

Welcome to Melville United Church
 April 21, 2013 4th of Easter - Earth Day Sunday

MINISTERS: The People of the Congregation

*You are invited to stand in body and/or in spirit.

Our Mission

We seek, we pray, we act knowing that Jesus is amongst us.

Our Vision

Knowing we are not alone on our spiritual journeys, Melville United Church seeks to be an open, compassionate and inclusive Christian community; honouring and serving the living Christ in all that we do.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Words of Welcome

As the International Space Station circles around the globe, we are ever more aware that we live together on one Earth with one global ocean and one atmosphere. Our Creator God calls us into communion and community with all Creation. Our part of the covenant is to love this small planet we call home and bring harmony in the Earth community. On this Earth Sunday take time to reflect on Jesus' resurrection and how it reminds us that the universe is infused with the Spirit of the cosmic Christ.

PRELUDE: Improvisation

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: We light this candle to remind us of the presence of God.

All: May God's peace surround us.

INTROIT MV 173 Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

**1 Put peace into each other's hands
 and like a treasure hold it,
 Protect it like a candle flame,
 with tenderness enfold it.**

Call to worship

Gather everyone, to hear the surprising story:

It is a sad and joyful song from just beyond Christ's tomb;
all Earth has joined in.

**From our private thirst for truth,
we turn to the Stranger unexpectedly among us.
We fear. We doubt. We can't understand.**

Peace be with you, he says.

Why are you frightened?

Why do doubts arise within you?

Look and see, touch and taste!

We are witnesses:

Christ is alive!

Christ is with us!

Hallelujah.

OPENING SONG: VU 217 All Creatures of Our God and King

WE APPROACH GOD**Opening Prayer**

Living Christ, you were once dead,
And buried in the Womb of Life.

We know about death.

We gather when someone mourns
because of the pain death brings.

But now you are living.

**That kind of living
is hard for us to understand.**

Like your disciples,

**We would be terrified
to see your wounded hands and feet.**

**Terrified until you opened our minds
and we received your Peace.**

Earth joins our lament;

souls of lives now extinct,

and of those soon-to-be extinct.

They call to us:

"Can you not hear what song we sing?"

"Do you not see what we are saying?"

**We brought death,
and we bring death
in the name of our desires
to all of Earth, O Christ.**

**We are witnesses to that.
Can life come again to creation
as it once came again to you?**

Open our minds and hearts!

That we might see you,

O Christ,

standing among us;

that we and all creation might raise to life with you,

one Godly people,

one hale and hearty Earth.

Amen.

SONG: VU 229 God of the Sparrow

Theme Conversation

Blessing of One Another

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Acts 3: 12-19

1 John 1:1-2

Luke 24:36b-48

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Ruth Sproule

Choir Anthem: Be Aware of Wonder D. E. Wagner

REFLECTION:

Song of Response: MV 30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**Invitation to the Offering**

Christ's Loving Presence
flows through the cosmos
and through us.
Let it now flow
from us to all the earth
through our morning offering.

Offering: MV 191 What can I do?

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offering Prayer (unison)

**Hidden Christ, you are hidden Wholeness
to which death is but the portal.
Heart and Mind of the universe,
Mystery of Growth beyond our comprehension,
you hear our sigh
and all Earth's incessant sigh
for completion.
Receive our gifts and action promises,
and bless them and us all
that we in turn may be a
blessing to your creation:
our home, our source, and our very being.
Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of the People**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

CLOSING SONG: VU 296 This Is God's Wonderous World

Benediction

May the blessing of
Hidden Wholeness,
who knows the universe to be One,
And the blessing of the Christ,
who is our Assurance that all creation will reach its goal,
And the blessing of the Spirit,
Who lures us toward Mystery,
Stir in you/us,
and nurture you/us this day and always,
into our great and glorious cosmic inheritance

Choral Benediction: MV 209 Go and Make a Difference

Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence

Go make a diff'rence in the world

Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence

Go make a diff'rence in the world

We are the salt in the earth,

called to let the people see

The love of God in you and me

We are the light of the world, not to be hidden,

but be seen

Go make a diff'rence in the world

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POSTLUDE: Prelude in E flat - H. Peter

OUR WORSHIP - OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Prayers used in today's service may be from "Seasons of the Spirit" or "Gathering" Magazine. Parts of this service used with permission of the United Church of Canada.

Partners in Prayer: Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora, St. Andrew's, Alma
Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Parkminster, Waterloo
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Diane Maloney, Eleanor Johnston,
Mary Lloyd
Counters: Jane O'Leary (C), Gary O'Leary
Eleanor Johnston

ANNOUNCEMENTS April 21, 2013

If you are a guest today, please know you are most welcome! Please sign our Guest Book at the back of the church or in the entranceway.

Come for lunch today after church. Delicious turkey and potato ham soups, buns, drinks, rice pudding and fruity jellios. Freewill donation to support Julie Miner's medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic with her paramedic class from Georgian College.

TODAY - Centre Wellington Singers present their Spring Concert at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Fergus at 3:30 p.m.

Spirituality Circle meets this Monday, April 22 at 10 a.m. in the parlour.

Unit Faith meets Mon. Apr. 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the parlour. There will be guest speakers.

Friends Potluck Lunch on Sat. Apr. 27th at 12:00 noon in the Heritage Hall. Everyone is welcome! For more info call Doreen 519-843-1998. If you need a ride, please call Art Russell at 519-4140.

Mission and Outreach is supporting the Food Bank with cookies and crackers for the month of April.

Next Sunday we will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Please join us for worship as we warmly welcome:

Braden - son of Carly and Matt McFarlane
and Skylar daughter of Jamie and Fadio DiMarco.

