



**November 12, 2023**

Melville United Church  
300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9  
Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M2W7  
519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree 519-835-8605
Faith Formation & Youth	Martha Duncan
Ministry of Music Team	Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber
Office Administrator	Lynda Rivet
Custodian	Suzanne Flewelling
Chair of Church Council	Allan Hons
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford 519-843-3841
Office hours	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.
E-Mail	<a href="mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com">secretary@melvilleunited.com</a>
Web Site	<a href="http://www.melvilleunited.com">www.melvilleunited.com</a>

**November 12, 2023**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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*Presiding today - Rev. Felicia Urbanski*  
*Ministry of Music – Colleen Weber*

**Welcome**

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

**Announcements:**

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- **Memory Angels:** Our Memory Angels will be decorating the Sanctuary this season, in memory of our loved ones. Those who have had Angels in the past can renew your Angel with a minimum donation of \$5 each. Those who are new to this can have a handmade Paper Angel decorate the Sanctuary, with an inscription on the skirt, dedicating this Angel in memory of your loved one, from you, for a minimum donation of \$5. Your year-end statement will include this donation. The Angels stay at Melville safely packed away, until the next season. These Angels bring comfort and meaning to the Melville families during the season, knowing we are remembering our loved ones. Please contact Patty Duncan or Lorna Bevcar as soon as possible.
- 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! Tickets are also available by contacting the office 519-843-1781 or by visiting The Bookery 191 Saint Andrew St. W or Echoes Fergus 240 St. Andrew St. W.
- The music series “**Mid-Day Music at Melville**” presented by pianist Brad Halls returns on **Wednesday, November 15th from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m.** at Melville United Church in Fergus. Brad continues his musical journey through the past 100 years of the Broadway musical, and next Wednesday’s concert will feature classic songs from the Broadway seasons of 1937 and 1938. On the Broadway stage it was perhaps the peak of the collaboration between Rodgers and Hart, who produced four musicals over this period featuring songs such as *My Funny Valentine*, *The Lady is a Tramp*, *Falling in Love with Love* and more. This event will also feature songs by Cole Porter, Sammy Fain and Kurt Weill among others including I’ll Be Seeing You and September Song. There is no admission cost for these concerts, but a voluntary donation to Melville United Church to help keep the heat on and the piano tuned is always appreciated.
- **Centre Wellington Singers present "The Music of Christmas"** with special guests Kate Wright and the Elora Children's Choir, **Saturday November 25th., 3:00 pm** at Melville United Church. Adults \$20.00 Children 12 and under \$5.00. For Tickets: 519-843-6655 or contact: Choir members: Millie Cumming, Bob and Joanne Mitchell, Lara Johnson, Lillian Gohn.
- **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.).

### Financial update:

	Jan – Sept 2023	Jan – Sept 2022	Jan-Sept 2021	Jan-Sept 2020
<b>Revenue</b>				
Givings	84,175.07	95,074.54	85,888.78	76,668.42
Fundraising/rental/other	38,983.03	35,843.50	23,992.30	18,906.08
Covid Gov't Subsidies			21,811.84	12,298.80
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>123,158.10</b>	<b>130,918.04</b>	<b>131,692.92</b>	<b>107,873.30</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Staffing costs	92,547.47	116,735.35	92,568.32	98,272.72
Office supplies	11,947.25	12,115.66	14,935.84	10,472.25
Facilities	26,917.71	28,470.58	21,878.82	25,039.71
Committees	12,884.67	9,243.05	8,373.04	2,980.23
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>144,297.10</b>	<b>166,564.64</b>	<b>137,756.02</b>	<b>136,764.91</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>- 21,139.00</b>	<b>- 35,646.60</b>	<b>- 6,063.10</b>	<b>- 28,891.61</b>

The Finance committee wants to THANK EVERYONE for their continued financial support. We understand personal finances can be tight, but we appreciate what people have given.

Thank you again for all your contributions!

*Kaillie Rawn*, Treasurer

### **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. We honour these people by remembering our responsibility to them. We must offer more than words. We must see justice done. We will endeavour to support political, economic, legal and social actions that promote and provide justice for Indigenous people.

**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):

Let us come in joy to worship God.

**We remember times of celebration.**

Let us come in our sorrow to worship God.

**We remember times of grief and loss.**

Let us come in our time of need to worship God.

**We remember times of poverty and hardship.**

Let us come in our abundance and prosperity.

**We come, as we are in all times, to worship God.**

**Hymn: Be Thou My Vision** **VU 642**

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;  
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;  
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

**Opening Prayer** (*responsive*):

Thank you, Maker of us all, for your faithfulness to us.

**Thank you, Friend of all, that your presence never leaves us.**

Thank you, Mysterious Guide, for standing forever with us.

**Open our hearts in this time of wonder and praise,  
and journey with us when we leave. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music:** "The Prayer" by Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster

**Children's Time**

**Prayer Seeking Forgiveness**

**Words of Assurance**

### **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: Psalm 78:1-7**

- <sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- <sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- <sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.
- <sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.
  
- <sup>5</sup> He established a decree in Jacob,  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach to their children;
- <sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and rise up and tell them to their children,
- <sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God,  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments.

### **Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

### **Sermon: “Vision Unlimited”**

**Hymn: I Have Called You by Your Name MV 161**

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.
2. I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.
3. I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,  
then let it go.
4. I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people  
they are mine.

**Joys and Concerns**

**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**

**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. (x2)

## Offering Prayer

### Hymn: Blessed Assurance VU 337

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.  
    This is my story, this is my song,  
    praising my Saviour all the day long;  
    this is my story, this is my song,  
    praising my Saviour all the day long.
  
- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R
  
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. R

## Commissioning and Blessing

### Postlude

#### Household Prayer

God of all dimensions,  
With us now and in the full span of time:  
Find a form that greets our open hearts  
Like an old friend, or daybreak,  
Bringing us back to our lives  
In their true colors and textures.  
Let us receive and be filled,  
That we may serve in Your name,  
As vehicles of mercy and courage,  
From this day forward.  
Amen.

### Worship Schedule

November 19	25 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
November 26	26 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	Rev. Ruth Brown
December 3	Advent 1	Rev. Tom Watson