

Welcome to Melville United Church
February 17, 2013 - 1st in Lent - Communion Sunday

MINISTERS: The People of the Congregation

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Gathering Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

Gathering Meditation.

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is a time to think about the things that block us from following God's way of loving and caring for this world and one another.

So we ask:

Not what we can take	but what we can give
Not what we can possess	but what we can share
Not what we can acquire	but what we can contribute
Not what we can attain	but what we can achieve
Not what we can earn	but what we can spend
Not what we can secure.	but what we can give up.

This is how we will travel in Lent.

Six Lenten candles are lit

Gathering Music: MV 85

*Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

*Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

Call to worship

Voice One: Come into this space

Voice Two: All you who live in the shelter of the most high

All: We travel with God.

Voice One: Come into this space

Voice Two: all who trust God as your refuge and strength

All: We meet with God here.

Voice One: Come into this space
 Voice Two: God's most high dwelling place.
All: We worship God here.

*OPENING HYMN: VU 633 Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Opening Prayer (unison)

Shape this moment with us God of Lent.

Call us again in this time of challenge and questions.

**Journey with us once more through this land of wilderness
 and speak to us of ancient promises breaking open once more.**

This is our journey and you are our guide. May we travel together.

Amen.

Prayer of Letting Go

*(You are invited to clench your fists as we pray and then release them
 with palms facing up, as all sing, Take, O Take Me as I Am, (MV 85).*

When we travel through Lent, we travel light.

The story is heavy enough. What must we let go?

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
 set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

We let go of the history that shames us...what we have done in the past
 to peoples and to all of God's creation.

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
 set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

We let go of hurting words...

what we have said that does not bring life to others.

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
 set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

We let go of the things that bind us...the things we believe about each
 other that prevent all from having abundant life.

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
 set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

When we travel through Lent, we travel light.

We release those things we do not need,
 so we can journey in the way of Christ.

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
 set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

Assurance of God's Grace

As we let go of what hurts and separates us, our gracious and forgiving
 God makes a new way of being in community possible.

God is with us!

Let us travel in peace, in new life, in hope, and in promise.

May it be so! Amen.

One: May peace be with you

All: And also with you.

One; Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.

WE APPROACH GOD

*HYMN: MV 28 God of the Bible

Theme Conversation

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Hebrew Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26: 1 -11 Learning How to Give

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4: 1- 13 Choose wisely.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Mary Lloyd

REFLECTION: "PRACTICE GRATITUDE"

Valerie Pitt

Time of Reflection

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offertory Invitation

Today's lesson from Deuteronomy instructs us to present the first
 portion of our earnings to God and to celebrate the gifts God bestows
 upon us. So let us celebrate together now as we present our offerings
 to our Creator.

Offertory Response: VU 538 For the Gift of Creation

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Offertory Prayer

Abundant and caregiving God, thank you for the blessings and gifts that you bestow on us. We rejoice together as we acknowledge all that you provide for us. In our daily lives, help us to be thankful. May our lives and the gifts that we present be dedicated to your service. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus

Song in Preparation for Communion: MV 195 Long Ago and Far Away

Communion (*on insert*)

Anthem During Communion M. Wagner - On Eagles Wings

Act of Letting Go

Today we extinguish our first Lenten candle. This candle represents envy and jealousy. As this candle is blown out, let us pray in silence for God to remove jealousy within us and in our world that stops us from appreciating the things we have by wishing we had more.

Pause for silence

Knowing that God accepts us for who we are, and loves us into who we can be, let us join together our closing song.

*CLOSING HYMN: VU 120 O Jesus I Have Promised

Blessing

Go now following the Christ on the way.
May the season bless us,
the way guide us,
the grace shape us,
the love renew us.
We are people on the way,
may God go with us as we travel.
Amen.

Choral Response: Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Amen, Amen, Amen

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POSTLUDE:

OUR WORSHIP IS OVER - OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Partners in Prayer: Grand River Community Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: KTV

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Eleanor Brown, Virginia Ingleby

Diane Maloney, Elizabeth Stintson

Counters:

Gwen Swift (C), Marlene Mahoney

Hugh Mahoney

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 17, 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.

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Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who attended our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. It was a huge success. We served almost 250 people. This is a record setting dinner for pancakes here at Melville. A special thank you to the thirty people from our congregation who gave of their time to work at this event. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. We made a profit of over \$1000.00. Well done, everyone! Ralph Rainford for the Fun, Funds and Fellowship Committee.

After Church today the Transition Team will offer an opportunity to continue the conversation around our new vision statement. We are hoping to receive your feedback. The vision statement is not something the transition team has created alone. It is being prayerfully developed using the language and ideas from our previous vision statement and the recent visioning day. The vision statement reflects the ministry that you have named as important to the mission of Melville United Church. If you weren't able to attend the visioning day or would like to share your thoughts and input we would love to receive them.

