

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

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**February 18, 2024**

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Website: www.bethanymennonite.ca

59 February 18, 2024 10:00 Service No. 7

**Gathering**

Prelude

Welcome Herb Sawatzky

Call to Worship – Psalm 25:1-10

Songs – “Fill Us with Your Feast”

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

Prayer of Confession

**Life Together**

Announcements

Ministry time

Pastoral Prayer

Song – “Spirit of God, Descend”

**Hearing the Word**

Scripture - Mark 1:9-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22 Gayle Neufeld

Children’s Video

Message – **Repent and Believe** Herb Sawatzky

**Responding**

Song – “Oceans”

Offering Prayer

**Going**

Song – “We Are Often Tossed and Driven”

Benediction

Musicians – Shirley Dick & 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:***

* Irene Schellenberg recovering from knee surgery
* Dora Fisch-Willms at Garden City Manor
* 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

**RECEIPTS** were either emailed out, mailed out, or will be available in your mailbox for pick up. Please call the office if you have any questions or would like to change your preference of receiving it.

**THE UPPER ROOM** is a daily devotional guide for under $20/year. Samples are available on the narthex shelf; please help yourself. If you would like to sign up, please contact the office.

**Prayer Breakfast** - Our Prayer Breakfast is planned for Thursday, February 29th at 7am at Bethany. Invite friends and neighbours.

**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.

**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 **Famille Assemblée de la Grâce**. [Jean Westerne Joseph](https://crm.mcec.ca/bfcrm/contact/profile/id/12191) provides pastoral care for this congregation. Pray for this congregation in the Anjou borough of [Montreal](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Montreal_(Quebec,_Canada)), Quebec as they minister to Haitian people both in Canada and in the Caribbean.
* Pray for **Cheryl Woelk and Scott Kim, Mennonite Church Canada liaison workers**, who will be the plenary speakers at the Mennonite Church South Korea annual meeting February 23-25. Cheryl and Scott will be speaking on discipleship.
* **Continue to pray** as war and rumours of war resound. This is our long-standing prayer, O Lord. We don't understand. Pray for those who experience grief and pain, for those who live in fear and danger. We call to you God - show us how to forge swords into ploughshares, and spears into pruning-knives. Lord, hear our prayers.

***Mennonite Central Committee***

• Pray for the many displaced people within Ukraine and Gaza and thank you for the witness of your church in Europe and Middle East.

• Please join MCC in holding Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck) in your thoughts as they mourn the loss of two community members in a recent fatal house fire. This heart-wrenching event echoes a similar tragedy that occurred almost one year ago, claiming the life of a 10-year-girl in the same community.

• This year, we have received 290 requests to sponsor 1,100 refugees. This is a significant increase and almost doubles last year’s requests. We hope to receive 175 spaces from the government for sponsorships. Reviewing the expression of interest and making decisions of who to select for our 175 spaces is going to be a daunting task. Please pray for emotional strength and wisdom for our team during this process.

• Last year, the number of newcomers we received was quite lower than in 2022. As of January this year, we have received 21 newcomers, sponsored by six sponsoring groups. May the settlement and transition of the newcomers to their new home go smoothly.

**Mennonite Church**

**Peace & Possibility, Part I:** Tune into a live web event with Maoz Inon, an Israeli peace and tourism entrepreneur with strong Mennonite links. Since his parents were killed by Hamas, Inon’s message of peace has drawn the attention of international media. Hosted by *Canadian Mennonite*, *Anabaptist World* and the *Palestine-Israel Network*. **Feb. 21, 11 a.m. CT.** [Click here to learn more.](https://canadianmennonite.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=7)

**Peace & Possibility, Part II:** Raja Khouri is a Palestinian-Canadian; Jeffrey Wilkinson is an American Jew. Hear them discuss their 2023 book, *The Wall Between: What Jews and Palestinians Don’t Want to Know About Each Other.* Hosted by *Canadian Mennonite*, *Anabaptist World* and the *Palestine-Israel Network*. **Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.** CT. [Click here to learn more.](https://canadianmennonite.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=8)

**Grandparent & Grandchild Retreat at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp** Monday, March 11th @ 9:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Grandparents and grandchildren in grades 1-6 are invited to camp to "Discover God through the Creative Process" with Mike Vlaming, owner of Little Creek Pottery. Join us for a day of creativity, fun and connecting! For more information or to register go to our website [www.hiddenacres.ca](http://www.hiddenacres.ca)

**Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp Hiring for our 2024 Summer Staff Team!** Are you or is someone you know looking for a summer job filled with meaning, friendships and fun? Apply to join our 2024 Summer Staff Team! Check out our website at [www.hiddenacres.ca](http://www.hiddenacres.ca) for available positions, information and to apply. Connect our Program Director, Josh Penfold at [josh@hiddenacres.ca](mailto:josh@hiddenacres.ca) with any questions.

**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.

**Silver Lake Mennonite Summer Camp** – Registration is open! Visit slmc.ca/summer-camp to view all programs available at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp this summer.

**SLMC 3-v-3 Basketball Tournament –** Create a team to participate in Silver Lake’s Basketball Tournament fundraiser on March 23 at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. Register at slmc.ca/basketball-tournament

**Winter Camp for Grownups –** This “choose your own adventure” weekend at Silver Lake is the perfect winter escape. Co-hosted by PiE (Pastors in Exile). March 1-3. Register at slmc.ca/retreats.

**Broader Community**

**Wild Hope for God’s Garden** - February 23-25, at The First Mennonite Church in Vineland (3557 Rittenhouse Rd. Vineland). Join us as Joanne Moyer leads 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.

**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 18-25, 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

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

11:10 a.m. – Adult Sunday School

*Speaking:* Herb Sawatzky

*Scripture:* Genesis 17:1–17, 15–16, Psalm 22:23–31, Mark 8:31–38, Romans 4:13–25

*Theme:* Showing Us Faith

**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.