



**Celebrating
177 Years**



May 14, 2023

Melville United Church

300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9

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Team Ministry

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Faith Formation & Youth	Naomi Flint
Ministry of Music Team	Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber
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Custodian	Robert Mitchell
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Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
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Melville United Church
May 14, 2023
Christian Family Sunday

Presiding today - Rev. Jeff Hawkins
Music Ministry: Colleen Weber

Welcome

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, who offers the gift of the Spirit.

We gather in community today – May 14, 2023 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person. We encourage people to come out to worship in the sanctuary. There is ample room to socially distance, and you are welcome to wear masks if that is comfortable for you. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

Announcements

- **Broadview subscriptions are now due.** It is time to renew your subscription for another year. This wonderful magazine is available for the low price of \$25.00 (same as last year). Please see Ralph Rainford to renew or to sign up for a new subscription.
- **Garden Team Update:** We are so excited... we wet our plants! A special treat on Sunday: We will have **cut flower arrangements available at the end of the service.** By donation with thanks. We have our first crop of kale, lettuce, and spinach already planted in the garden (the garlic is looking fantastic!). Our regular meetings take place every Monday around 6:00pm (unless it's raining). If you would like to join us, we would love to see you! The next few weeks will be mostly weeding and clean-up until the weather warms up enough for more planting (no experience needed). For more information, please speak to us on Sunday or contact ogilvielms@gmail.com
- **UCW meat pies** are for sale and are only **\$4.50 each!** You can pay by either a cheque made out to Melville United Church UCW or cash. Please have the correct change if you can. Contact Marg Frayne @ 519-843-3274 for your order.
- **Mother's Day Concert Sunday, May 14th – 2:00pm** St. John's Choir presents an afternoon of music with special guest musicians at St. John's Church Belwood. Free-will offering.
- Come out and join us for the **Melville's Plant, Baked Goods and Meat Pie Sale** on **May 27th** from **9:00am-2:00pm!** This fundraising event will feature a variety of fresh plants, savory frozen meat pies, and delicious baked goods that you won't want to miss.
- **Friday or Sunday Coffee Time** – We encourage people to sign up to host either a Friday or a Sunday Coffee Time. It is not difficult! We'd be pleased to show you how. Sign-up sheets are at the Parlour Door. Please speak to Lorna Bevcar or Marg Frayne.
- **Donations to Garage Sales:** If you know of anyone moving, downsizing or de-cluttering, please keep Melville and our Garage Sales in mind. Donations can be dropped off at the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00-3:30. For more information or if you have large items to donate please contact Lorna Bevcar.
- Are you looking for a supportive community to help you on your journey to sobriety? Come join us at the **Fellowship of The Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous meeting!** Our group meets every

Friday evening from 7:30-9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We provide a welcoming and non-judgmental space where you can share your experiences, receive guidance, and connect with others who are also striving for a sober lifestyle. Whether you are new to AA or a long-time member, our group is here to support you every step of the way. Don't go through this journey alone - join us at the Fellowship of The Spirit.

- **VON invites you to join SMART (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together) Gentle Exercise Program Classes** at Melville **Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 am** as there are available spots. The 10:30 class is fully booked. Classes are FREE. Call Danielle to register 519-803-0144.
- **The Community Resource Centre** is looking for **volunteer drivers** to help those in our rural community who don't have the means to get to appointments, work, or education. Volunteer drivers receive \$0.55/km reimbursement. To apply, please visit <https://communityresourcecentre.org/transportation/become-a-volunteer-driver/> or call 519-843-7003 for more information.
- **Save your Used Stamps from Incoming Mail:** Cut off your used stamps, leaving a 1/2" border around them and give them to Marlene Tosh **or** put them in the Stamp Box on the shelf in the Cloak Room, where the Lift is on the main floor of the church. Marlene tidies them up and takes them to the Bible Society, to buy bibles. You can do this year-round!
- **Gifts with Vision: A Giving Catalogue from The United Church of Canada**
Give meaningful gifts that make a difference with [Gifts with Vision](#)! Each year's gift catalogue gives a glimpse of the breadth of our Mission & Service ministries and programs. *Gifts with Vision* has gift ideas to suit every interest, budget, and person. It's a great way to celebrate special occasions and honour loved ones! The gift catalogue is updated online regularly and is fully refreshed every fall. **To order gifts, be inspired, or learn more, visit GiftsWithVision.ca today!**

We invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

Land Acknowledgement (*Peter Chynoweth, Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022, p.33. Used with permission.*)
We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of Petun, Haudenosaunee (Hoe-day-no-show-nee), Anishinabewaki, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Odawa and Mississauga nations.

