their countries of asylum and for those dealing with diplomatic and political bureaucracies related to exit permits.
* Pray for the millions around the world affected by political unrest and humanitarian crises in their home countries.

We are thankful that, when leaving prison, our restorative justice participants have been able to find housing, employment and connections in the community to feel they belong.

**Mennonite Church**

**Help Build a Future of Peace in Mindanao - the Future of Ministry in Philippines.**October 17, 2023, 2 - 4:30 p.m., MCEC 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener**.**Join MCEC, Joji Pantoja (MC Canada Witness Worker), Ka Boyet Ongkiko and Tala Bautista from the Philippines on their information and fundraising tour in Ontario. Dann and Joji Pantoja have served the socially and economically vulnerable people in the conflicted Mindanao region of the Philippines. Discover and be a part of the exciting final stages of a transition plan from MC Canada Witness to Tala and Boyet's capable leadership as the younger, Indigenous generation. The Malipayon Peace Hub will provide a sustainable pathway for PBCI and CFP to serve their communities into the future. Light refreshments will be served. [More information at mcec.ca.](https://mcec.ca/event/22805-2023-10-17-help-build-a-future-of-peace-in-mindanao)

**MCC, MDS, MEDA**

**Offices and Thrift Shops closed on Monday, Sept. 25 -** All MCC Ontario office and thrift shops will be closed on Monday, Sept. 25 to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Learning resources are available on our website.

The September issue of **On the Level** is available from the office.

Laurie Warkentin will lead a workshop called ***Doing Good…Better*** on Tuesday, September 26th from 7-9 pm at the First Mennonite Church in Vineland. “The goal of this workshop is to grow our curiosity about our sometimes invisible assumptions so that we can build mutuality across differences, to be able to work together in ways that build peace and justice for all.” The link for more information and to register: <https://mcc.org/events/doing-good-better>

**MCC Ontario Annual General Online Meeting -** September 25, 2023 from 7:00-8:30 pm. We deeply appreciate your support, and how you are impacting so many lives in Ontario and around the world. Join us on September 25 for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) as we share MCC Ontario's financial outcomes and a snapshot of our strategic plan progress. Official Congregational Representatives and Delegates who register as such are entitled to vote. Visit mcco.ca/AGM for details.

**We Own this Now** presented by Ted & Company TheatreWorks starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne is a play that looks at love of land, loss of land and what it means to "own" something. We Own This Now examines how the Doctrine of Discovery is still being used and causing harm today. You can see it on October 12th at 7:00 pm at Steinmann Mennonite Church, or on October 15th at 7:00 pm at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. Tickets are $15 each ($10 for students). Get yours at [mcc.org/we-own-this-now](https://mennonitecentralcommittee.cmail20.com/t/i-l-ajluytk-tkdihiuyw-k/).

On Oct 15 there is a 40th anniversary celebration and fundraiser for **Canadian Food Grains Bank**, an MCC organization, at Vineland United Mennonite Church at 3327 Menno street in Vineland.  It starts at 5:30 pm and will feature a soup and sandwich/bun meal that will be followed by an update from Andy Harrington - executive director of CFGB Canada. There will also be a pie auction to raise funds.

**MEDA’s Convention Grant & Volunteer Opportunity** is here! Join entrepreneurs and business professionals across North America in vibrant Toronto from November 2-5 for MEDA's 70th-anniversary celebration. Apply today and you could be one of three lucky Convention Volunteer applicants with exclusive, behind the scenes access to this year's event!

* You'll gain valuable volunteer experience for your CV,
* Make new connections and expand your business network,
* Immerse yourself in MEDA's impactful work,
* And be an integral part of this year's milestone event!

[**Apply now**](https://www.meda.org/opportunities/meda-convention-volunteer-associate/). The deadline for volunteer applications is **October 4th, 2023**, with selections announced on October 5th, 2023. *Lodging, registration, and travel expenses will be covered for selected volunteers.*

The **MCC Peace Conference** will be held on November 18, 2023 at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, 110 Doon Rd, Kitchener. It’s your chance to see, hear and experience first-hand how you and MCC are changing lives and communities through peacebuilding. This event will inspire and inform through general sessions, workshops and conversations with messengers of peace. Stay tuned for more details.

**Broader Church & Community**

**AED/CPR Certification Training**  - On Thursday October 5th from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Heart Niagara will be holding an AED/CPR Certification training session at NUMC. If you would like to become certified or re-certified please contact Julie in our church office at [office@redbrickchurch.ca](mailto:office@redbrickchurch.ca).

**Teen Challenge newsletter** available on the foyer shelf.

**Xplore** – Xplore offers life-long learning courses that investigate dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without assignments or exams! Join one or more of our offered courses (online). For more information and to register visit cmu.ca/xplore.

**The Abner Martin Music Scholarship** ($4,000 value last year) is awarded annually by Menno Singers to a student who: 1) will be enrolled in a full-time music in 2023-2024; 2) is affiliated with an MCEC congregation; and 3) has demonstrated involvement in musical activities in church and community. Applications must be received by September 22, 2023. For more information and/or an application form contact Lewis Brubacher, lbrubacher@sympatico.ca, or call him at 519-884-3072.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

September 24-October 1, 2023

Today 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

11:10 a.m. – Sunday School

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

11:10 a.m. – Sunday School

*Speaking:* Herb Sawatzky

*Scripture:* Mark 5:35

*Theme:* Healing For All

**Worship services are recorded** live and kept on our youtube channel indefinitely. Recordings begin shortly before 10am and end after 11:04. Those who prefer not to appear in the recording are encouraged to sit near the back of the sanctuary in front of the cry room, and exit through the door on that side.