

Welcome to Melville United Church

March 3, 2013 - 3rd in Lent

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

The Life and Work of the Church and Community.

PRELUDE: Improvisation

Gathering Meditation.

Today is the third 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.

Lenten candles are lit

Gathering Music: MV 85 Take, O Take Me As I Am

***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: Where the bright water flows,
where the table is set,
where the wine runs free,
where the bread is shared.

All: We find our loving God.

One: Where the thirsty are satisfied,
where the hungry are fed,
where the lost are invited,
where the poor are welcome;

All: We find our loving God.

One: Where the love is strong,
where the faith is deep,
where the prayer is heard,
where the soul is nourished.

All: We find our loving God.

OPENING SONG: VU 391 God, Reveal Your Presence

Opening Prayer (unison)

O God, we seek you and our soul thirsts for you. Wash away the dryness and weariness in our lives and revive us with your glorious presence, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Reminder

God, you have called us to be pilgrims.
Forgive us when we weary of the journey
and seek security
rather than the open road.
Forgive us when we feel
the risk of the journey is too great.
Grant us pilgrim spirits in this Lenten season
and lead us to the new life of Easter. 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

BAND SONG: Humble Thyself

Theme Conversation "Giving Up Power"

Blessing of Megan as she leaves for El Salvador.

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

Psalm 63: 1 - 8 *God Never Gives Up Loving*
Gospel Lesson: Luke 13: 1- 9 *The Parable of the Fig Tree*

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader: Allan Hons

Choir Anthem - Blest Are the Pure In Heart - R. S. Eaton

REFLECTION: "FERTILIZE IT!"

Valerie Pitt

Celebrating Our Church

Time of Reflection

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission:

Offertory Invitation

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)

**Here we ponder our many blessings,
here we share what we have to give,
here we pray a blessing on all these good things
within the love of God Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Community

Prayer of Jesus

Weaving together our prayers**Act of Letting Go**

Today we will extinguish our third Lenten candle. This candle represents power and pride. As the candle is blown out, let us pray in silence for God to remove any pride and power within us and in our world that makes us feel more important than others and stops us from asking for God's help when we need it.

(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 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Blessing

God we will bless you as long as we live.
We will lift up our hands and call on you name.
In this Sanctuary we have praised you, on holy
ground we have walked with you,
we have been fed and nurtured
and now we go with thankful hearts.

May the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Spirit be
with each one of us always. Amen.

Choral Response: Go Now in Peace

Don Besig & Nancy Price

**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 God 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: Prelude on Durham - H. Willan

OUR WORSHIP IS OVER - OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

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

Partners in Prayer: Grace Christian Fellowship, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Milgrove

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Isobel Glennie, Diane Maloney

Lorna Bevcar, David Gohn

Counters:

Dennis Hons (C), George Collin

Patty Foster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 3, 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.

TODAY !! 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!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you for electing me as your new Chairperson of our Church Council. I am looking forward to an exciting year and the many wonderful events here at Melville. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. Ralph Rainford

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 next meets on Monday, March 11 at 10 a.m. in the parlour.

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". All are welcome.

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.

Baptism Sunday is April 28th. Please speak to Val if you are interested. **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.

The World Day of Prayer will be at the Central Pentecostal Church on Fri. Mar 8th at 2:00 p.m.

March 10th after church - "The Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice" with Chris Grose as facilitator. Join us in the chapel after the church service to learn more about walking the labyrinth. Christ Grose is a member of Alma United Church and a trained labyrinth facilitator.

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.

International Women's Day – 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.

“Toward Daring Discipleship” a Lenten Study will be on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 at the home of Chris Grose in Alma. Here is a break down of the dates and what we will be covering: Thursday March 7th: Introduction/Study Overview and Lent ; Thursday March 21st: Lent 2 & 3; Thursday March 28th: Lent 4 & 5. Please speak to Val for more information.

WEEKLY CALENDAR
Mon. Mar 4 to Sun. Mar. 10, 2013

Tues. 5	9:00	Quilting	Heritage Hall
	11:45	Soup and Lenten Study	Parlour
Thurs. 7	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 8	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
Sun. 10	9:30	Choir	Choir Room
	10:30	Sunday Service after the service	Sanctuary
		“The Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice” with Chris Grose	Chapel

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:	Ralph Rainford
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

Lent can be more than a time of fasting; it can be a season of feasting.

We can use Lent to fast from certain things and to feast on others.

Lent is a season in which we can:

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ indwelling them.
Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of all life.
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.
Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
Fast from worry; feast on divine order.
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal Truth.
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.
Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.

- William Arthur Ward

(American author, teacher and pastor, 1921-1994.)