We acknowledge that we live on this land as people who have agreed to share the care and use of this land as a result of treaties—the Simcoe Patent—Treaty No. 4, 1793 and the Haldimand Treaty, 1784 - that outlined the rights and responsibilities associated with our place in this land. May we be people who remember this with thanksgiving and respect.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Let us see you this day, O God;

Come to us as light.

Let us hear you this day, O God;

Come to us as truth.

Let us sense your presence, O God;

Come to us as love.

Come and let us worship, God.

We have come to rejoice in God, our Saviour.

Hymn: We Praise You, O God

VU 218

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Opening Prayer

God of life, we praise you this day for the gift of your creation as new life rises around us in flower beds and farmers' fields, in the homes of your creatures.

We praise you for the gift of our lives, and for all those people: parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, teachers and coaches and good friends, who have encouraged us along the way.

In this time of worship, encourage us in the present moments of our lives. Refresh us with the new life you promise us in Christ Jesus in whose name we praise you. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "On Wings of Song" by Felix Mendelssohn arranged by James Denton

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of love, we are grateful for the love you bless us with in our homes and families.

Our love for each another gets strained some days.

Forgive us if we have taken our family for granted.

Give us grace to repair relationships where strain is showing.

Words of Assurance & Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 14: 15-21

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Prayer

Sermon: "How do you eat your Oreo?"

One of my all favorite cookies is an Oreo. Eating an Oreo cookie is an art to be perfected. Some folks give little thought to the art of eating an Oreo cookie; they just eat them. Others, however, take the time to study the Oreo by perfecting the art of twisting the two cookies apart to get to the white icing inside; you know that you have mastered this process when you can open your Oreo cookie and all the icing is on one half of the cookie and the other half is just chocolate cookie. I enjoy my Oreo with milk.

The passage of scripture before us in John 14 is much like an Oreo; we can't just rush through it, rather we must take time to consider the parts. Verses 15 and 21-24 are like the chocolate cookie; Jesus' focus here is on loving obedience. Verses 16-20 are like the creamy icing and milk; it is here that Jesus give His disciples and us the promise of His Holy Spirit to come alongside us as our helper. As we look at this, keep in mind, the parts are connected to form a masterpiece; you can't have one without the other.

Jesus says if we love Him we will obey Him. "If you love me, you will obey what I command . . . Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

All of you who are parents know that your children will obey you for many different reasons. I know there have been times when kids have obeyed to get something they wanted; at other times they have obeyed because they were afraid of being punished. Yet there is no better feeling I am sure as when you know your kids obey you simply because they love me.

Do you obey Jesus because you are looking forward to the reward of heaven?

Do you obey Jesus because you are afraid of being punished?

Do you obey Christ's commands because you have no other choice.

Do you obey Jesus simply because you love Him?

If my obedience is because of convenience or my personal belief, then I am serving my self and not Christ. If my obedience is the result of those in authority over me and my desire to please them, then I serve man and not Christ. Only as I wholeheartedly respond to Christ with a willing heart of devotion do I serve Christ and Him alone.

Because I love Christ I will always continue to love Him, therefore, I will continually obey Him. How is it possible to faithfully obey Christ at all times? Yes, our love for Christ produces or overflows with obedience, but it doesn't end there. Our heart has been transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It's the Holy Spirit that enables us to have a consistent love for Jesus that never fails. Remember the Oreo cookie, the chocolate cookie outsides and the creamy icing inside. You can't have one without the other.

What's your motivation for obedience to Christ's command? May you be a willing servant who responds with obedience because of your great love for your Master. Love is proven genuine through obedience.

Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling VU 333

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

- 2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

- 3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**

- Richard and Peter Wright celebrate on Wed May 17th

Preparation for Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do

MV 191 *OneLicense #A-740237*

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.

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

Hymn: Give to Us Laughter VU 624

- 1 Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.
- 2 Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.
- 3 Why do we worry that we will lose face?
Why act like king for the whole human race?
Often in family, and often with friend,
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.
- 4 Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joys of your presence among us increase.

Commissioning

Change the Light/Blessings

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.

I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

Change Light

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.

Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

Blessing

Household Prayer

Worship Schedule

May 21	7 th of Easter	Rev. Tom Watson
May 28	Day of Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
June 4	Trinity Sunday	TBD
June 10	Eko Gemah Fundraising Concert	