

Welcome to Melville United Church

December 8, 2013 - 2nd of Advent - PEACE

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: Prelude on O Little town of Bethlehem - G. Phillips

Time of Quieting and Lighting of Candles

One: We light these candles to remind us of the presence of God

All: **May the light of love surround us**

INTROIT Opening Chorus: VU 22 Wait For the Lord 4X

Wait for the Lord, God's day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!

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Call to Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle (on insert) Thelma French and Family

HYMN VU 7 Hope is a Star - verse 2

GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

God of hope and peace, As we look to the manger we remember the midwife, the un-named one who played a prominent role in birthing the Christ child. In this time of Advent we look seek the midwives amongst us. God's messengers of hope, birthing new life and bringing new life bringing peace, love and joy to all people.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: VU 2 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Passing of the Peace

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

HYMN: MV 149 Peace for the Children

THEME CONVERSATION

Blessing of One Another

Readings

God your word is a light to our path,
Your word is a breath to our stillness,
Your word is water to our thirst:

Refresh us now and speak through your word. Amen (Kate Crawford)

Readings

**Joy shall come
even to the wilderness,
and the parched land
shall then know great gladness;
as the rose,
as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.
For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow.”**

Traditional Israeli reading

An Advent Creed (Unison) (on insert)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Susan Barth

ANTHEM: Christmas is Coming - J. Raney

MESSAGE: “BIRTHING PEACE AND JUSTICE” Valerie Pitt

Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful (*alternate words*)

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING INVITATION

When we give from our hearts and seek to meet needs, there is no such thing as being more or less generous.

Because God has been generous to us, let us offer our gifts.

Offertory Response: VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter vs 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Loving and living God as we prepare to celebrate the birth of your son,
our brother Jesus, move us by your generous spirit and bless these gifts
in your name. Amen.**

A SPECIAL TIME OF CELEBRATION

Affirmation of Faith and Transfer of Membership.

**Ioan and Elmer Shortt by Affirmation of Faith
Jen Auger from Rosedale United Church, Toronto
Jackie and Bruce Parkin from St James-Rosemount United Church, Kitchener
Betty and Art Shore from Shawville United Church, Shawville, Quebec**

Joys and Concern

Prayer of Jesus

CLOSING HYMN: VU 23 Joy Shall Come

BLESSING

May hope fill your heart.

May peace bless your spirit.

May joy guide your journey.

May love light your way.

Choral Closing: One I Love

Choral Closing VU 35 Good Christian Friends Rejoice (*verse 3*)

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!**

Now ye need not fear the grave:

Peace! Peace!

Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all

to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save!

Christ was born to save!

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POSTLUDE: Magnificat primi toni - D. Buxtehude

Prayers for this worship service may be from Seasons of the Spirit or Gathering Magazine.

OUR WORSHIP ENDS - OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Partners in Prayer: Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Erindale, Mississauga

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Karen Smillie, Richard Wright,
Isobel Glennie, Eleanor Johnston

Counters: Karen Smillie (Captain), Eleanor Johnston
Graeme Chalmers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec. 8, 2013

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome! Please sign our Guest Book at the back of the church or in the entranceway.

A short Pastoral Care Meeting on Fri. Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room.

Saturday, December 14th at 9:30. Please join us for morning away from the busyness of the Christmas Season. We will engage in spiritual practices and share Christmas memories followed by a pot luck luncheon. All are welcome.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday December 15, 2013 to receive the report and recommendation of the Joint Search Committ.

Please note that the Christmas Eve Services will be 6:30 p.m. for the family and 10 p.m. will be Communion.

All ladies of the church are invited to a UCW Pot Luck dinner, Dec. 16, appetizers at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Come for good food, music and fellowship.

Children's Choir for Christmas. The Children's choir will sing during the Family service on Christmas Eve. They will sing a couple of easy Carols, which we will practice on Sundays in December starting on the 8th after the service. The practices will run from 12 to 12:30. If you would like to participate please come and/or contact Matthias Schmidt

The Spirituality Circle will meet only on Mon., Dec 9 at 10:00 in the parlour. The meetings will go back to the regular schedule of the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the New Year.

