

Welcome to Melville United Church

February 24, 2013 - 2nd in Lent

MINISTERS: The People of the Congregation

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

The Life and Work of the Church and Community.

PRELUDE:

Gathering Meditation.

Today is the second 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.

Five 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

One: A new day has come, a new week has begun.

**All: We too, need to be new people
as we journey through this season of Lent:
a people with a new vision and purpose;
a people with a new understanding of Jesus
a people with a new desire to live with respect and love.
a people with renewed faith and hope.**

One: Come, let us worship God. *(paraphrased from a prayer by Bill Steadman)*

OPENING SONG: VU 766 As the Deer Pants for Water

Opening Prayer

One: May we shape a space to meet you, O God,
a shape that plays with mystery,
opens up justice, seeks peace,
and binds us together as community.
May we make alive the journey of promise,

**All: Full of expectant hope that the going will come good.
May we travel through dust and ashes
bread and wine
water and hopelessness to find you,
the God who travels with us. Amen.**

Prayer of Letting Go

Too often we come to you reluctantly,
afraid of what we might have to give up
or change when we enter your presence.

In our reluctance,
we often miss opportunities for your grace to touch us,
and through us to touch others.
Touch us that we might be restored and remind us
of your love. Amen.

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

SONG: Be Still

Band Song

Theme Conversation

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 Ritual of Promise (*Pg 52
Seasons for Powerpoint*)

Gospel Lesson: Luke 13: 31-35

Hold to the promise to make sense of the present.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Kaillie Rawn

Choir Anthem

REFLECTION: *"RITUAL OF PROMISE"*

Valerie Pitt

SONG: VU 117 Jesus Christ is Waiting

Time of Reflection

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offertory Invitation

God is our strength and our shield and our provider. What a precious thing it is to believe in God and to belong to a faith community! Let us respond to God's bounty to us by presenting our gifts for the work of God's church in this place.

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 (unison)

Gracious and loving God, we offer these monetary gifts and those already given through PAR for your mission and ministry in the world, as well as for this congregation. In our giving, may we be blessed with the sure knowledge that we are making a difference and the confidence that we ourselves have enough. Amen.

Joys and Concerns - Weaving our tapestry of prayers.

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus

(weaving together our prayers) Purple ribbons.

Act of Letting Go

Today we will extinguish our second Lenten candle. This candle represents greed. As the candle is blown out, let us pray in silence for God to remove greed within us and in our world that stops us from being satisfied with what we have and from sharing with one another.

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 SONG: VU 288 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Blessing

May God bless you with foolishness.

Enough foolishness to believe

that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

And may you know the peace and love of Christ in all that you do.

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.

Prayers used in today's service may be taken from "Seasons of the Spirit" or "Gathering" Magazine.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Canadian Reformed Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: McIntosh-Mildmay

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Dorothy and George Collin

Bob Zirk, Karen Smillie

Counters:

Karen Smillie (C), Eleanor Johnston

John Duncan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 24, 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.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is TODAY! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch and stay for the Annual Meeting. You can also 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.

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Your 2012 Donation Receipts and T5 Tax Receipts are at the back of the church. Please pick them up. Any not picked up will be mailed out on Monday.

Tower Street Door: Due to the bridge construction and since the sidewalk has been closed, please avoid using the door to Tower Street, except as an emergency exit. Thank you

Spirituality Circle meets on Monday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. in the parlour.

Unit Faith meets on Mon. Feb. 25 at 2:00 p.m. in the parlour. All are welcome!

Unit Grace meets on Tues. Feb. 26 at 2:00 p.m. in the parlour. Everyone welcome!

Our Lenten Study continues on 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.

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. Copies available in the library.

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, **Today, 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.

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March 3 - Hot Dog Sunday... proceeds to support Community Resource Centre - We work with this organization with regards to transient funding. If a need for emergency funding for food or lodgings arises we have encouraged our staff to connect the individuals with the Community Resource Centre. Also the major fund raising initiative for the CRC "Chilliest" was cancelled this year due to a snow storm. Let's help the resource centre of Centre Wellington by coming out to have a Hot Dog!!

U.C.W. Presbyterial Full Executive Meeting at St. James' - Rosemount United Church in Kitchener on Mar. 4 from 9:00 a.m. There will be a speaker on Water Issues in the Waterloo Region. Please bring your lunch.

Advance Notice - Canadian Bible Society Dinner. Please mark your calendars for the Annual CBS Dinner to be on MARCH 16, 2013 at the Alma Bible Church. The Theme is: "Prisoner's Key to Freedom" - The speaker will be Rev. Eleanor Clitheroe, Head of Prison Fellowship. Tickets are **ADVANCE ONLY** \$15.00 call John 519-843-2079 or Thelma 519-843-5376.

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.

Waterloo Presbyterial Annual Gathering on Mon. Apr. 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Forest Hill United Church in Kitchener. Cost is \$10 from your U.C.W. President or Margot at 519-742-6047

CW Food Bank item for the month of February - is a small financial request. Each week the Food Bank must purchase margarine to add to the offerings of the food supply. As we do not have refrigeration to collect and store margarine, we are asking for a small cash gift to be placed in our Food Bank baskets. After each church service the money will be collected, totalled and delivered to the food bank. If you are so moved to make a cheque donation - please make it payable to Centre Wellington Food Bank. Bless you all for the continued support of our local neighbours.

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.

If you know of someone who needs a visit in the hospital please contact Valerie at 519-843-1781.

Bulletins and Updates: If you want to be on the email list to receive weekly bulletins or other updates, please contact Gerri at the church office. Also, remember that the bulletins and calendar events are posted on our website, www.melvilleunited.com.

WEEKLY CALENDAR
Mon. Feb.25 to Sun. Mar. 3, 2013

Tues. 26	9:00	Quilting	Heritage Hall
	11:45	Soup and Lenten Study	Parlour
Thurs. 28	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 1	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
Sun. 3	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

The congregation will be asked for their support of these Statements & Values at our Annual Meeting immediately following the service today.

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 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!