

Welcome to Melville United Church
 May 5, 2013 - 168th Anniversary 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

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE: Improvisation

Call to worship

One: Come, let us give thanks to God on this anniversary Sunday.

ALL: We give thanks for many blessings, and many experiences.

One: Come, seek, pray and act.

Share all that you are and all that you are yet to be.

ALL: We look to God who offers us help and support.

One: Come, know that Jesus is amongst us.

ALL: God is with us always – wherever we serve, wherever we live Christ's message, wherever we share our faith.

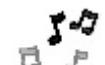
Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: We light this candle to remind us of the presence of Christ as we celebrate the past, honour the present and look forward to the future.

All: **May God's love surround and encourage us.**

Happy birthday to our church
 Happy birthday to our church
 Happy birthday our Melville.
 Happy birthday to our church.



Prayer of Approach:

One: Be near to us, God, in this time of worship. May we experience this gathering here today as a moment of personal and congregational renewal. May those around us sense the encouragement of a whole community with them. May each one of us sense that God is here in our midst, awakening us to new opportunities of seeing life filled with hope and goodwill. Let us seek new opportunities as Christ's people this day. Hear us, God, as we offer our personal prayers in silence now...

Words of Assurance:

One: We enter life at birth as a new journey, and every day we find new answers to our many questions. Sometimes those answers, however, lead to more and more questions. One thing is for sure: God never questions our right to be, and our place on this earth. As people of faith, we are open to God's presence. God is beside us, ready to support us in all that we face. Know that you are special in God's sight, and be thankful.

OPENING SONG: VU 232 Joyful, Joyful

WE APPROACH GOD**Theme Conversation**

Jen Auger

Blessing of One Another

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

Matthew 13: 44-48

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: David Gohn

Choir Anthem: We Rise Again - arr. L. Adams
Solos by Jen Auger and Megan Smith

Message: "SEEKING WHAT YOU HAVE"

Bill Steadman

Song: VU 356 Seek Ye First

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission:

Mary Lloyd

Invitation to the 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)

Gift giving God, for 168 years we have gathered in this place to share what we are and have. Help us continue this sharing of our time, talent, and treasure. May the gifts we give be gifts of Love. May they increase the power of Love in the re-creation of the world. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Covenanting of Council Members.

Council members please come forward

Scripture

Let us hear the message of scripture.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body which has many parts.
 If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;
 if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.
 All of us are Christ's body,
 and each one is a part of it. - 1 Corinthians 12

Statement of Purpose

Friends, we celebrate with joy and gratitude that you have been called by God, and chosen by the people of Melville United congregation for leadership in the church.

This ministry is a blessing, an honour, and a responsibility.
 It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us, with us, and on our behalf.

We thank you and challenge you to offer your best to God, and to all God's people.

Covenant Questions and Promises

As you come to assume the duties of your office,
 let us make a covenant before God and with one another.

To the Council members

As a disciple of Jesus Christ,
 will you continue to live out your faith
 with praise and thanksgiving?
 Will you carry out your responsibilities/duties
 in this congregation with integrity and joy ?

Response

I will, God being my helper.

To the congregation

Will you, the members of Melville United Church honour the leadership of these people?
 Will you assist them through daily prayer, generous support, and personal example, so that, together, we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ ?

We will, God being our helper.

Prayer

**Loving God, you have called these people to serve you.
 Send your Holy Spirit upon them and upon us all
 that we may keep the promises we have made today.
 Help them to fulfill their responsibilities.
 May their leadership help us all
 to reflect your love and grace always. Amen.**

Declaration

In the name of God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we recognize and affirm you in your ministry as members of Council.

Showing our appreciation.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Prayers of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

CLOSING SONG: VU 660 How Firm a Foundation

Blessing:

Benediction - Melville

Choral Benediction: Melville Benediction

Let's go out from here and take our place,
 Respect creation, sharing all God's grace.
 Treasure the past and things we have done,
 Open our minds to new things yet to come.
 God will be with us within, around, above,
 Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!
 Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!

Matthias Schmidt

POSTLUDE: Fanfare - W. Mathias

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: Unitarian Universalist Association

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Scotland, Erie Presbytery

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Eleanor Johnston, Peggie Dickie,

Mary Hume, Isobel Glennie

Counters: Les Frayne (C), Marg. Frayne

Eleanor Johnston

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 5, 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.

We welcome **The Rev. Dr. Bill Steadman**, our guest and speaker today.

TODAY - after church, there will be a celebration lunch and cake followed by an update from the JNAC Team. All are welcome.

Pastoral Care meets on May 10th at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room.

The next Spirituality Circle will next meet Monday, May 13 at 10 a.m. in the parlour.

The Secretary will be away from May 9 until May 15th inclusive. The office will be open in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Thurs. and Mon. and in the afternoon on Fri.

