

"As I walked into the courtyard I heard a woman screaming. I couldn't understand the words she was saying but her tone of voice and posture communicated rage. My first memories in the village of Tin are a blur of yelling, anger and beaten, crying children. Initially, I held back from these conflicts, not understanding the language or culture and not knowing how to model a different way of communicating.

After 18 years of living and interacting with this woman, I have noticed that she has become gentler, calmer and more understanding. I realized how much she has changed when she pulled her six-year old grandson onto her lap to hold when he was sick. (Culturally, any child over two years old has been 'weaned' of sitting on laps or cuddling.) Now she is eagerly listening to Bible Stories and is ready to learn about Jesus and how God's word can be applied to her life. I pray that God will send someone to continue teaching her the way of salvation."

We invite prayers of peace and God's grace for **Lillian, Norm, Nadine** and **Kenneth** as they transition to Canada after 20 years of ministry in Burkina Faso.

- 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

"You shall be free indeed when your days are not without a care nor your nights without a want and a grief,

But rather when these things girdle your life and yet you rise above them naked and unbound.

And how shall you rise beyond your days and nights unless you break the chains which you at the dawn of your understanding have fastened around your noon hour?

In truth that which you call freedom is the strongest of these chains, though its links glitter in the sun and dazzle your eyes.

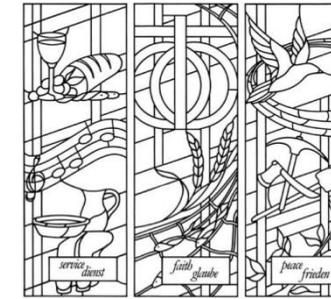
Verily all things move within your being in constant half embrace, the desired and the dreaded, the repugnant and the cherished, the pursued and that which you would escape.

These things move within you as lights and shadows in pairs that cling.

And when the shadow fades and is no more, the light that lingers becomes a shadow to another light.

And thus your freedom when it loses its fetters becomes the fetter of a greater freedom."

- *The Prophet by Kahil Gibran, from pg 47-49*



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LVII No. 20

June 3, 2018

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NMOD EDISDŪ

is RIGHT-SIDE UP

*The Paradox of Obedience:
Slavery to Christ is Freedom to Flourish*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Reading & Prayer Psalm 147

Hymn of Praise SJ #3 Jesus calls us here to meet him

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 7:17-24, Galatians 5:1-14

Message – Julia Thiessen

Hymn HWB #548 Teach me thy truth

Food Bank Donations

Offering

Hymn HWB #434 Thuma mina

Time of sharing & prayer

Closing Blessing

Sending Song HWB #420 Heart with loving heart united

Worship Leader: Andrea Hildebrand

Song Leader: Loren Braul

Accompanist(s): Marilyn Houser Hamm

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Office Hours:

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

Tel: 204-324-6773 (Church office)

Tel: 204-324-5178 (home)

email: amcpastordan@gmail.com

Secretary: Lori Hiebert

T: 204-324-6773 (church office)

T: 204-324-5952 (home)

email: altonamennonite@gmail.com

www.altonamennonitechurch.ca

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

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

Birthdays: June 5 – Nancy Neufeld; June 6 – Kristina Thiessen, Abi Mullet; June 7 – Doreen Mierau; June 8 – Greta Squires Penner

Anniversaries: June 5 – David & Lorissa Martens; June 8 – Terry & Deb Klassen, Harry & Susan Wiens, Tim & Marlene Wiebe

- Ray Hamm is interested in creating an afternoon or evening, or a series of meetings, on a weekend in fall for AMC, and maybe for the community, about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) Eden Health Care Services has been developing policies on MAID and people from Eden could be involved here. Please call 204 324 4115 or send an email (rmhamm@icloud.com) if you have ideas about this or if you could help in shaping the event.

