

Melville United Church

Fall Newsletter 2024

Our Mission

We live as a loving, inclusive faith community actively welcoming and responding to needs within and outside of our church.

Chair of Council

"Melville council has completed a Halo study in conjunction with the Trinity Centre Foundation. The Halo study values Melville and the work of our congregation at \$1.3 million annually though our shared use of the building, volunteer efforts and additions to the social safety net.

These numbers will serve as the foundation for further efforts to make Melville a sustainable, energetic, and integral part of Centre Wellington. There will a lunch after a Sunday service soon to go over the report in more details for those interested. Please ask a council member if you have any questions.

Our next steps will be to increase Melville's value to the community and then seek the communities support in donations and grants from all levels of government to preserve Melville's exterior and enhance it's interior.

Council would also like to thank Martha Duncan for all her years of helping with kids church. Her efforts have been invaluable. We would also like to welcome Anne Ward to the role and wish her all the best as she

gets to know our youth."

- Alan Hons, Chair of Council

Fun, Funds & Fellowship:

Friday Morning Coffee Hour continues to be enjoyed by many, starting at 10am in the Parlour, and Sunday after Church Coffee. But we are in need of some assistance, so that the same people are not always doing it. Please sign up and take a turn! The sign-up sheets are on the easel at the Parlour door.

Our Garage, Plant & Bake Sales started Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4th and ran for seven weekends, unexpectedly!



Donations just kept coming in from a couple of different households each week, giving us always new items, and giving a fresh appearance! We are pleased to announce that our total intake for Melville's coffers was \$12,300+. We thank all who: baked, donated your items, dug up and potted your plants, or shopped at our sales! We have made a huge impact on Melville and the community appreciates it!!!

Brad Halls will return to the Sanctuary with his Mid-day Music at Melville Piano Concert on Wednesday, October 2nd at noon. Please plan to come out for an hour and be part of listening and enjoying what Brad has in plan for us! This is a freewill event!

- Lorna Bevcar

Stewardship

Another summer has come and gone. I trust for you and your family; it has been safe and enjoyable. Council has met and put plans in place for events and activities for another year. We are excited about the fall time and activities planned. One of the tasks of the Stewardship Committee, is to encourage the congregation to support our activities and programs here at Melville, as well as support Melville with your monetary gifts.

We are very fortunate here at Melville to have so many dedicated and helpful people. Our treasurer Kaillie Rawn spends hours keeping the books in order and paying the bills. At this time, we are holding our own, but we are not paying the salary of a full-time minister. If this situation changes, so will our financial being. Also, we are not able to work on the capital project repairs; the windows, pointing of the stonework, changes to the heating system.



I am asking each of you to help us keep Melville the vibrant place that it is. Please update your givings. If you are behind, please catch up. If you think the PAR program will help you, see Lynda in the office or Ralph Rainford to sign up. Together we can keep Melville moving forward. Thank you for considering all of this.

And finally, join us on Sunday morning for the worship service. We are blessed to have excellent pulpit supply ministers who are meeting our needs while we move forward in our next steps. If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you look us up live or on the web.

Until next time,
Blessings from Ralph Rainford and the Stewardship Committee.

Pastoral Care

Our committee is very pleased to have Rev. Marion Loree supporting us in our work. We are also pleased to welcome Diane Maloney, not only back in the community but also, to our committee. Please remember that each and every one of you has a role to play in pastoral care. Phone calls, visits and keeping us informed of those in need is so important.

Lorna Bevcar is continuing to work on the historical roll but is no longer sending out cards. We would like to thank her for all those cards that she delivered, often in person. Bunny Russell is becoming the card secretary but will send out fewer cards: only milestone birthdays and anniversaries will be acknowledged with cards, sympathy and get-well cards will continue.

Our committee consists of Rev. Marion, Barb Gregory, Millie Cumming, Patty Foster, Linda Porritt, Marguerite Ancliffe, Patty Duncan, Diane Maloney and Alison Rainford. Please keep us informed of needs.

November 11th is Remembrance Day and the past couple of years the folks at Melville United have decorated the front of the church with two long banners full of knitted, crocheted or plastic fashioned poppies, created by our congregation. A way to

remind us and others in the community of the effort made by our veterans in all conflict around the world. For more information on how to make a poppy or when they can be attached, please contact Ruth Sproule.

Social Justice & Outreach

Activities are starting up again and will require your help to be a success. There is so much need in our community. Watch for calls for warm clothing and footwear, financial support for this year's Christmas Angel programme, and contributions to our food bank. With thanks from your Social Justice & Outreach Team.