Mark your calendars! Family Camp weekend at Camp Edgewood will be June 22-23rd, 2013. All are invited to join us in Eden Mills for fellowship, food, workshops for the adults, and games, activities and crafts for the young. So bring your kids, your grandkids, or any other loved ones for a great time. Come for a day, part of a day, or the whole weekend. Registration will begin Sunday May 19th.

Please note: Our main worship will be held at Camp Edgewood at 11 a.m. on Sunday the 23rd, followed by lunch and traditional Sunday School Picnic activities. Carpooling will be available from Melville's parking lot at 10:30 a.m. to the camp. There will also be a small gathering for worship in the Chapel at Melville for any who are unable to make the trip out to camp.

Our Spring Garage & Bake Sale: Just a friendly reminder that our Spring Garage & Bake Sale is fast approaching! Please give your home a "once-over" to see if you have items for donation to our sale! We would gladly take them off your hands! We are officially accepting donations in the Fellowship Hall, on Thurs. May 9th, 9am - 6pm. The Sale is: Fri, Sat & Mon May 10, 11 & 13th, 8am-4pm. If you could do some baking for us, that would be much appreciated! Our manpower is always limited, so if you would kindly package them in 6's or 12's, "ready for sale", that would be all the better! Baking can be brought into the Church all day/evening on Thurs. or Fri. morning! Our goal once more is to: "Burn The Bills!!!" For information or questions: call Lorna 519-787-0570. Thank you so much!!!

TODAY - Spring Concert with Debbie BeChamp - Gospel & Country Music on Sun. May 5 at 3 p.m. at Trinity United Church Grand Valley. Concert is \$10, Concert and Dinner \$15. For Tickets call 519-928-9748.

At the invitation of Rev. Gary Patterson, Moderator of the United Church, we have been invited to take part in conversations related to the challenges of the church. If you are interested in joining a small group for discussion, please contact Ralph Rainford 519 843-3841.

Rescue In the Night. On May 12 (Christian Family Sunday) during our regular Worship Service the Children's choir of Melville will lead the worship by performing Rescue In the Night. This Musical is based on the story of Daniel in the Lion's den and will show the singing and acting talents of 22 of our youth and children. Please invite, family friends and neighbors to join us in this celebration.

The United Church Youth Theatre of Guelph is very grateful for the overwhelming support and response to the upcoming performances of An Evening/Afternoon with Victor Hugo. There are some tickets remaining for Sunday, May 12. If you are interested, or would like to attend the dress rehearsal Thursday May 9th at 4 pm please contact Pat: 519.829.2225 patharland@hotmail.com

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.

The Rural Women's Support Program is the rural outreach program for Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis. The Rural Women's Support Program has 4 offices in the county, one in Fergus, one in Mt. Forest, Palmerston and Erin. We provide support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including support for child sexual abuse, and support to family members of sexual assault victims. We provide support services such as, individual support counselling, group support, we can connect women to Marianne's shelter, provide advocacy, accompaniments, practical assistance, housing support, family court support etc. In 2012 we provided services to 301 women, 17 children and 2 men locally. The agency as a whole served 1,065 women in Guelph and Wellington County. We answered 2,864 crisis calls from our 24 hour crisis line, and we held 222 public education events. Of course we couldn't do all this work without the support of our wonderful volunteers who put in 8,735 hours in 2012.

We are a non-profit organization and therefore are responsible for a great deal of fundraising in order to provide these important services to our community. On Mother's Day we will be having our annual Mother's Day run/walk here in Fergus, May 13th @ 9:30 am - for more information go to www.gwwomenincrisis.org

At the April 24th Church Council Meeting, we accepted with regret a letter of resignation from our Treasurer Dennis Hons. We thank him for his volunteer service to Melville as our Treasurer. Gwen Swift has kindly offered to assist in the interim while we find a new Treasurer.

Taizé Service at 7:30pm on Thursday, May 16th at 7:30pm. An evening of song, prayer and healing at St James Anglican Church, 171 Queen St E, Fergus.

Parish Hike. During the summer months St James Church, Fergus, organises a parish hike each month. This month it will be on Sunday, May 19th. We will meet at 2pm at the south end of the bridge in Belwood and will walk into the conservation area. All are welcome. Further info: Melanie (519) 787-0298.

May 5, 2013

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. May 6 to Sun. May, 13, 2013

Tues. 7	9:00	Quilting	Heritage Hall
Thurs. 9	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 10	8:00	Garage Sale and Bake Sale - all day	Fellowship Hall
	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	10:30	Pastoral Care Meeting	Choir Room
	11:00	Spiritual Meditation	Library
Sat. 11	8:00	Garage Sale and Bake Sale - all day	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 12	9:30	Choir	Choir Room
	10:30	Sunday Service	Sanctuary