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

June 5	6:00 pm	Formation Council
June 6	10:00 am	Men's Coffee at AMC
June 10	11:00 am	Worship Service with Guest Speaker Darnell Barkman, former Witness Worker to Thailand
<i>Scripture: Theme: Worship Leader: Dan Kehler Song Leader: Gina Enns Accompanist(s): Edna Zacharias Sound: Kevin Neufeld Coffee: volunteer needed</i>		
June 17	11:00 am	Worship Service

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **June 3, MCI's Saengerfest concert at 2:00 pm.** Lunch is available by donation. Join the MCI community as we worship and fellowship together!

- **June 6-8 at CMU** - Plan to attend the **inaugural Canadian Conference on Ecclesiology and Ethnography.** Join academics, students, and practitioners in exploring the dynamic relationship between theological reflection and the lived experience of the church. For more information see cmu.ca/eandeconference.

- **June 10, 3 – 8 pm - Camps with Meaning Fun-a-thon: Carnival and Concert** to raise funds for a new shop at Camp Assiniboia at Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship. Afternoon fun for all ages including: petting zoo, competition seed spitting, games for kids; followed by a variety of great music. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org/funathon for more info.

- **June 12, 2018** – Eden Health Care presents Men's Mental Health Center Stage, Finding the lighter side of darkness. Speakers: Dr. Michael Dyck, Keven Breel, Big Daddy Tazz, Dr. Larry Klassen. See poster on bulletin board. Brochures are there as well.

- **June 13 – Walk for Alzheimer's** at Eastview Place. Register at 9:30 am. Program at 10 am with walk to follow.

- **June 13, 5:30 – 7:30 pm** – Salem Home Ladies Auxiliary BBQ and Dessert Auction at the Salem Home. Entertainment by Ed Wayne and the North Border Band. 7 pm, 12 delicious desserts will be auctioned. Bring your lawn chairs.

- **June 15, 5 – 7 pm - CMU Alumni and friends** are invited to **"One Last Dinner with Ted"** at CMU Dining Hall. Ted is retiring (and this will be an opportunity to bid farewell) but he is excited to prepare one more dinner of his famous chicken fingers and fries and conference cookies. Gluten free and vegetarian options also available. Admission by donation to the CMU Alumni Bursary Fund. RSVP to aapp@cmu.ca by 5:00 PM on Friday, June 8.

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

- **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
- **July 14** – **Visit the Villages Tractor Trek** –register at www.edenhealthcare.ca

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- Condolences to Wayne and Tracy Bergen and family on the passing of Wayne's mother Helen Bergen this past week. The funeral was on Friday.
- Margaret Rempel is having Gall bladder surgery on Tuesday. Pray for a good recovery.
- Pray for Matthew Molnar who is scheduled for surgery on Tuesday for spleen removal.
- Please pray for Tim Wiebe who has an MRI scheduled for June.
- Pray for Marlene Wiebe as she enters her new role as chaplain.
- Pray for those for whom mental health makes daily life a struggle.

Our Community

- Mark Tiessen-Dyck will transition from Assoc. Pastor at Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, to Lead Pastor at Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church in September.
- Pray for MC Manitoba Executive Director – Ken Warkentin as he goes on sabbatical; and MC Canada Executive Director – Willard Metzger who will be leaving his position in October.
- We invite all congregations and members of Mennonite Church Canada to join with us in prayer as we seek an EXECUTIVE MINISTER. We invite applications and nominations for an individual who will work cooperatively with the Executive Staff Group to nurture, represent and inspire a unified vision of MC Canada.

Our World

- We celebrate the relationships that **Norm and Lillian Nicolson** have been able to foster over the course of their extensive ministry in Burkina Faso. Even though relationship building is difficult to measure in terms of "success," the Nicolson's have modeled God's love through their daily interactions and have been witnesses to His miraculous work in the lives of others. Here is one such example of how Norm and Lillian have witnessed God at work in one of their relationships (as told by Lillian):