

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- Pray for Tim Wiebe and family as they heal.
- Zachary Harder was hospitalized for unexplained seizures this week. Pray for wisdom for doctors and nurses as they treat and diagnose him. Pray for peace and calmness for Zachary as he processes what is going on. Zachary is Monica Braun Harder's son, Ken and Marianne Braun's grandson.

Our Community

- Pray for MC Manitoba Executive Director – Ken Warkentin and MC Canada Executive Director – Willard Metzger.

Our World

Mike & Cheryl Nimz (Witness partners – United Kingdom) are working at developing an online community platform where isolated folks throughout the UK who are interested in Anabaptist thought and spirituality can be brought together for mutual support and encouragement. Mike and Cheryl are coming in contact with people who feel alone in their pursuit of understanding and Anabaptist approach to Christianity. They have been talking about how to put together a community of people who are dispersed. With current technology, it seems that this may be easier than they thought. When the Nimzes put out a question to see if people would be interested they found that a good number of people were. They will be putting together an online community that can meet through Zoom which is much like Skype and will allow for large numbers of people to meet altogether for extended periods of time. Join Mike and Cheryl in praying for the creation of this online community.

- MC Canada Witness Worker Joji Pantoja shared the video that the United Nations made about part of their work in the Philippines. It's so beautiful. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/Gw-xJ56 MoE>
Learn more about Dann and Joji's ministry here: <https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/philippine-peace-building>

- *If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact Dan Kehler or the church office.*

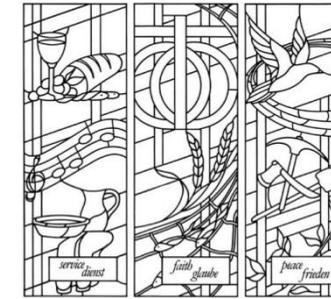
From the Pastor:

This prayer from Thomas Merton exemplifies struggling with faith in the midst of suffering. It is found in *Thoughts on Solitude*.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

Singing Bowl by Malcom Guite

*Begin the song exactly where you are.
Remain within the world of which you're made.
Call nothing common in the earth or air,
Accept it all and let it be good.
Start with the very breath you breathe in now,
This moment's pulse, this rhythm in your blood
And listen to it, ringing soft and low.
Stay with the music, words will come in time.
Slow down your breathing. Keep it deep and slow.
Become an open singing-bowl, whose chime
Is richness rising out of emptiness,
And timelessness resounding into time.
And when the heart is full of quietness
Begin the song exactly where you are.*



Altona Mennonite Church

Christian Formation & Education - all ages: 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

VOLUME LVII No. 10

March 18, 2018

Lent 5: Between Me & You and Laughter Too

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn HWB #162 The God of Abraham Praise

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah, nations born of barren lands, you who stand here because of promises fulfilled, come and worship your God.

People: We were born through the faith of our ancestors, just as our faith will give life to future generations; even as we hope against hope, we come to worship our God.

Leader: Welcome home, children of God.
Welcome to this house of God.

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn HWB #614 In the bulb there is a flower

Prayer of confession

Words of Assurance

I will always keep the promise I have made to you and your descendants, because I am your God and their God

Pastor: Dan Kehler

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Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Covenant Illustration
Hymn – Between Me and You – insert

Scripture readings: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16;
Genesis 18:1-15
Sermon The Place to Begin is With an Old Woman Laughing
Harold Schlegel

Hymn HWB #616 Children of the Heavenly Father
Prayers of the congregation
Offering MCI's Resonate singing Precious Lord video

Benediction
Hymn STJ #44 The love of God
Postlude

Worship Leader: June Schwartz
Song Leader: Lori Hiebert
Accompanist(s): Loren Hiebert

We welcome Harold Schlegel to our service this morning.
Harold is Director of Donor Development and Finance at MCI.

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dave and Hildie Regehr have arrived safely in Ukraine. Follow their work at regehrsukraine.blogspot.com. Dave also mentioned that the Mennonite Centre has a Facebook page at mennonite centre ukraine or the website at www.mennonitecentre.ca

- Please join us for Easter Sunday breakfast at AMC on April 1 at 9:30 A. M. Coffee and juice will be provided. Each family is requested to bring fruit, paska or hot cross buns, and hard boiled eggs enough for themselves plus a little extra to share. Set up is Group 1. Clean up is Group 3.

