



**Celebrating
177 Years**



June 18, 2023

Melville United Church
300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9
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Team Ministry

Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach	Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Faith Formation & Youth	Naomi Flint
Ministry of Music Team	Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber
Office Administrator	Lynda Rivet
Custodian	Robert Mitchell, Suzanne Flewelling
Chair of Church Council	Allan Hons
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
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Melville United Church

June 18, 2023

Presiding today - Rev. Tom Watson

Music Ministry: Suzanne Flewelling

Prelude

Welcome

Good morning! Welcome to worship at Melville United Church. How wonderful to be together on this spring Sunday morning – both in person here in the sanctuary, and online.

Announcements

- Please Welcome Our New Custodian: The Property Committee is pleased to announce that **Suzanne Flewelling** will be expanding her role at Melville and is being hired as the contract custodian, effective July 1, 2023. For the past year she has already been one of our part time custodians, so that Bob Mitchell could reduce his work hours at Melville.

As Bob retires, we thank him for his years of custodial service at Melville and wish him well in his retirement. Blessings Bob.

- **Update on Melville's Organ**: The new Swell Expression motor has been installed and at the time it was discovered that a new 55-amp power supply needed to be added to allow for the operation of the new motor and at the same time beneficial to the function of the organ. This was all possible through the generosity of the Melville Church Family who responded to the appeal for donations to pay for the unanticipated expense of repairs that were necessary for the organ. Thank you!
- **Photo Directory**: They are almost all delivered! A "Thank You!" to Lorri Wright for co-coordinating, Marg Frayne for helping computer wise and with the photos, Susan Barth helping as receptionist, and Alison Rainford for helping with the last of the photos. Well done! Thanks!
Lorna
- **Garage, Plant & Bake Sale**: Friday & Saturday, June 16, 17, 23, 24, July 7, 8, 14, 15 from 8:00am-4:00pm. No sale on the long weekend.
- **Summer is Coming – Let's Celebrate June 25th – 6:30 pm in Melville's Garden**. You are invited to come and celebrate the beginning of summer. Music, Summer Reflection, Fellowship, and there could be some snacks. Mark your calendar and DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR.
- **Our wonderful custodian Bob Mitchell is retiring at the end of June**. We want to recognize and thank Bob for his many years of service to Melville. On **Sunday, June 25th** in the Parlour after the worship service there will be a reception to honour Bob. We invite you to attend and celebrate with us. We are collecting money for a gift for Bob. If you want to contribute, please see Ralph Rainford. Thank you.
- **Two Countries – One World (TCOW)** is back! Join our regional United Church program for **high schoolers (Grades 10-12)** on a March Break International Experience. Discover global learning, friendship, and engagement with critical issues like Peace & Conflict, Poverty & Inequality, Indigenous Matters, and Environmental Sustainability. Invite your high schooler and their friends, regardless of religious background, to our INFO session on **June 21st at 6pm**. Visit waterlootcow.ca for applications and details. Don't miss out on this life-changing opportunity!

- **Garden Team:** Our weekly meetings occur on **Mondays** at approximately **6:00pm**, weather permitting. We welcome anyone interested in joining us! To learn more, please reach out to us on Sundays or contact ogilvielms@gmail.com.
- **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.
- 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.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of Petun, Haudenosaunee, 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 and the Haldimand Treaty, 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

Let us hear again, the ancient sacred words of our ancestors in faith:

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness, not even the darkness of death, has overcome it.

Praise be to Christ, our light and our salvation.

Call to Worship

Let us come together in this place...where the ordinary is sanctified...

The human is celebrated...

Friendship is nurtured...

Caring and compassion is a benchmark.

Let us come together in this place.

We will make it a holy place, with all that we do in worship.

Hymn: God, We Praise You for the Morning VU 415

1. God, we praise you for the morning;
Hope springs forth with each new day,
New beginning, prayer and promise, joy in work and in play.

2. God, we praise you for creation,
Mountains, seas and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.

3. God, we praise you for compassion,
All the loving that you show;
Human touching, tears and laughter, help your children to grow.

4. God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend;

Restless searcher, gentle teacher, strength and courage you send.

5. God, we praise you for the Saviour,
Come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our days.

6. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Christ is Lord of our days!

