



October 8, 2023

Melville United Church

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

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Team Ministry

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Ministry of Music Team	Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber
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Melville United Church
October 8, 2023
Thanksgiving Sunday

Presiding today - Rev. Felicia Urbanski

Welcome

Announcements:

If you are worshiping with us for the first time, welcome! Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the parlour after the service.

- **UCW meat pies** are for sale and are only **\$5.00 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. You can purchase them after Sunday Service or by contacting Marg Frayne @ 519-843-3274.
- Join Ruth Sproule on **October 13 & 20th from 9 AM to 12 PM** along with Coffee Time to **attach poppies to the netting**, preserving last year's and filling a new piece.
- **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.
- The **Food Bank** is in need of donations, more than ever. Please consider bringing donations of nonperishables, toiletries, or a gift card, to church. Baskets are located in the sanctuary. **Items most needed are:** pasta sauce, Chunky soup (Habitant), small canned soup, pasta side dishes, canned vegetables, canned tomatoes, canned fruit, cold cereal, peanut butter, juice, jam, canned salmon, and canned pasta (beefaroni, etc.).
- Next **Sunday, October 15**, we welcome Dianne Wallace who will share some of her Personal Indigenous Reflections. Please wear your **Orange Shirt** to show your support and invite a friend!
- **Granny's Attic Treasures & Bake Sale. Oct. 27 and 28, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Collectibles, antiques, vintage pieces, jewellery, art, pictures, all sorts of little treasures. Pies, butter tarts, fruit tarts, muffins, cookies, brownies, fudge. Melville's frozen meat pies.
- **Cozy Closet:** We will be collecting new or gently used, warm clothing, such as coats, sweaters, hats, mitts, socks, pants, snow suits and boots, from **October 1-26**. Items collected will be displayed on **October 28** and **November 4**, here at Melville, where individuals can come in and choose what they need.
- The music series "**Mid-Day Music at Melville**" presented by pianist Brad Halls returns for its second season of concerts **Wednesdays 4 from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m.** For this season, Brad plans to present a musical journey through the past 100 years of the Broadway musical, beginning in 1923 and continuing to the present day. There is no admission cost for these concerts, but a voluntary donation to Melville United Church to help keep the lights on and the piano tuned is always appreciated.
- The King is coming to Melville **November 18th at 7:00pm!** Join us for an unforgettable evening with the incredible **Elvis Tribute Artist**, [Garry Wesley](#) Tickets are \$25. See Lorna Bevcar to get yours!

Community Events:

- **Saturday, October 14th, 11:00am-2:00pm Centre Wellington Fire Rescue Open House.** Come meet your Centre Wellington Fire Rescue Firefighters! Elora Fire Station, 72 Wellington County Road 7. Food trucks and activities on site, with a special performance by the Fergus Pipe Band at 1:00pm!
- **Saturday, October 14th, 1:00-7:00pm** Centre Wellington Mobile Market Presents **The Food Rescue Picnic.** Join us for food, music, and fun! The Skol House 24 North Broadway St. Belwood. For more information or to purchase tickets visit <https://www.ticketscene.ca/o/cwmm>
- Monday **October 16th from 6PM-8PM** Fall Fashion Show at [Silveri Jewellers!](#) Join earlier at 5PM for in-store shopping with 30% off! Over a dozen Raffle Prizes, Refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres, Door Prize! Partnering local Businesses: [Millennium Clothing](#), [Dalia Lingerie](#), [IF Footwear](#) Tickets are \$50 each, with limited availability. Proceeds raised at **this event support the programs and families at Michael House.**
- **Attention all students! Remembrance Day Poster and Literacy Contest.** Entry forms and competition details are available for pick up at the Fergus Legion Club Room 500 Blair St., Fergus - weekdays after 2:00pm & weekends after 12:00pm.
- Wellington County **Food Access Guide** is created to help people facing food insecurity in the region access free or affordable food. This resource provides details on food assistance providers, eligibility, and the services they offer. Access the guide at <https://www.gwpoverty.ca/resources/access-guides>.

Land Acknowledgement .

Let us pause for a moment and consider our role in reconciliation.

Let us take time to acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial.

God, help us to be thankful and to become better neighbours and stewards that we might continue to honour these lands.

