

- A couple from IMCOL (Mennonite Church Colombia) feel called to serve God in Benin. Through a joint partnership between IMCOL and Mennonite Mission Network, Felipe Preciado and Diana Cruz hope to be a blessing to the children with whom they will work in Benin. What an encouragement to hear of the Mennonite Church of Colombia commissioning workers to serve outside of South America! Diana and Felipe are preparing to work at La Casa Grande children's village in Benin, a ministry of the Burgos Anabaptist community in Spain. Pray for them as they transition from their life in Colombia and participate in orientation in the United States and Spain. Through funding from Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Mission Network, many of these initiatives are being supported.

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

From the Pastor:

A paradox is a seeming contradiction that reveals a truth. Poet G. K. Chesterton said paradox is "truth standing on its head to gain attention." It is commonly a literary device or a play on words that prompts some amusement. "Deep down, he's really shallow." "To make money, spend it."

The Christian faith is often expressed with these seeming contradictions. At the very heart of our faith lies paradox: Death leads to life. In fact, our sacred story is more of a triple paradox: a God who is three in one, who embodies his divinity in humanity, and who dies to bring life.

The paradoxes within our faith unfurl even more from there. In the kingdom of God, the first are last, and the last are first. The meek inherit the earth. Divine wisdom is foolishness to the world. The apostle Paul says, "When I am weak, then I am strong" to emphasize the sufficiency of God's grace. Jesus taught that in order to grow up we must become like children, challenging our self-serious pride. He described enemies as neighbors to demonstrate the radicalness of his kind of love. The list of biblical paradoxes is long. By leaning deeper into paradox, we come closer to the heart of both our faith and our God.

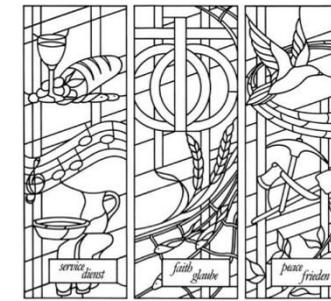
Why explore such mindbenders? They have the potential to draw us deeper into the mysteries—and the playfulness—of Christ's kingdom. Paradoxes require a double-take and mess with our ironclad sense of logic in order to loosen us from our

rigid thinking and move us into a place where our sense of clarity, certainty, and control are shaken. The goal is to move us into the surprise, scandal, and surrender of worshiping an awesome God.

- Condensed from Peter Schuurman's writing

This is an excerpt from Ronald Kraybill's book *The Upside-Down Kingdom*. I like the ballpark metaphor for the Kingdom of God. It seems to me if Jesus was around today he might have started a parable with; "The Kingdom of God is like a ballpark..."

Jesus does not portray the kingdom on the margins of society. He doesn't plead for social avoidance or withdrawal. Nor does he assume that the kingdom and the world split neatly into separate realms. Kingdom action takes place in the world in the middle of the societal ballpark. But it's a different game. Kingdom players follow special rules and heed another coach. Kingdom values challenge the taken-for-granted social ruts and sometimes run against the dominant cultural grain. But don't misunderstand. Kingdom people are not sectarians protesting the larger society just for the sake of being different. Kingdom values, rooted in the deep Love and abiding Grace of God, seed new ways of thinking and living. Sometimes the new ways compliment prevailing practices; other times, they don't. In short, kingdom patterns arise from God's love, not a sectarian impulse to oppose or withdraw from the rest of society. (p. 17)



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LVII No. 17

May 6, 2018

when

UPSIDE DOWN

is

RIGHT-SIDE UP

Paradox of Scale: In Small Deeds Lies Great Love

We Gather in Community to Worship God

Preparation music

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 147:12-20

(Paraphrase by James Taylor)

Prayer of Invocation

Singing Together:

STS #1

Praise the one who breaks the darkness

HWB #55

Let's Sing Unto the Lord

We Listen to Discern God's Truth for Us

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:36-48; Matthew 5: 43-46

Story: "Olana"

Scripture Reading: Luke 13:18-21

Prayer

Message When Love goes against the grain Dan Kehler

Singing Together:

HWB #145 There's a wideness in God's mercy

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Secretary: Lori Hiebert

Office Hours:

T: 204-324-6773 (church office)

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

T: 204-324-5952 (home)

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

We Seek to Follow Jesus

Prayers of the People

Offering/Food Bank

Benediction

Singing Together: STJ #56 Make me a channel of your peace

Worship Leader: Dave Regehr

Song Leader: Dave Regehr

Accompanist(s): Hildie Regehr

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Need some help around the house? Yard work, house work... Steve Wiebe is looking for odd jobs to do this spring. Email Steve at wiebesteven6@gmail.com

- If you are interested in being part of a pop-up committee to plan a social event with the Altona United Church, let Dan Kehler know.

