

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

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**February 4, 2024**

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59 February 4, 2024 10:00 Service No. 5

**Gathering**

Prelude

Welcome Herb Sawatzky

Call to Worship

Songs – “Here in this Place”

“A Wonderful Saviour”

Prayer

**Life Together**

Announcements

Ministry time

Pastoral Prayer

Song – “Gentle Shepherd”

**Hearing the Word**

Scripture - AWFS Videos

John 10:14-16 James Sawatzky

Children’s Video

Message – **Becoming a part of God’s bigger picture**

Herb Sawatzky

**Responding**

Song – “You're not Alone”

Offering Prayer

**Going**

Song – “Christ Has No Body Here but Ours”

Benediction

Musicians – Kenton & Sheryl Janzen & Friends

**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
* Gayle King is dealing with some health concerns
* Kim Salierno daughter to Ted & Syl, as she recovers from surgery
* Our sister church in Pereira, Colombia

**Bethany Announcements**

**Spiritual Formation Opportunities Today:**

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

**Silver Fox "February Warm-up"** - Join us on Wed. Feb. 21, from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm for Board Games, Cards or just chatting and a Beef on the Bun Lunch! We will meet in the Creekview (Pleasant Manor) Meeting Room. Cost, payable ahead or at the door, is only $10.00. Please notify Bud and Ella Andres, Paul and Jo Thiessen or Ted and Syl Wiens by Sun. Feb. 11 to assist with planning and food preparation. Bring one or two of your favourite games.

**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.

**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 **Erie View United Mennonite Church**. Bill Wiebe provides pastoral care for this congregation Pray for them as they minister in the Port Rowan area of Ontario.
* Pray for **Witness workers, Tom and Christine Poovong**, as they host the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Journey program and work with translation in the program.  Thai and Lao participants study online and in small groups for most of the year but will be gathering Feb. 2-5 in Khon Kaen, Thailand to study together with mentors and teachers. Praise God for this opportunity.
* **Meserete Kristos Church**, Ethiopia, asks us to pray for peace and stability in Ethiopia. As many areas of the country become too dangerous for travel, regional church leaders are restricting visits to congregations. Pray for these leaders and Witness workers Joanne and Werner De Jong as they support and encourage pastors and seminary students in their message of hope and peace in the midst of violence.
* Israel's massive military campaign in Gaza has brought untold destruction and suffering. At least three-quarters of the population of 2.3 million have been internally displaced, and more than 26,000 have been killed. Let us **hold in prayer those who are witnessing to God's peace** through the four regional working groups of **Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network**, and the many local initiatives of **Mennonite Action**. On February 9, Mennonites will gather publicly in Ottawa and other centres around the country to sing hymns, pray, deliver petitions and call on our political leaders to support a path forward based on justice, nonviolence, international law, and compassion.
* **Continue to hold our world in prayer** as war and rumours of war resound. Pray for those who experience grief and pain; live in fear and danger because of armed conflict and call out to God from such harsh realities. **Pray for Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia, Myanmar and more**. Lord, hear our prayers.

***Mennonite Central Committee***

• Please pray for MCC Serving and Learning Together program participants who will be spending their Christmas far away from their families, including Adrian Berrio Klassen from Ontario.

**Mennonite Church**

**MCEC Intercultural Volleyball Tournament**, March 16, 2024, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. This event is open to all MCEC congregations. Grab your friends and register your congregation; teams will be made on site in order to mix congregations. Register by congregation at mcec.ca.

**MCEC Open Forum: Engaging Youth in the Church, March 21, 2024 Zoom Conversation, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.** The recent project, led by the Centre for Community Based Research, in collaboration with MCEC, explored how MCEC can be a resource to its churches and pastors regarding engaging high school youth in faith to address the current need of congregants and recognize the emerging solutions for engaging youth. This event will report on recent findings. [Register at mcec.ca.](https://mcec.ca/event/23075-2024-03-21-open-forum-engaging-youth-in-the-church)

**MCEC Annual Church Gathering**, April 26 & 27, 2024, Leamington, ON. Registration opens at the end of March.

**Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario** Annual Meeting & Niagara Russlaender Centenary Tour, Saturday, June 15, 2024. Join the Society for a day tour of sites in the Niagara region to commemorate the centenary of the arrival of *Russlaender* Mennonite immigrants in Ontario. Visit [www.mhso.org](http://www.mhso.org/) and fill out a form to be notified when registration opens.

**Broader Community**

**Ash Wednesday Service -** Grace Mennonite Church and Scott Street Church are hosting a brief Ash Wednesday service at 11:00 am on February 14th at Grace’s facility at 677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines. This will be a meaningful way to prepare for the season of Lent.

**Wild Hope for God’s Garde**n - February 23 - 25, at The First Mennonite Church in Vineland (3557 Rittenhouse Rd. Vineland). Join us for a weekend exploring the intersection of Creation Care and Faith.  Joanne Moyer is a professor of Environmental Studies at The King’s University in Edmonton. She researches faith-based environmental action and has volunteered with the Mennonite Creation Care Network and Mennonite Church Canada’s Sustainability Leadership Group for many years. She will lead us through a weekend of exploring urgent environmental problems, such as climate change, and how we can respond as people faith.  There is no charge for this event.

**Pleasant Manor Women's Auxiliary update**

Our **Spring Bazaar** will be held on Saturday March 23rd at 10am - 11:30. In preparation we need to be making our famous delicious meat buns early. Volunteer help will be needed on Monday Feb 5th at 9am and Monday Feb 12th at 9am in Niagara UM’s church kitchen. Contact Anne Litke, Denise Janzen, Isolde Kroeker or Carole Wiens. Some of our fundraising money will be going to: foldable tables, programming for tenants, social activities, outdoor furniture and flowers, electronic keyboard for the chapel and refreshing the look and workings of our bowling alley. Thanks so much, Anne Litke, Auxiliary Chair person.

**Taste and See** Food and Wine Tasting/Silent Auction – Save the date for this **Wells of Hope** fundraiser held on Friday, March 22nd at 7:00-10:00 pm at the Grand Olympia Hospitality & Convention Centre in Stoney Creek. Tickets $75.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

February 4-11, 2024

Today 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

11:10 a.m. – Adult Sunday School

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – Quilting

6:00 p.m. – Handbell choir

7:30 p.m. – JuBELLation

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – Church Board meeting

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

11:10 a.m. – Adult Sunday School

*Speaking:* Caleb Ratzlaff

*Scripture:* Genesis: 38: 6-7:11, 24-26; Ruth: 1:3-18; Luke: 1:46-55

*Theme:* Allowing Christ's Mothers to Guide our Lenten Season

**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.