- Jane O'Leary

“MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE”

presented by pianist and singer BRAD HALLS

The concert series Mid-Day Music at Melville, presented by Fergus pianist Brad Halls, returns for its third season of presentations, commencing on **Wednesday, October 2, 2024**, and continuing on each subsequent Wednesday until about the end of April next spring.

Each concert runs from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m. and will provide audience members with the opportunity to enjoy a relaxing musical opportunity in the middle of what might otherwise be a busy day.

Last season, Mr. Halls took his audience on a musical journey through 100 years of Broadway musicals, commencing in 1923 and continuing until the present day. This season, Brad will lead a similar voyage through the past century of music composed for the world of the movies, beginning with the dawn of the “Sound” film era, beginning in 1927. Each concert will present enduring

songs from various periods of the history of the movies, beginning, with Mr. Hall's commentary about these historic productions and the show's creators. The first performance on October 2nd will cover the years 1927 to 1929, and will feature songs from early sound movies such as the groundbreaking *The Jazz Singer* with Al Jolson, through music introduced by the early stars of “the talkies” – Maurice Chevalier, Jeannette MacDonald, Ruby Keeler and Dick Powell. Come and enjoy enduring standards such as *Blue Skies*, *Ramona*, *Louise*, *Am I Blue?*, *Happy Days are Here Again*, *Singin' in the Rain* and many more.

Brad Halls was born and raised in Fergus and returned to live in his home town a dozen years ago after living and practising law in Cobourg, Ontario for 35 years. Throughout his career, he has lived a sort of “double life”, as a lawyer by day and pianist, singer and songwriter by night. He was the producer of and principal performer in his music series “Words and Music” at Cobourg's historic Victoria Hall for more than 25 seasons and was the frequent music director of musical productions by The Northumberland Players, one of the most successful community theatre companies in Ontario. In collaboration with his lyric writing partner Paul Caldwell, the pair recorded three albums of original music for children and appeared for two seasons in their own television series for young people “*The Corner Store*”.

Since returning to live in Fergus, Mr. Halls has continued to remain active in the musical community. He has sung in the Guelph Chamber Choir for the past 12 seasons and served as President of the Choir for five years. He has performed regularly as part of the concert series presented annually



at the Wellington County Museum and has served as a music director at Bethany United Church, and currently serves at both Barrie Hill and Speedside United Churches. There is no admission charge for these performances, although there will be an opportunity to make a completely voluntary contribution on a “pay what you will” basis, with all proceeds going to Melville United Church to compensate for the use of the church’s beautiful sanctuary with its wonderful acoustics and its excellent grand piano.

For more information about this concert series, you can contact Mr. Halls at brad.halls@wightman.ca, or phone 519-400-1022.

Kids Church Message

“Not a day goes by without God’s unfolding grace” 2 Corinthians 4:16
Since my arrival in Fergus last fall, I have been blessed with a Church family and the opportunity to share my faith with the children of the Melville United community. “Come near to God and God will come near to you” James 4:8.

We started our Biblical journey together sharing the wonder of Creation “Genesis 1:1, then Galatians 5 “Fruit of the spirit”. Love, peace, joy, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control! Whew, that took a few Sundays. My favourite Psalm 119-105 “I am the light of the world”. The message “Be a point of light in this world”. Be merciful as you endeavour to understand others and be compassionate sharing kindness toward all. Learning to pray, “Be strong and be courageous” Joshua 1:9. I tell the kids when you need courage to take a ction, pray first then move ahead and reach that goal. Barry gave me a large piece of

cardboard recently and we painted the “Sea of Galilee”. Matthew 4:19 “Come follow me and I will send you out to fish for people”. We’ve had lots of fun fishing for disciples!

Peggie gave me a vial of sand from “The Sea of Galilee” and we are all in awe thinking about Jesus and his ministry around the sea. The message I want to share with our youth is:

“you are so chosen, you are so loved”, Colossians 3:12.

- Sincerely, Ann E. Ward

Property Committee

Rentals:

The Elora Singers held a well attended musical drama event in Melville’s Sanctuary on July 6. Various rooms of Melville’s building are being used and rented again now on a weekly basis, as several groups have returned for their fall schedules.

We are investigating and negotiating an inquiry regarding a long-term daily rental.

Painting & Flooring:

Thank you, Ralph Rainford, for recently painting the exterior doors of the building, and also for refinishing the hardwood floors in the Chapel and the Parlour this summer. The “sprucing up” of these areas is a welcome touch.

Thank you, Dale Murray, for replacing the flooring on the inside steps at the parking lot door recently.

Stained Glass Windows:

Trillium Glass will be repairing the interior of the two, medium sized (10’x14’) stained glass windows in the Sanctuary this year. These windows, which face the parking lot and go up through the balcony floor, have

bowed inwards considerably and have missing and failing reinforcing bars.

