



November 5, 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

Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

Custodian

Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

Office hours

E-Mail

Web Site

Rev. Marion Loree 519-835-8605

Martha Duncan

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

Suzanne Flewelling

Allan Hons

Alison Rainford 519-843-3841

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.

secretary@melvilleunited.com

www.melvilleunited.com

Melville United Church
November 5, 2023
Remembrance Sunday

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

Prelude – *Colleen Weber*

Bagpipes - *Green Hills of Tyrol & When the Battle's O'er, played by Peter Hummel*

Welcome

Announcements:

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

- **2023 Christmas Gift Program** – Please consider a financial donation to support needy children, families and independent youth in our community. The Social Justice & Outreach team will buy gift cards for families to buy necessities and a wish or two for their family members for Christmas. You can donate money by dropping it off at the church, emailing secretary@melvilleunited.com with an e-transfer or use one of the specially labelled envelopes that will be available in the sanctuary. Please clearly indicate the donation is for the Christmas Gift Program. **Donations are requested by November 7th** so we can confirm how many children we will support. Don't worry, any donations received after that date will also be appreciated ... and used to support Christmas for youth!
- 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 visit 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 8th 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 Wednesday’s concert features classic songs from the Broadway seasons between 1935 and 1936. On Broadway, these seasons featured songs by Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart and the Gershwins among others. Enjoy enduring songs including *Begin the Beguine, Little Girl Blue, It's DeLovely*, songs from the score of the legendary *Porgy and Bess* and many more. 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
Revenue				
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
Total Revenue	123,158.10	130,918.04	131,692.92	107,873.30
Expenses				
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
Total Expenses	144,297.10	166,564.64	137,756.02	136,764.91
Net Loss	- 21,139.00	- 35,646.60	- 6,063.10	- 28,891.61

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.

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)*

On this Remembrance Sunday we gather to pray

for a world where no one will learn war anymore.

On this day when the guns once fell silent,

**we gather to pray for peace to reign in every heart,
home and nation.**

On this day of hope,

**we come before you, God, to remember all those
who gave their lives so we could be free.**

In this time of story, song, and prayer, help us to catch a vision of how the world could live together.

**And so, let's echo the old prayers—
make us channels of your peace.**

In that spirit, let us join our hearts in song.

Hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace VU 684

- 1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

- 2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

- 3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Opening Prayer (*responsive*)

Almighty God,

**Grant that we who gather here today may pay fitting tribute and honour to the
memory of those who have died
in the service of their country.**

May we be so inspired by the spirit of their love
and courage that, forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives,
**We may live only to your glory and to the service of your people.
May we who desire peace be willing to work for justice.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Time for Remembrance:

(the children are invited to sit in the front pew, if they wish)

Blessing of the Poppies

Reading: In Flanders Fields by LCol John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Reading of the Honour Roll – *World War I and World War II*

Last Post – *played by Kaillie Rawn*

Time of Silence

Bagpipes – *Flowers of the Forest* *played by Peter Hummel*

Unison Prayer:

**Eternal rest grant to them, O God, and may perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.**

Rouse – *played by Kaillie Rawn*

(The children leave for their classes.)

Ministry of Music: The White Cliffs of Dover, by Nat Burton and Walter Kent

Played by Felicia Urbanski and Colleen Weber

(You are invited to sing along after the song is played through once):

There'll be Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover
Tomorrow, just you wait and see,
There'll be love and laughter, and peace ever after,
Tomorrow, when the world is free.

The shepherd will tend his sheep,
The valley will bloom again,
And Jimmy will go to sleep
In his own little room again.

There'll be Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover
Tomorrow, just you wait and see.

Prayer of Illumination:

Scripture: Micah 4: 1-5

In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.
Many nations will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the LORD Almighty has spoken.

All the nations may walk
in the name of their gods,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD
our God for ever and ever.

John 15: 9-17

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other."

Sermon: Remembrance and Peace

Hymn: When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides MV 169

1. When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.

2. When fear no longer guides our steps
and days of war are done,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one.

3. When race and creed blind us no more,
a neighbour's face we'll see,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free.

Joys and Concerns

- **Happy Birthday**
 - Ron Steurnol celebrates on Tues Nov 7th

Prayers of the People

Almighty God,

We thank you for bringing us together this Remembrance Sunday
to recall with tenderness and respect
those who lost their lives from this community
and the many thousands farther afield in the wars
of the last century.

We pray for all those still caught up in conflicts across the world, especially those today in the
Ukraine and in the Middle East.

We acknowledge what may be our own confusion about war
and how we might participate in creating an enduring peace.

Help us to meet with you in these moments of worship,
Make us ever mindful of your goodness toward us,
and strengthen us to be aware of the needs of others.

As we pray for peace, may it start with peace in our hearts.

We pause now to add our own prayers in this moment of silence.....

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life,
Hear our prayers for all this day, and help us to live in love and service, as we pray the words
that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation

There are opportunities to give every day, certainly through gifts of dollars and cents, but also through courageous action, faithful service, and loving devotion. Let us share of ourselves and of what God has so graciously given.

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, bless these gifts and these givers. May they be used well to foster peace and joy in this world and in the lives of those who cross our paths. May real and lasting change start now, with us, through us, and with God's blessing. Amen.

Hymn: O Canada VU 524

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all our lives command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise, the True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Commissioning and Blessing

Having gathered, remembered, heard, given, and prayed, we ask, Almighty God, for your blessing and for your continual presence in our lives. Remind us that no matter where we go, you are there. No matter how bleak the world becomes, all it takes is one ray of light for a new day to be upon us once again. Go now in peace.

Postlude

Household Prayer

Holy God, violence and hatred have so often overwhelmed our world. Today we remember and repent, as we acknowledge that, even in our own lives, hatred sometimes obscures love, and violence sometimes overwhelms peace. Heal us, O God. Assist us as we work for peace in our homes, our community, our church, and our world. Call us again to live lives of love, caring, generosity, and concern.

O God, whose will is love and whose desire is peace, be near to us as we remember and pray. The scarlet colour of the poppy reminds us of the blood that is shed in war, of the white crosses which remain on distant battlefields, and of the life blood that flowed from your own Son. May the seeds of peace take root in us, and blossom in a world where flowers may grow unharmed, and poppies of remembrance and gratitude flourish. Amen.

Financial update:

	Jan – Sept 2023	Jan – Sept 2022	Jan-Sept 2021	Jan-Sept 2020
Revenue				
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
Total Revenue	123,158.10	130,918.04	131,692.92	107,873.30
Expenses				
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
Total Expenses	144,297.10	166,564.64	137,756.02	136,764.91
Net Loss	- 21,139.00	- 35,646.60	- 6,063.10	- 28,891.61

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

Worship Schedule

November 12	24 th after Pentecost	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
November 19	25 th after Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
November 26	26 th after Pentecost	Rev. Ruth Brown
December 3	Advent 1	Rev. Tom Watson