

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

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**November 26, 2023**

572 East & West Line

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Email: [office@bethanymennonite.ca](mailto:office@bethanyennonite.ca)

Website: www.bethanymennonite.ca

59 November 26, 2023 10:00 Service No. 48

**Gathering**

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship Herb Sawatzky

Song – “I Stand Amazed in the Presence” #528

“We Will Dance”

Prayer

**Life Together**

Announcements

Ministry time

Pastoral Prayer

Song – “The Lord's Prayer”

**Hearing the Word**

Scripture – John 17:13-26, Revelation 21:1-8

Message – **The desire of Jesus** John Tiessen

**Responding**

Song – “Praise With Joy the World's Creator”

Offering & Prayer

**Going**

Song – “Beyond a Dying Sun” #323

Blessing

Musicians – Gayle Neufeld & Friends

Scripture Reader – Paul Klassen

**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:***

* Erika Dyck at St. Catharines Hospital
* Josh Legere (Holly’s husband) recovering from surgery
* Dora Fisch-Willms at Garden City Manor
* Gayle King is dealing with some health concerns
* Kim Salierno daughter to Ted & Syl, receiving treatment for breast cancer
* Sheila Gayman - in hospice
* Our sister church in Pereira, Colombia

**A Communion Service** will be held on First Advent, December 3rd.  Communion will be served in the pews; prefilled Communion cups are also available. 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 and enter into the Advent season of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

**Bethany Announcements**

**Spiritual Formation Opportunities Today:**

* 10:00 Worship Service
* 11:10 Adult Sunday School in library

**Prayer Breakfast** - Our first Prayer Breakfast is planned for Thursday, November 30th at 7am at Bethany. Invite friends and neighbours.

**Winter Clothing Drive for students at Crossroads**. Looking for hats, mittens, coats and ski pants for children aged 4-14. Please place items in the donation box located at the front entrance. All donations gratefully accepted. Please direct questions to Ashley Elliott.

**For your information**: A counselling service, CASON (Community Addiction Services of Niagara), will rent out one of our rooms each Wednesday morning for a few hours.

The **Gift Discernment Team** is looking for church members to volunteer their time to the work of the church. Several positions are open to fill. If you feel led to help, please contact Pat Andres, Terri Dick or Ted Wiens by November 30th.

**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.

**Candlelight Stroll - Friday December 1st** Niagara UM Church has signed up to sing carols at the Candlelight Stroll on Friday December 1st and would like to invite our Bethany friends to join! We are not rehearsing ahead of time, just showing up for a simple evening of spreading Christmas joy. All singers are welcome to attend. We'll be singing at 134 Johnson Street. Please meet at 6:45; the stroll starts at 7:00. Warm beverages will be provided!

**Bethany Christmas Lunch** – The Hospitality Team is hosting a Christmas Potluck-style lunch on Sunday, December 3 at 11:30 a.m. We are looking for volunteers to roast turkeys (turkeys will be supplied), make mashed potatoes and stuffing.  If you want to volunteer, please speak to Anne Litke, Patty King or Linda Van Bergen. Everyone else who attends is asked to bring a vegetable side dish AND a dessert.

**Coyotes/Badgers/Millennials** are invited to a Christmas party on Sunday, December 3rd at Kenton and Sheryl's home at 7 pm. Please bring a Christmas treat to share.

**Silver Fox Event!** On Thursday, Dec. 7 we will enjoy dinner at Betty's restaurant (four choices of entrees) and a Lights Tour.  We will meet at Bethany at 4:15.  The cost is $65 per person, including coach, taxes, gratuities, buns, coffee or tea, and dessert at Betty's. To ensure your participation, pay Paul and Jo Thiessen, Bud and Ella Andres, or Ted and Sylvia Wiens by Dec. 3. We are limited to 50 participants due to bus capacity.

**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 **Danforth Mennonite Church**. Stephen Reist provides interim pastoral leadership for the congregation. Pray for this congregation as they search for a pastor and minister in their neighbourhood.
* **Bill Wiebe** will be installed at **Erie View United Mennonite Church** on November 26, 2023 as Pastor. Pray for Bill and the congregation as they begin their ministry together. To share your words of encouragement and support with Bill, you can reach him at [billnrain@outlook.com](mailto:billnrain@outlook.com).
* Pray for our world as people live in fear and danger because of armed conflict in areas like **Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Myanmar and more**. Make us channels of God's peace:  
  where there’s despair in life let us bring hope; where there is darkness, only light, and where there’s sadness, ever joy. Lord, hear our prayers.

***Mennonite Central Committee***

Please pray that the conflict and violence in Palestine and Israel will end and that conciliation can begin.

• Pray for the hostages to return safely to their homes and families.

• Pray for those who mourn to be surrounded by loved ones as they grieve.

• And pray that peace workers, negotiators and government staff will put people's lives and human dignity above political or military gains.