White Gift Sunday, December 15. Melville is supporting Centre Wellington High School's Aboriginal Club drive for children and baby gifts, winter clothing, and diapers. All items to be sent to a First Nation community in Northern Ontario and an Inuit community in Nunavut. Please bring items wrapped in white to worship on December 15.

Handel's Messiah sing-a-long, presented by the Guelph Chamber Choir. December 22 at 3:00 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, Guelph.

Angel Memory Tree - This initiative will be done differently this year from the past. If you wish to donate to the Angel Memory Tree project, please use the Special Givings envelope in your pew and the collection plate. Make sure you indicate "Angels" and make sure your name is clear on the envelope. This donation will be added to your givings.

Friends and Food and No Strings Attached Potluck Lunch on Sat. Dec. 14th at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome! For more info call Doreen 519-843-1998. If you need a ride, please call Art Russell at 519-787-4140.

Advent Study Tuesday at noon and Wednesday at 6: 30p.m. (please let Jen know if you plan to attend the evg. session) Turkey soup will be offered at 12 noon. All are welcome to one or all of these sessions. Books at the back of the church for \$10 each.

During the December 22nd service, there will be a de-covenanting ceremony for Val. The service will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us to say farewell to Val and to wish her all the best as she plans to retire from the ministry to pursue other paths. If you would like to donate towards a gift for Val, please see Ralph Rainford. Thank you.

Please assist with Sunday morning Coffee by signing up on the sheet on the Parlour door. Cookies, coffee and tea are supplied. If you cannot help you may wish to donate cookies. Just place them labelled in the upstairs kitchen.

Last call for Zehrs tapes... we need to have these in for a claim before Christmas as this will be our last time. Also we have discontinued collecting Campbell Soup labels for Kid's Church as we are no longer eligible. The labels have here are being delivered to J.D.Hogarth School as they do collect. On another collecting note... we do still collect cancelled stamps..so keep them coming!

Thank you for all the cereal for the Centre Wellington Food Bank... WE DID IT!! The delivery will be made December 10th to the Sportsplex. Bless you all for bringing the boxes in we are truly are a caring and loving congregation.

2014 United Church calendars are in. If you are interested in purchasing one, please see Doreen after church. A reminder that Mission and Outreach's Hot Dog lunch in December is in support of the Pastoral Care shut-in bags which will include calendars for our shut-ins.. Please plan to attend this lunch.

MELVILLE BOOK GROUP - our next book is available now in the church library. It is "Left Neglected" by Lisa Genova. We will be discussing it on Sunday, Dec. 29. Anyone is welcome to sign out a book even if you aren't able to make it to discussion.

Treasurer's Report	January 1 - October 31, 2013	
	Actual	Budget
Envelope givings	138,748	151,667
Other revenue	43,293	40,583
Total income	182,041	192,250
Total expenses	190,786	222,406
Net Income / (Loss)	(8,745)	(30,156)

Although still behind budget, envelope givings have been increasing...thank you! The amazing Fun, Funds and Fellowship team has once again done a tremendous job as fundraising revenue has already surpassed the annual budget by \$5,000! Expenses continue to come in under budget which results in a smaller loss than we had anticipated at this point in the budget

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 9 to Sun. Dec. 15 , 2013

Mon. 9	10:00	Spirituality Circle	Parlour
Tues. 10	9:00	Quilting	Heritage Hall
	12:00	Advent Study	Parlour
Wed. 11	6:30	Advent Study	Chapel
	7:00	Faith Formation	Parlour
Thurs. 12	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 13	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	10:30	Pastoral Care Meeting	Choir Room
	11:00	Meditation	Library
Sat. 14	12:00	Friendship Potluck Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 15	9:30	Choir	Choir Room
	10.30	Sunday Service	Sanctuary
	6:00	Bananas	Upper Auditorium