Birthdays: May 10 – Paul Krahn; May 11 – Rachel Geirnaert, Emily Wiebe; May 12 – Dan Kehler, Ken Pennner

Anniversaries: May 3 – Robert & Peggy Martens; May 4 – Jim & Marlene Dyck

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

May 13 9:30 am Christian Formation & Education

11:00 am Worship Service

Scripture: Luke 7:36-48; Matthew 17:20 *Theme:* Paradox of

Growth: To become mature, we must become like children

Worship Leader: Margruite Krahn *Song Leader:* Lori Hiebert

Accompanist(s): Loren Hiebert *Sound:* Dale Klassen *Coffee:*

Kerry & Gina Enns

May 15 7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting

May 18/19 rehearsal and wedding rental

May 20 9:30 am Christian Formation & Education

11:00 am Worship Service

May 27 AMC Picnic at New Bergthal

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Altona Community Garden**, under new management, is now accepting applications to reserve a half-plot (\$8), a whole plot (\$16) or multiple plots (+\$8). For more information or to apply call Jack at 204-304-0656.

- **May 8, 7:00 pm** "Depression: What you can do to fight it today – Access Event Center in Morden. For more details, go to <http://mordenmb.com/mentalhealthweek> Poster on bulletin board.

- **May 10, 5 pm** – Regional Connections & The Gardens on 10th present A Taste of the World. Come for Cultural performances and dishes from Ukraine, India and more. Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased in advance at The Gardens.

- **Friday, May 11, 1:30 – 3:00**, Altona Health Care Auxiliary annual Spring Tea and Bake Sale will be held at **Eastview Place** with Crocus Auction. Donated baked items are welcomed. Proceeds towards Eastview Place/Hospital projects. All are welcome.

- **May 12, 6:45 pm** - MCI Spring Fundraiser evening in Buhler Hall Foyer. Please join us for an evening of live music, delectable Hors D'oeuvres & Desserts and our feature documentary; 'Strength For Today... Bright Hope for Tomorrow - An MCI Story', featuring stories of alumni from 1948 – present. You are not going to want to miss it! Tickets are free, with donation opportunities available at various points throughout the evening. To reserve your tickets please visit our website www.mciblues.net or call MCI at (204)327-5891.

- **May 12, 1:00 pm** - Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach and Kroeger Clocks Heritage Foundation invite you to the opening of their exhibition, The Art of Mennonite Clocks. This exhibition explores the history and significance of clocks that were made for Mennonites by Mennonites in Russia. Join us for stories with guest speaker, H. Elizabeth Kroeger (daughter to Arthur Kroeger), direct descendent of the Kroeger clockmakers. For more information on the exhibition, go to www.mhv.ca. For more information on Kroger Clocks Heritage Foundation and The Virtual Collection of Mennonite Clocks, go to www.kroegerclocks.com. Exhibition will run until Spring 2019. Free admission May 12th.

- **SpringFest 2018** - *May 25 & 26, 2018 - 134 Plaza Drive, Winnipeg* Join us for our annual SpringFest with a quilt show and sale, BBQ lunch, plant sale and more. Proceeds will provide relief kits to families whose lives have been disrupted by conflict and disasters around the world. For more details visit mccmb.ca/springfest or call us at 204-261-6381.

- **May 29, 6 pm** - Interested in learning more about Mennonite Collegiate Institute? We invite prospective students and families to join us at MCI in Gretna, MB, for dinner, followed by an MCI Information night

at 7pm. Information will focus on Faith-based learning, Music program, Athletics and Finances. Please register for dinner by emailing kaylagiesbrecht@mciblues.net or calling the school at (204)327-5891, or feel free to come at 7pm for the Information Night.

If you play golf or like long bike rides, read on and check the bulletin board!

- **June 2** – MCI's 4th Annual Golf Classic at Oakview Golf Club in Gretna, MB. Registration begins at 10am, Shotgun start at 11am. \$100/person. Register today at info@mciblues.net

- **June 18** – Eden Foundation IronMan Golf Tournament Fundraiser at Winkler Centennial Golf Course – see ehcs@edenhealthcare.ca for information

- **July 7** – MCC's Cycle Clear Lake – mccmb.ca/cycleclearlake

- **July 11** – MCC Manitoba Golf Tournament at Bridges Golf Course – mccmb.ca/golf

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- We rejoice with Tim Wiebe as again the MRI shows no brain tumor!

- Pray for Marlene Wiebe as she prepares for her new role as chaplain.

- Pray for those for whom mental health makes daily life a struggle.

Our Community

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

Our World

- The Barkman family (Christina, Darnell, Cody, Makai, Teyah and Jericho) will be returning to Canada after completing 6 years of living and serving in Manila as Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers. Hear the Barkman's interesting perspective on how a very familiar mode of transportation in the Philippines - the "Jeepney" relates to the Christian journey of a faith community. Read the full story at: <http://darnellandchristina.blogspot.ca/> Please keep the Barkman family in prayer as they transition back to North America; pray also for Peace Church Philippines as they too live with this significant change in their faith community.