The cost of this work is approximately \$13,900+ HST. Melville has received a \$5,000 grant from the UP Fund (from the former Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council) to assist in funding this project.

Photocopier:

This summer the photocopier was replaced with a newer model, on a new lease.

- Barry Rawn

UCW

Meat pies: Meat pies continue to be Popular.

UCW members get together in the church kitchen occasionally to make meat pies.

If you want to order meat pies, please contact Marg Frayne (519-993-3274) or Lorri Wright (519-843-2018).

We would be happy to have you volunteer with us to make and sell our meat pies.

Anniversary Lunch: Please plan to stay for a lunch provided by UCW after our upcoming **anniversary service on October 20.**

Giant Bake Sale: Thank you to all who donated baking and who worked to make our Giant Bake Sale on September 7th, at the Steam Punk Festival, **a giant success.**

Many, many thanks.

- Marg Frayne

Worship and Music Committee:

I thought I would share with you a little bit of background and general information about each one of our ministers leading worship services at Melville:

Tom Watson – Tom lives in Guelph and has been leading some of our services for a few years. Tom's messages are always

appreciated as he often includes stories of "What is Happening in Our Town" as part of his sermon. In addition, we always appreciate the various poems that he shares that have been composed by some colleagues of Tom and some he has written himself.

Each Monday Tom has a blog where he shares stories and many items of interest. If you are interested give Tom a call and he will include you on his list to receive the weekly blog.

Jeff Hawkins – Jeff lives in Wingham and enjoys travelling to Melville each month to lead worship. We appreciate his humor and enjoy his vocal solos he often shares at the conclusion of the worship service.

Early each Sunday Rev. Jeff hosts a worship service via UTube and has many followers from all over the world.

Felicia Urbanski – Felicia lives in Fergus and usually leads worship once a month. Felicia preaches awesome biblically based sermons and always is ready with her violin to join Colleen or Suzanne to provide additional accompaniment for the hymns as well as often plays a special selection for the Ministry of Music time in the service. Music is a large part of Felicia's life and when she first came to Canada had a successful audition to become a member of the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and played in that orchestra for several years. Now living in this area enjoys singing with the Philharmonic Choir in Kitchener and is often invited to play her violin at different events in the area.

Marion Loree – lives in Guelph and is currently helping Melville by assisting the Pastoral Care Team and attending all Melville's Church Council meetings. Marion enjoys coming to the Friday morning Coffee hour visiting and catching

Thank you

up on all of life's activities of the people that attend each week, and will readily offer to lead some of the worship services when she is available.

Ruth Brown – lives in Fergus and when she is available always eager to come and offer worship leadership at Melville.

Linda Butler – is a new member of the Pulpit Supply Team and was introduced to the Melville Church Family on September 15th. Linda was born in Oakville, Ontario and attended Victoria University studying Modern History and English. Upon graduation joined the Canadian Foreign Service working in immigration offices in Buenos Aires, Tel Aviv and Manila. After returning to Canada, she studied at Emmanuel College in Toronto graduating with her M. Div. in 1984. Linda was first settled to a three-point charge in Southern Manitoba, from there moved to another

three-point charge in Coldwater, Ontario, then to Bloor Street United Church downtown Toronto and finally to Richmond Hill United Church. Since retirement served as supply minister and done some pulpit supply as well. Linda moved to Guelph May 2023 partly to be close to Dog Guides Breeding facility in Breslau as she sits for their puppies. Linda is proud to say that the last three labradors are now in training as service dogs. Linda is involved with Chalmers Food Pantry and Guelph's Community Garden program.

Each Minister offering Pulpit Supply enjoy coming to lead worship for the Melville Community of Faith and in turn we are truly blessed to have such an awesome group of ministers in our midst each week.

- Lillian Gohn

Financial update:

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

- Kaillie Rawn, Treasurer

	Jan – Mar 2024	Jan – Mar 2023	Jan - Mar 2022	Jan - Mar 2021
Revenue				
Givings	31,170.84	46,583.96	37,585.16	42,758.71
Fundraising/rental/other	15,164.21	14,087.05	4,936.00	622.00
Covid Gov't Subsidies			-	10,000.00
Total Revenue	46,335.05	60,671.01	42,521.16	53,380.71
Expenses				
Staffing costs	28,948.07	40,855.07	37,478.01	31,460.57
Office supplies	3,797.45	3,831.63	2,935.62	4,879.63
Facilities	14,507.19	12,715.85	13,590.36	7,957.45
Committees	950.35	2,557.31	1,180.14	7,098.32
Total Expenses	48,203.06	59,959.86	55,184.13	51,395.97
Net Surplus (Loss)	- 1,868.01	711.15	- 12,662.97	1,984.74