



Celebrating 178 Years



April 28, 2024

Melville United Church

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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

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Martha Duncan

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

Suzanne Flewelling

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Alison Rainford 519-843-3841

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

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Melville United Church
Sunday April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter Season

Presiding: Rev. Ruth Brown

Prelude: Fairest Lord Jesus *arranged by Lloyd Larson offered by The Bells of Westminster*

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.

- Please welcome **Ann Ward** as **Youth Leader** while Martha is away.
- **Melville meat** pies are available. **\$5 each**. You can help by telling friends, neighbour's and family that our pot pies make a delicious easy meal. Come in for pick up on Fridays 10 a.m. - 12 and stay for a coffee. Or pick up on Sunday after church. Or call Marg Frayne 519-843-3274.
- Please join us for a **Lasagna Luncheon May 5** following the service, hosted by Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber and UCW. Lunch will be held in the Chapel and Parlour. Please join us for fun and fellowship!
- **Search Team Update:** As we prepare to review candidate information and plan interviews, we are committed to ensuring our actions reflect God's radically inclusive love and justice. We've spent time considering our biases, reflecting on privilege and power, and reviewing human rights. We have thoughtfully considered our interview questions. We desire to represent Melville in a respectful, loving and welcoming manner in all steps. Stay tuned. We will keep the Council and congregation informed while maintaining the required confidentiality. Please pray for the interviewees that they will come prepared and confident— and for us, that we are able to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which each interviewee feels able to shine. One prayer has already been answered; a Liaison has been identified to guide and support us through the next critical steps! Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. It is appreciated. With thanks, Jane O'Leary (chair), Heather Halls, Chris Hopewell, Lara Johnston, Alison Rainford, Dave Ogilvie
- **Rev. Marion Loree** is here on Fridays during Coffee Hour and is also available for an hour or two afterwards.
- **Rides needed for seniors:** Can you help? Rides to Friday Morning Coffee (10 - 11am), and Sunday Service (11am - Noon). Please speak to Lorna Bevcar
- **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.
- **Friday, May 3 at 7:30 pm:** The Fellowship Committee of Bethel Mennonite Church invites you to join us for an evening of **Inspiration, music, and pie!** as we welcome motivational speaker **Gord Martin** to share his story, **"The Pain and Joy of a Father"**. Gord is the author

of **“Doing it Afraid”** and he will have copies of his book available to purchase. We will have special music and a time of fellowship with coffee and pie after the presentation. **Everyone Welcome!** Location: Bethel Mennonite Church, 6772 Eighth Line W. RR1, Elora, ON.

- **The One Stop Pork Chop Shop.** A drive through, take out, dining experience. Jesse’s at the Guelph Country Club, 133 Woodlawn Rd. E., **Thursday, May 23rd 4:15-6:00 pm. \$28 per dinner**, donations welcome. To order contact Kathy for a pick-up time kathyrobertstephens@gmail.com or call 519-829-9622. **Please place your order by May 20th.** Proceeds and donations support the work of Trinity United Church in the Community.
- **The Bells Are Back in Town.** The Bells of Westminster **Tuesday, June 4th 7:00 pm.** Westminster United Church 247 Broadway, Orangeville. Free will offering.
- Thank you for your donations to the **Food Bank** there is an **ongoing need** of nonperishables, toiletries, or a gift card. Baskets are in the sanctuary.

Land Acknowledgement

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.

Celebrations and Concerns

Lighting the Christ Candle (John 1)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

What came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness did not overcome it.

Call To Worship

In this new season of Easter Hope, we gather as a community of beloved disciples,

Listening for Good News. Seeking New Life.

Remembering the Risen Christ in our midst.

Let us gather with hearts full of joyful song.

Hymn: I Danced in the Morning VU 352

1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. R

- 3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. R
- 4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. R
- 5 They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. R

Opening Prayer:

River of Mercy, Source of Life, the One in whom we live and move and have our being, in this springtime of year, you call us together in beloved community, to reflect on your Word, and our life in your world. Be with us now as we sing and pray together, that we may hear your voice and be guided by your ways. Honour and blessing, glory and praise to You now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

Gift of Music: It Is Well with My Soul arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson offered by The Bells of Westminster

Scripture Reading: Gospel of John 15:1-11

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

The Way of Love and Life **Thanks be to God**

Sermon: Famous Last Words.....

Hymn: O Blessed Spring VU 632 (sung to the tune O waly, waly)

- 1 O blessed spring, where Word and sign
embrace us into Christ the Vine,

here Christ enjoins each one to be
a branch of this lifegiving tree.

- 2 Through summer heat of youthful years,
uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
sustained by Christ's infusing rain,
the boughs will shout for joy again.
- 3 Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,
be praised for this blessed mystery:
that Word and water thus revive
and join us to your Tree of Life.
- 4 When autumn cools and youth is cold,
when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
then through us warm the Christ will move
with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.
- 5 As winter comes, as winters must,
we breathe our last, return to dust;
still held in Christ, our souls take wing
and trust the promise of the spring.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

- Condolences
 - We extend our deepest condolences to Neil Dunsmore and his family on the passing of Neil's mother, Cathy Dunsmore, who passed away on Sunday, April 21, 2024. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Prayers of the People, and the Prayer of Jesus

Gift of Music: A Ringer's Prayer by Judy Hunnicutt offered by The Bells of Westminster

Offering

Offering Hymn: What Can I do MV 191

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:

Generous God, your abundance flows through us in all that we have received. From our abundance, we give generously, that others may know they are loved and cared for. We give not only what we have but our own spiritual gifts, our own selves. Through all our gifts, may new and vibrant growth happen in our church and around the world, nourished by your Spirit. Amen.

Minute for Mission

Sending Forth and Benediction:

Let us go forth to grow and flourish,

like branches of the true vine,

bearing good fruit for each other and for the life of the world.

Offering warmth and shelter,

sharing nourishment for body and spirit,

beloved members of beloved community,

opening doors and hearts to all who seek home and hope and love.

May we find our strength and joy in the one Source, whose Love, Courage and Vision light our way today and always. May it be so! Amen!

Postlude: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee *offered by The Bells of Westminster*

Welcomers: Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Lynne Lamb, Chris Hopewell

Worship Schedule

May 5	Mental Health Sunday	Social Justice Committee
May 12	Christian Family/Mother's Day	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
May 19	Day of Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
May 26	Trinity Sunday	Rev. Jeff Hawkins