Birthdays: March 18 – Lauren Martens; March 20 – Marlene Dyck; March 24 – Ken Loewen, Sarah Sawatzky, John Thiessen

Anniversaries:

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

March 21	7:00 pm	Formation Committee
March 22	2:30 pm	Sin of Certainty Book Study
March 25	9:30 am	Christian Formation & Education
	11:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship Service
<i>Scripture:</i> Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; John 12:12-16 <i>Theme:</i> Me & You & an Alternative View <i>Worship Leader:</i> Marge Friesen <i>Song Leader:</i> Kevin Neufeld <i>Accompanist(s):</i> Marilyn Houser Hamm <i>Sound:</i> Nathan Loewen <i>Coffee:</i> Dale and Sandra Klassen		
March 29	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
March 30	10:30 am	Good Friday Service
April 1	9:30 am	Easter Morning Breakfast
	11:00 am	Worship Service
April 8	9:30 am	Christian Formation & Education
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Guests: Faith and Life Women's Chorus		

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Altona TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES is looking for a part-time manager.** This is a paid position with 6-8 hours per week. Duties to include purchasing and unpacking products, organizing and supervising volunteers as needed and some bookkeeping. Computer skills are an asset. Apply, with resume, to Corny Fehr at the Altona MCC Gift and Thrift Shop.

- **Camps with Meaning online registration is open!** This is our ministry together as Mennonite Church Manitoba. Please visit www.campswithmeaning.org to register for summer camp. We want all families to afford camp. Note our new Campership Fund, which assists families at a much higher level than before. Brochures are on the lobby table.

- **March 22, 7 pm** CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre presents an evening with Donald Stoesz, Thursday, at CMU's Marpeck Commons. Stoesz will be launching his new book **Canadian Prairie Mennonite Ministers' Use of Scripture: 1874-1977**. Join Stoesz as he presents the findings of his research and the evidence of a "Mennonite canon within the biblical canon." For more information go to commonword.ca/go/1475.

- **March 27** - Prospective students and their parents are invited to **CMU Open House**. Meet faculty, student council, athletics staff, student life staff, and current students. Attend a

class or chapel, enjoy free gelato, and learn about the printing press with students from Spy Tower Press. For more information see cmu.ca/campusvisit.

March 28, 2 pm – 7 pm Canadian Blood Services Community Blood Donor Clinics in Altona at the Rhineland Pioneer Center. A second clinic will take place on April 5, from 3 pm – 7 pm.

- **March 30** - First Mennonite church choir, with orchestra under direction of Yuri Klaz present Mendelssohn's Lobgesang on Good Friday, March 30th at 7 pm at the church 922 Notre Dame Ave. Admission is free; an offering will be taken.

- On **Thursday, Apr. 5, 7:00 PM**, plan to attend "**Spring at CMU**," an evening of celebration in support of CMU. Featured: CMU PAX Award to Steve Bell; music by Steve Bell and CMU Singers; short reflections from faculty, alumni, and students. Contact Joyce Friesen at jfriesen@cmu.ca to reserve a seat or cmu.ca/springatcmu for more information.

- **April 15, 3:30 pm** - Salem Foundation invites you to enjoy an afternoon of "Faspa, Fellowship and Song" at the Winkler Bergthaler Church. Music by Winkler Community Male Choir. Faspa follows the concert at 4:30 pm. Proceeds from the freewill offering are for Salem Home Resident Room Blinds – All Care Areas.

- **April 28 – and April 29 - Faith and Life Choirs Spring Concert: "Send Forth Thy Spirit"** on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg and on Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 3 p.m. at Steinbach Mennonite Church in Steinbach, Manitoba.

- **April 28 - Mennonite Women Manitoba** invite you to Resilience Road: struggles, steps and strategies, a day for women. April 28, 9:30-3:00 at the Charleswood Mennonite Church. Resource person; Dr. Moira Somers Ph.D Clinical Neuropsychologist. To register email or call Kathy Giesbrecht kgiesbrecht@mennochurch.mb.ca or call 204-896-1616 ext; 268 by April 20th. Registration fee; \$50.00 (which includes lunch). For more information see the event at www.mennochurch.mb.ca