Gathering Prayer (in unison):

Creator God, we live in solid homes, but come here because we also need to build solid souls. We plant and harvest fruitful gardens, but come here because we need to tend to our spirit. We care about ourselves, but come here because we know we need to widen our hearts to others. Be with us, here, in this place.

Amen.

Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide MV 145

(refrain) Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

1. God the still-point of the circle
'Round you all creation turns;
Nothing lost but held forever
In God's gracious arms. *(refrain)*

2. Let our hearts touch far horizons
So encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders
Faithful to God's call. *(refrain)*

3. Let the dreams we dream be larger
Than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us,
Open every door! *(refrain)*

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: "Daddy's Hands" sung by Carol Geddes, accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling & Dave Geddes

Children's Time

Scripture Reading — Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

SERMON: "From the Margins of a Father's Life"

Paul Hiebert was a chemistry professor at the University of Winnipeg. He was also the author of a delightful collection of tales and poems about a mythical character called Sarah Binks, the "Sweet Songstress of Saskatchewan."

In his forward to Sarah Binks, Paul Hiebert has placed the following sonnet:

When I have turned life's last descriptive page,
And written 'finis' to a somewhat unplanned tale,
With here its moments of poetic rage,
And there long prose of dubious avail,
My friends will come and say, "He was a sage,
Lo, count the leaves, in truth, 'tis noble, look"
All this accomplished in his single age" —
And sigh, and reverently close the book.

But from the multitude will come a few,
Sweet sprightly souls who read not to enlarge
Each chapter to heroic tome, nor view
The title page as bright emblazoned targe—
But lovingly, to thumb each page anew,
And chuckle at the doodles on the marge.

The sonnet invites us to consider our lives as a book. A book with beginnings and endings, and in between dashes of noble purpose and daring accomplishment—all of which can be exaggerated out of all comparison to reality once that one has gone. Have you ever known anyone who didn't improve immensely about three seconds after they died?

But then, in a comical satirical way, the sonnet says that, hopefully, there will be those who will pay attention not so much to the pages in bold print in our book of life, but to the doodles in the margins. And to get a chuckle from what is found scribbled there—from the stuff that often goes unnoticed.

Now, it's possible, I suppose, that Paul Hebert is merely poking fun at our penchant for making heroes out of fairly run-of-the-mill folks. Or maybe it's he's warning us against taking ourselves too seriously.

Alternatively, he may be seeking to remind us that the doodles in the margins of our lives reveal as much or more about us as do the brilliant writings in the center of the page. For there, at the edges, are found the philosophical fragments that inform how we pattern our lives over in the rough-and-tumble of things. Since Father's Day was coming up, I started out this week thinking about myself as a father. But then I considered I'm not only a father...I'm a grandfather too. 8 Times actually. And things don't stop there. I'm also a great-grandfather 10 times over.

I'll leave you to ponder how it's even remotely possible that someone so young as I could be a great-grandparent...let alone be one 10 times. It's mystery.

In any event, back to the notions raised in Paul Herbert's sonnet. I am, at this stage in my life at the point of considering: What are the doodles in the margins that I would like my children, my grandchildren, my great-grandchildren to think about?

The first thing I would like them to see scribbled there in the margins is: "Each person's life is important. It's the only one we will have, and our calling is to do something useful with it."

There is a story about a distressed father who was disappointed with his son's academic performance at school, so he said to him, "Son, do you know what Justin Trudeau was doing when he was your age?" To which the boy replied, "No, Dad, I don't. But I do know that by the time he was your age he was Prime Minister."

The point, of course, is that not that each of us should strive to become Prime Minister. But, surely, each of us should strive to do something useful with our lives, so that we add to life around us. What you do, and what I do, will not be the same, but each of us can do something to leave life a little different and a little better because we were here.

Truth is, life does not always make sense, and there will be times when we wonder whether or not anything we do is worth the effort...but stick with it...give it what you've got—that's what's important.

The second thing I would like them to read in the margins of my life would be this: "Even though life is a serious business, we need to be careful to keep our sense of humour."

One morning, a woman went down into the basement of her home to do the washing. She hadn't been up very long so was dressed only in a little nightgown. As she sorted the laundry, she thought to herself, "Oh, I guess I might as well put this in too," and she threw her nightie into the wash. When she bent over the washing machine to add more laundry, a drip from a water pipe fell on the back of her head. The water was cold, so she reached over and put on her son's football helmet.