**Mennonite Church**

*Canadian Mennonite* presents **Answering the Call**: Three Young Pastors Reflect on Ministry, an online discussion on Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m. CT / 8:00 p.m. ET. Guests Curtis Wiens, Kennedy Froese and Elshaday Baraki will discuss their call to ministry and what they enjoy about being leaders in the church. Register today at: [www.canadianmennonite.org/events](http://www.canadianmennonite.org/events)

**Make A Difference (MAD) Holiday Market | Saturday, December 2. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM** Hosted by the Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) Undergrad Society at Conrad Grebel University College, all funds collected from participating vendors, the silent auction, and suggested $2 entry contribution will be donated to [A Better Tent City](https://www.abettertentcity.org/), Waterloo. Fill your car with family and friends to make a difference while shopping for this holiday season! [uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/mad-market](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/mad-market)

**MCC, MDS, MEDA**

A **Grow Hope update** is available on the bulletin board in the foyer.

The November issue of **On the Level**, an MDS newsletter, or the **UMH** newsletter is available from our church office.

**SALT Applications and position placement descriptions now available** - **S**erving **a**nd **L**earning **T**ogether (SALT) is a year-long service experience for 18-30 year olds with one of MCC’s international partners. SALT service opportunities for 2024-2025 include placements such as tech support, community development, public health, project management, teaching and childcare. To explore SALT assignments, click [here](https://mennonitecentralcommittee.cmail19.com/t/i-l-atkjdlk-tuauiwih-i/)**.**  Ready to go? [Apply now](https://mennonitecentralcommittee.cmail19.com/t/i-l-atkjdlk-tuauiwih-d/) to see if you qualify for SALT.

**Becoming Good Relatives Retreat** - *January 26/27, 2024, Jericho House, 10845 Rathfon Rd, Port Colborne.* In this one-and-a-half-day retreat, author and speaker Patty Krawec will use Anishinaabe teachings to help participants reflect on their social and individual histories in order to improve their capacity to have difficult conversations with others about Canadian history and current impacts on Indigenous people.To learn more and to register, go to [mcc.org/events](https://mennonitecentralcommittee.cmail19.com/t/i-l-atkjdlk-tuauiwih-o/).

**Shop Niska for Christmas** - This Christmas, give fairly-traded one of-a-kind gifts that support Indigenous Artisans in First Nations and communities living in Northeastern Ontario. Choose from a variety of items, including moccasins, mittens, jewelry and more. Niska products are made with traditional techniques, quality materials, and dedication. Head to [niskaartisans.ca](https://mennonitecentralcommittee.cmail19.com/t/i-l-atkjdlk-tuauiwih-n/) to shop today!

**Raw Carrot soup is available at your local thrift shop** As an MCC Ontario program, The Raw Carrot provides a compassionate workplace to people on long term disability. Our healthy soups are handcrafted in small batches, packed with tasty veggies and free of added preservatives. Fresh ingredients are sourced as locally as possible. Our staff is “stirring up” change with their delicious, handcrafted gourmet soup!” Get your soup today at your local thrift shop.

**Christmas gifts that change lives** - This Christmas we invite you to explore all the ways that you can share gifts of comfort and joy for the world. Delight your loved ones with wells, goats, emergency food and more. Go to [mcc.org/christmas](https://mennonitecentralcommittee.cmail19.com/t/i-l-atkjdlk-tuauiwih-q/) to discover all of the options!

**Broader Church & Community**

Mark your calendars: the **Seasons Chorale** will be presenting their **Christmas Concert** on the following 3 Sundays: TODAY, 3:00 pm at Scott Street MB Church, 339 Scott St; Dec 3, 6:00 pm at Grace Community Church, 241 St. David’s Road W in Thorold; and Dec 10, 3:00 pm at St. Catharines UM Church, 335 Linwell Rd.

Grace Mennonite Church at 677 Niagara St. in St. Catharines welcomes donations of homemade shawls and or small blankets for our **Bears and Blankets program** for Elders in Long Term Care. We have provided 117 care-kits thus far. We have requests for 171. Our care-kits go to Seniors who don’t get many visitors or who are lonely. Please contact Jan at 289-990-4839 or [janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com).

Harbour Fellowship Church, 51 South Service Road St. Catharines, invites you to join them for their **Coming King Advent Worship** service led by Martin Brothers, on Friday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m. Please register on Harbour Events Page. A free will offering will be taken.

**NUMC’s German Advent Celebration** - If you love singing traditional German Christmas carols, hearing German Christmas stories, and socializing over a plate of Christmas cookies, Niagara United Mennonite invites you to the annual German Advent Celebration, Dec. 10th at 3:00 p.m. 1775 Niagara Stone Rd. NOTL.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

November 26-December 3, 2023

Today 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

11:10 a.m. – Sunday School

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – Quilting

6:00 p.m. – Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. – JuBELLation

First Advent

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service & **Communion**

11:10 a.m. – Sunday School

*Speaking:* Herb Sawatzky

*Scripture:* Isaiah 64:1–9, Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19, 1 Corinthians 1:3–9, Mark 13:24–37

*Theme:* How will we know . . . how long?

**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.