The Annual Report is available at the back of the church. There a limited number of copies so when you pick up your copy, please bring it along with you to the Annual Meeting on Sun. Feb. 24.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is NEXT SUNDAY. Will you serve our church and community by joining one of Melville's Ministry Teams? Please add your name to the Sign-up sheets where there is the most need for new members.

Our Lenten Study begins this Tuesday at 12 noon. We will begin by sharing soup. The study will begin at 12:30 p.m. The study books "Diving Deeply" are at the back of the church. The cost is \$10. You may purchase a book for your own use even if you are not planning on attending the group.

Unit Joy Meeting: Ladies, we will be meeting on Tues. Feb. 19th at 7:30 pm in the Beatty Parlour. Please plan to attend!!!

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Bridge Construction: Wellington County will be fencing off and renting a portion of our parking lot and rear yard beginning on Feb. 11 until about Nov. 8. The contractor for the Tower Street Bridge reconstruction, McLean Taylor, will be using the yard for trailers and storage. The County appreciates our co-operation.

Young Adults Get Together!! Feb. 16th at 6:30 p.m. young adults are invited for home cooked meal, plus a fun time with other young adults! Come on your own, or bring a friend. Location to be finalized shortly (stay posted!)

Melville United Book Group "I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity" by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish. It is in the Library.

Family Chili and Soup Dinner. Friday February 22nd, 5-6 p.m. at Melville. Join us for dinner, then stay to Wii Bowl for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Please email or leave a voice mail for Jen if you plan to attend so we have some sense of numbers.

Wii Bowl for Kids Sake. Friday February 22 from 6-8 p.m. at Melville United Church. Please bring \$10 towards Big Brothers Big Sisters to participate, or get a pledge form from Jen to collect sponsors instead.

Ecumenical Week of Guided Prayer in Guelph and Area is a time to renew your commitment to a daily spiritual practice? For the 30th year, the Ecumenical Week of Guided Prayer is being offered here in Guelph. It starts, Sunday Feb 24 with an opening session at Three Willows United Church*, at 2:00 P.M. The week closes on Saturday Mar 2nd at St. George's Anglican Church at 9 A.M. Registration is on-line at www.guidedprayer.webs.com. If you have any questions, please contact April at 519 766 9316 or email eguildwogp@gmail.com. Forms are at the back of the church.

Moneys collected in our Pennies from Heaven jar will be directed towards Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre Wellington Bowl for Kids sake from now until the end of February.

Complimentary Evening Honouring Women of the World - Friday, March 8th – 7 p.m. at the Elora Legion – Maple Leaf Room. The Grandmothers of the Grand (Stephen Lewis Foundation) invite all ladies to a complimentary evening honouring Women of the World. Sample International foods from local Restaurants and Bitros, Shop at the Marketplace, meet your friends and make new ones. Take some time for you! Listen to the beautiful sounds of Nonie Crete. Sharon Ogden, will speak about the Stephen Lewis Foundation and its current advocacies and initiatives. Women build bridges of peace and hope for the future. Call Laurie 519-994-3324 or Elly 519-843-1528 for more info.

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.

Welcome, welcome, welcome! If you would like to be a Welcomer at Melville, please see Ralph Rainford. Excellent benefits and on the job training. Apply anytime with enthusiasm.

Taizé Evening Prayer Service at St James Anglican Church, Fergus. A quiet evening of song, prayer and healing - 7:30pm. All Are Welcome. 171 Queen St E, Fergus (alongside the Grand River, near Groves Hospital).

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Feb. 18 to Sun. Feb. 24, 2013

Tues. 19	9:00	Quilting	Heritage Hall
	11:45	Soup and Lenten Study	Parlour
Thurs. 21	7:00	Choir	Parlour
	7:30	Can. Bible Society	Library
Fri. 22	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
	5:00	Family Chili & Soup Dinner	
	6:00	WII Bowl	Fellowship Hall and Heritage Hall
Sun. 24	9:30	Choir	Choir Room
	10.30	Sunday Service	Sanctuary

Melville United Church

St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Interim Minister:	Valerie Pitt
Youth Ministry Leader:	Jennifer Auger
Director of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	David Gohn
Pastoral Care:	Millie Cumming, Elizabeth Stinson
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com

Draft Vision and Mission Statement

A Work in Progress - We would love to receive you input and feedback after the worship service.

Our Mission

We seek, we pray, we act as if 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.

Our Values

We are a multi-generational community of committed Christians on a journey to seek justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.

- We celebrate God's love through various expressions of worship.
- We share God's love through pastoral care and our community and global outreach.
- We nurture spiritual growth and caring relationships for all ages.
- We embrace and encourage the talents and contributions of all.
- We strive to be faithful stewards of God's creation and gifts.

God is with us. Thanks be to God!