So here she is standing by the washing machine with only a football helmet on when the man from the public utilities walked through the basement door to read the water meter. He took one look and said, "Lady, I don't know who you're playing, but I sure hope your team wins!"

I doubt seriously that there is anything in the world that will help you more in that situation than a sense of humour. Life is serious business, but it should never be taken so seriously that there isn't room for a laugh. Honestly, if there isn't room for laughter in what we are doing, if what we're doing

isn't any fun, we have to consider whether it's worth doing.

Thirdly, I would invite them to consider the development and exercise of their faith as important as any other aspect of their life. Life is not only a serious business, it's also a very tough, tough business. And there are more times than not when you need some extra resources to get you through.

You may be a tremendous athlete—be able to throw a baseball at 98 mph, golf at 20 below par on a regular basis, score 80 goals a year in hockey, kick a field goal from 60 yards—but your athletic prowess won't help you a whit when you're up against it.

You may be so famous that you're known by everybody in the world, but fame won't help you a whit when you're up against it. You may have amassed gazillions of dollars, but no amount of money will help you a whit when you're up against it.

I know from personal experience that, when you're up against it, there is only one thing that will help when you're up against it...and that's faith.

When you look at the doodles in the margins of my life, you still see doodled there several times when I needed my faith. And when I needed it...it was there.

One last thing I would like them to read from the doodles in the margins of my life: The world in which we live really is a wonderful, beautiful world. In spite of all the hatred, and all the prejudice, and all the war, and all the dashed hopes and broken dreams, it really is a wonderful world.

You know, every once in a while we get so down on things. No wonder, I suppose...because we're inundated with bad news. And even though we're fairly inured to bad news, some of what happens still shocks us enough that we can but sit back and say, "Ain't it awful!"

But look beyond that, folks. Don't let it get you down. See the good stuff that happens. The beauty, the wonder, the joy—those things far outweigh the bad.

Maybe that's why the Apostle Paul wrote these words in his letter to the Philippians: Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

For those are the things that matter.

Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

VU 468

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
Reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.

Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2. Christ is able to make us one,
At the table he sets the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless,
Love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out,
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!
We Celebrate at the Table
The Invitation to the Table

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to our God!

Let us give thanks to God!

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

The Consecration of the Elements

On the night that Jesus was betrayed he took bread and broke it, saying, "This is my body which is about to be broken for you. As often as you gather to share this bread, do it in remembrance of me." (A piece of bread is broken)

After they had shared the bread, he took the cup of wine and poured it saying, "This is the wine of the new covenant. As often as you gather and share from this cup, do it in remembrance of me."
(Wine is poured from the pitcher into a glass or goblet)

Sharing the Bread and Wine

People will come forward to receive the communion elements. During this time, Suzanne will play.

Prayers of the people and the Prayer of Jesus

Sharing our joys and concerns

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow VU 541

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made known,

Creator, Word and Spirit One.

Offering Prayer

Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VU page #651

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Benediction

When hope invites us to journey...

May God grant us the courage to travel on!

When dreams seem to wane...

May God grant us fresh dreams!

When established patterns collapse into uncertainty...

May God show us new ways!

And may the grace, mercy, and peace of God be with us...

This day and always!

Amen.

Postlude

Household Prayer:

Wondrous God, I am in awe that you would choose to be born among us, revealing your divineness enlivening the ordinary things of my life.

I thank you for the gift of Jesus who walked among us, wept with the suffering and raged in anger at the injustices of his day. I thank you for the vision you etched in his heart, a fullness of righteousness for all the world.

I thank you that he called others to follow that they too might know the joy of new life. As Jesus' disciple, help me to walk in the way. Help me to carry the vision in my heart, however discouraged I get. Help me to see through eyes of faith, my life, my relationships, the world you so love. Help me day by day, in my words and deeds to reflect your light. Through your wisdom and Spirit, may I grow in my capacity to love you, my neighbour, and myself, as you so love. Amen.

Worship Schedule

June 25	Indigenous Sunday	Social Justice Committee
June 25	Evening Garden Service 6:30pm	
July 2	5 th after Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
July 9	6 th after Pentecost	Rev. Jeff Hawkins