Lighting the Christ Candle *(in unison)*

**We light a light in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

Call to Worship *(responsive)*

Our lives are a blessing,
and so we give thanks.

Our loved ones are a blessing,
and so we give thanks.

This earth is a blessing,
and so we give thanks.

Each meal we enjoy, every time we share, is a blessing.
and so we give thanks.

In thanksgiving, let us worship God.

Hymn: Come, You Thankful People, Come VU 516

- 1 Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

- 2 All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

- 3 For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

- 4 Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

Opening Prayer:

O God, we praise you for the richness of your blessings, the abundance of your creation, the potential for goodness in each of us, and the love you have shown us in Jesus. Open our spirits to your wisdom, our hearts to your love, and our wills to your service so that our lives might reflect your glory, and our world reflect kindness and gratitude. Amen.

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: "Creation Calls" by Spirit Sings

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness (*responsive*)

God of food,

Day by day, we are blessed with your generosity.

Thanks to your generosity, we have not gone hungry.

Thanks to your care, we have been comforted and nurtured.

Yet, we have not shared your generosity with others.

Due to our selfishness, we have abandoned those who are in need.

Due to our greed, we only accumulated wealth without sharing it.

Accept our faults and forgive us.

We are grateful for this opportunity to confess our wrongdoings.

Words of Assurance

Jesus taught us not to worry about what to eat and what to wear.

Merciful God, you are endlessly patient with us and never give up on us.

We give you thanks for bestowing pardon so that we can live as a forgiven people.

Prayer of Illumination

O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Scripture: Philippians 2: 1-13

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Scripture: Luke 17: 11-19

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

Sermon: “Be Thankful Anyway”

Hymn: Will You Bless Our Homes and Families VU 556

1 Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.

2 When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.

3 From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.

4 Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care

till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.

Joys and Concerns

- **Happy Birthday**
 - Naomi Flint celebrates on Mon Oct 9th
 - Elsie Lively celebrates on Fri Oct 13th
 - Ioan Shortt celebrates on Sun Oct 15th

Prayers of the People

Let's pray together:

We come to church hungry, Lord!

We are hungry for comfort,

hungry for love,

hungry for a new way of living,

hungry for your word.

We live in such a chaotic world.

Thank you for giving us this place

and this time to worship,

as we are eager to taste the goodness of your great harvest

in community, with our brothers and sisters.

Bless us as we feast at tables of gratitude this Thanksgiving weekend.

Thank you for inviting us to your banquet!

Help us to remember the gifts we have received,

and to live as brothers and sisters, members of one family.

Hear our prayers, as we pause in this sacred moment of silence today....

We trust in you, O God, together, as your people,

and so we pray together, the prayer you taught us to pray:

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

A simple pumpkin or chard or squash becomes food for a hungry world. Your harvest of goodness brings hope for the young and the young at heart. Today, we join hands with siblings in Christ all around the world. Today, we share our financial offerings, knowing that they, like our garden bounty, will help to bring new life to this congregation and to the world that God so loves. Our offerings will now be given and received.

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do

MV191

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

Gracious God, we bring these gifts – our first fruits – before you. We offer them to you so you may guide us and show us the best way to use these gifts in making the world a better place for everyone. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn: In the Garden

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known
He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known
I stayed in the garden with Him
Though the night all around me is falling
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling
And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known
None other has ever known

Commissioning and Blessing

Each of us has received many blessings. Strengthened as people of God, and as people of courage, go forth now as love-bearers to a hurting world. Go now in peace.

Postlude by Spirit Sings – “Every Day is a Gift from Our God” by Don Besig & Nancy Price

Household Prayer

God, giver of all good,
you continually pour your benefits upon us.
Age after age the living wait upon you and find
that your faithfulness has no end,
that your care is unfailing.
We praise you that the mystery of life
is a mystery of infinite goodness.
We praise you
for the order and constancy of nature;
for the beauty and bounty of the earth;
for day and night, summer and winter,
seedtime and harvest;
for the varied gifts of loveliness which every season brings.
We give you thanks
for all the comfort and joy of life,
for our homes, for our friends,
and for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill of all people.
Amen.

—from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada* (UCPH, 2000)

Worship Schedule

October 15	World Food Sunday	Social Justice Committee
October 22	Anniversary Sunday	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
October 29	Halo Study 2 nd half of Service	Rev. Tom Watson