

To all the people at Melville

Last Week we truly Celebrated in Joy the 90th anniversary of being United Church, with the coming together of the congregations at Alma, Elora, Bethany, St. John's Belwood, St. Paul's Metz, Melville, Speedside and Barrie Hill. The celebrations began with an Open House at Belwood on Tuesday and an Open House at Speedside Friday afternoon. Friday evening and Saturday morning Melville hosted their Open house with Matthias presenting an Organ Recital Friday evening. Brad Halls presented a medley of show music Friday evening and Saturday morning. Sunday our grand church service took place with approximately 325 people in attendance plus 60 forming the choir. Rev. Marion Loree led the service, Rev. Kate Gregory gave a humorous account of the church leading up to 1925, Rev. Greg Smith-Young spoke of the church today and Rev. Lynne Hamilton presented a glimpse of the church in the future and assured us that God is in the midst of it all. At the beginning of the service the children and youth left for their own celebration, painted a Peace Pole in the garden and enjoyed a variety of activities under the direction of Jen Auger and Barb Smith-Young. At the end of the service the children and youth returned and Jen shared some photos of their time together. Following the service everyone enjoyed lunch and being in community with one another. The weather was perfect and enabled a lot of people to enjoy the new garden. The week was completed by the ringing of our church bell at precisely 10:30 AM Tuesday June 10th and offering birthday cake and lemonade to all who passed by.

At 11:00 AM the Pastoral Care Team hosted a church service, to include communion for our seniors and lunch which brought our week of celebrations to a close.

I would like to thank the people of Melville who worked tirelessly to make sure the building was clean, risers in place for the choir, people who made sure there was a bountiful lunch, The Ministry Team, Greeters, Counters, Bell Ringers, preparing the new garden and the people that did the lifting and shifting here and there to make sure everything was just perfect to host the special celebration. Special thank you to Betty Weinstein, organist at Elora for accompanying the choir anthems and assisting Matthias with the hymns.

The service created a great feeling of community and the thrill of joining together to worship God with song and contemplation.

At the end of the service I thank you for recognizing me. It was truly a Joy to see the results of a vision I had unfold. I was so appreciative of how the people at Melville and the participating congregations embraced the idea with great enthusiasm and joy.

Thanks be to God.....Lillian Gohn,
Chair of Worship and Music Committee