Spring Garage & Bake Sale is fast approaching! Please keep your Melville Church in mind, while doing your spring clean-up or de-cluttering! We can use "Anything & Everything"! You may want to start freezing your baking! Drop-off date for items: Thurs. May 9th Sale Date: Fri, Sat & Mon, May 10, 11 & 13th Contact Lorna for info: 519-787-0570

Saturday, April 27, 8pm: Guelph Chamber Choir presents "Songfest 2013: World Music". Their annual Community Concert featuring special guests: The Antler River Projec and the talents of other choirs from our local community. At the River Run Centre. Single tickets \$25 each or 4 for only \$80. Students \$10. And only \$5 for youth with eyeGO. Reserve at: 519-767-0792

Spring Luncheon, Sat. May 1, 11:30-1 at St. John's United Church, Belwood. Take-outs available call 843-3698.

On May 5th after church, there will be a Congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a JNAC report presented.

Upcoming Hot Dog lunch! Please join us for lunch after the service on May 5th in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds will be going to Women in Crisis.

Dear Friends in Christ, As you may be aware, Norfolk Street United Church will be closing the end of April, 2013. Our final service will be on Sunday, April 28th at 10:30 a.m. We invite you to send a representative(s) from your congregation to join us in this final service as we celebrate the 177 year ministry of Norfolk Street United Church in downtown Guelph. A reception will follow the service. (We would like to send representatives from Melville to celebrate with Norfolk United. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Ralph Rainford.)

Dinner Theatre on May 4 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Pentecostal Church in Elora featuring The Orangeville YFC Drama Team. Tickets \$25 (includes a \$12 tax receipt. Call Matt Cole 519-993-2653 or John Cuming at 519-831-4774. Come support the Youth of our community.

There are still tickets available for the United Church Youth Theatre of Guelph presentation of an Evening/Afternoon with Victor Hugo - a mixed programme of story, reflection, and song based on Victor Hugo's Les Miserables , including Les Miserables, a new drama, by B.A. Schwartzkopf on Saturday May 11, 7pm and Sunday, May 12, 2pm . Dress rehearsal attendance May 9th will also be permitted. There is no charge for the tickets, however donations to the Chalmers Food Shelf will be collected. Contact the church office for tickets. For further information: Pat Harland, patharland@hotmail.com or 519.829.2225

Our next Book Group will be reading Crow Lake by Mary Lawson. Book is available in the library.

There are meat pies for sale for \$4/each. Please contact Bev Anticknap at 519-843-2491.

TREASURE SHOP - A free GOOD used clothing giveaway. May 4th , 2013 9:00 a.m. till 12 noon. Held at Bethel Baptist Church, 675 Victoria Terrace, Fergus

Taizé Evening Service: Thursday, April 18th at 7:30pm at St James Church, 171 Queen St E, Fergus. A quiet evening of song, prayer and healing. All are welcome. Tel: 519-843-2141.

Seeking applicants for the position of Secretary of Halton Presbytery. The salary of \$15,000 per year is based on 13 hours a week and begins on July 1, 2013. Some training is available. For a detailed position description please follow the link on the Halton Presbytery website. Deadline for applications is May 1, 2013. Please submit applications to Rev. Gord Dunbar at www.portnelsonunitedchurch.com or mail to Rev Dunbar at Port Nelson United Church, 3132 South Drive, Burlington, ON, L7N 1H7

On May 11 and 12 at 2pm, the United Church Youth Theatre presents: An Evening/Afternoon with Victor Hugo - a mixed programme of story, reflection and song based on Victor Hugo's Les Miserables including Les Miserables - a new drama by B.A. Schwartzkopf.

A limited number of tickets for these performances, which take place at Harcourt(87 Dean Ave, Guelph), will be available for pick up next Sunday, Please sign our ticket request clipboard after church today. There is no charge, but non-perishables will be accepted for the Chalmers Food Shelf (Our goal is 25,000 lbs of food). The UCG has generously funded this production. Please note that people may attend the dress rehearsal May 9th but should notify Pat Harland 519.829.2225 patharland@hotmail.com

A fun night of comedy -- a one act play "The Travelling Sisters" and "Fractured Fairy Tales." All this and refreshments too. Friday, April 26, 7 p.m. at St. John's United, Belwood. Reserve your tickets, \$10, by calling Carman at 787-5217.

In fall 2012, the council of Melville United Church agreed to become a Child Honouring Community. With religious & spiritual leaders from around the world, including former United Church Moderator Bill Phipps, we make the following commitment in honour of children:

We hereby make a new promise
to the young of our world

•

With utmost compassion
we urge an end to
all forms of maltreatment
and violence against children

•

We uphold the sanctity of children
We respect their personhood
We affirm their inherent dignity
and their right to peace
love and security

Please visit www.childhonouring.org to learn more about the child honouring movement.

April 21, 2013

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Apr. 22 to Sun. Apr. 28, 2013

Mon. 22	10:00	Spirituality Circle	Parlour
	2:00	Unit Faith	Parlour
Tues. 23	9:00	Quilting	Heritage Hall
Wed. 24	7:30	Church Council	Heritage Hall
Thurs. 25	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 26	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Spiritual Meditation	Library
Sat. 27	12:00	Friends Potluck Lunch	Heritage Hall
Sun. 28	9:30	Choir	Choir Room
	10.30	Sunday Service	Sanctuary

Bulletin Deadline: Please remember, deadline for articles in the bulletin is Thurs. noon! The bulletin will be printed out Thursday afternoons.