

### 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

### Peace on Earth by Paul Hewson (aka Bono)

Heaven on earth  
We need it now  
I'm sick of all of this  
Hanging around  
Sick of sorrow  
Sick of pain  
Sick of hearing again and again  
That there's gonna be  
Peace on earth

Where I grew up  
There weren't many trees  
Where there was we'd tear them down  
And use them on our enemies

They say that what you mock  
Will surely overtake you  
And you become a monster  
So the monster will not break you

And it's already gone too far  
Who said if you go in hard  
You won't get hurt?

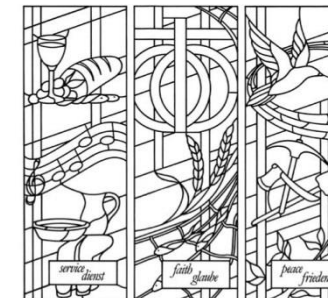
Jesus can you take the time  
To throw a drowning man a line?  
Peace on earth  
Tell the ones who hear no sound  
Whose sons are living in the ground  
Peace on earth  
No whos or whys  
No-one cries like a mother cries  
For peace on earth  
She never got to say goodbye  
To see the color in his eyes  
Now he's in the dirt  
Peace on earth

They're reading names out over the radio  
All the folks the rest of us won't get to know  
Sean and Julia, Gareth, Ann and Brenda  
Their lives are bigger than any big idea

Jesus, can you take the time  
To throw a drowning man a line?  
Peace on earth  
To tell the ones who hear no sound  
Whose sons are living in the ground  
Peace on earth

Jesus, in the song you wrote  
The words are sticking in my throat  
Peace on earth  
Hear it every Christmas time  
But hope and history won't rhyme  
So what's it worth?  
This peace on earth

Peace on earth  
Peace on earth  
Peace on earth



# Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LVII No. 23

June 24, 2018

when NMOD EDISdU is RIGHT-SIDE UP

*Paradox of Compassion:  
Even Adversaries are Loveable*

### GATHERING

Prelude  
Welcoming One Another  
Call to Worship SS#144  
Cong. Hymn HWB #544 When we walk with the Lord  
Prayer of Invocation  
Cong. Hymn HWB #226 You are salt for the earth

### HEARING THE WORD

An Upside Down Story  
Scripture Passages: Matthew 5: 38-48; Romans 12:9-21  
Message To do the Unthinkable Pastor Dan Kehler

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayer of Confession  
Cong. Hymn HWB #137 Forgive our sins as we forgive  
Words of Assurance and Hope  
Offering  
Praying  
Prayer song: SJ #57 Your will be done (Mayenziwe)

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.*

## SENDING

### Benediction

Leader: From where we are to where you need us,

**ALL: Jesus, now lead on.**

Leader: From the security of what we know to the adventure of what you will reveal,

**ALL: Jesus, now lead on.**

Leader: To refashion the fabric of this world until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

**ALL: Jesus, now lead on.**

Leader: Because good things have been prepared for those who love God,

**ALL: Jesus, now lead on.**

Cong. Hymn HWB #407 We are people of God's peace

Worship Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm

Song Leader: Kevin Neufeld

Accompanist(s): Sylvia Klassen

## AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Congratulations** to **Kieran Enns** on your graduation! Kieran completed his Bachelor of Science from the University of Winnipeg; to **Matthew Kehler** on your University of Manitoba graduation. Matthew completed his Engineering degree; to **Paige Mierau-Friesen** on your University of Winnipeg graduation! Paige completed her honours degree in Sociology.

- **Come for a "Taco in bag" supper on Wednesday July 4th at 6:00 at Friendship Manor.** We will be having a meal together in the backyard and dining room at the Manor. (Perhaps a game or two of Bingo) Bring a lawn chair. Meal is by donation to cover the cost.

- **From the Treasurer:** We enter the summer months already in our line of credit, with 2nd Quarter donations due to Conferences. Please remember to give regularly. Thank you.

- When you see a tent in a church, or something else out of the ordinary, remember to make your donation to the Food Bank. Did you know that thirteen percent of Canadians live in a state of food insecurity, which means they do not have reliable access to adequate amounts of safe, good-quality, nutritious food.

- 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](mailto:wiebesteven6@gmail.com)

**Birthdays:** June 24 - Dan Geirnaert, Ella Bailie; June 26 - Marilyn Houser Hamm, Susan Wiens

**Anniversaries:** June 24 - Cornie & Hilda Elias; June 27 - Nathan & Kareena Loewen; June 28 - Henry & Margaret Rempel; June 30 - Kerry & Gina Enns

## **WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC**

June 26 8:00 pm Leadership Council

**July 1 10:30 am Worship Service**

*Scripture:* Matthew 12:1-14, Mark 2:23-3:6, Luke 6:1-11

*Theme:* The Paradox of Piety: When doing good breaks the rules *Worship Leader:* Marge Friesen *Song Leader:* Lori Hiebert *Accompanist(s):* Loren Hiebert *Sound:* Dale Klassen

July 4 10:00 am Men's Coffee

July 8 10:30 am Worship Service

July 15 10:30 am Worship Service

July 22 10:30 am Worship Service

July 29 Sunflower Festival, Worship Service at the park

## COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mennonite Collegiate Institute would like to congratulate our Grade 12's who will be graduating today @ 2:30 at the Bergthaler Mennonite church in Winkler.

- CMU invites inquiries and applications for the half-time (.5 FTE) salaried position of **Communications and Marketing Coordinator at CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre**, anticipated start date August 2018. Inquiries should be directed to Dianna Robson, Director of Human Resources at [drobson@cmu.ca](mailto:drobson@cmu.ca) or 204-594-0532.

- **June 28, 7:30 pm** Two MHC Gallery Openings. My Will Remains: Reflections on Chronic Illness and Disability by Diane Driedger and UBUNTU by Manny Martins-Karman, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.

- **July 10, 6:30 pm** - Dave & Hildie Regehr will be presenting "Ukraine: Resilience and Challenges", stories and pictures from our 2018 term at the Mennonite Centre in the Multi-purpose room at The Gardens on Tenth. All are welcome!

- **August 26, 3:00 pm - Hymn Sing Reunion Concert** - For 30 years, the CBC TV program, HYMN SING was heard and watched in living rooms across Canada. A reunion is being organized for August, and as part of that, a concert by the Hymn Sing Alumni Chorus will be presented at Bethel Mennonite Church, 465 Stafford St. Tickets available at McNally Robinson Booksellers.

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

- **July 7** - MCC's Cycle Clear Lake - [mccmb.ca/cycleclearlake](http://mccmb.ca/cycleclearlake)
- **July 11** - MCC Manitoba Golf Tournament at Bridges Golf Course - [mccmb.ca/golf](http://mccmb.ca/golf)
- **July 14** - **Visit the Villages Tractor Trek** - register at [www.edenhealthcare.ca](http://www.edenhealthcare.ca)

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

### **Our Church family**

- Pray for those for whom mental health makes daily life a struggle.
- Lil Gerbrandt's brother Pete Klassen passed away last week. The funeral was Thursday. Pray for Lil and her family.

### **Our Community**

- 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

### **Our World**

- **Gregory Rabus** and **Jennifer Otto** and their two boys, **Alex** and **Ian** have returned to North America. After visiting family in Connecticut, Gregory and Jennifer will be thanking congregations (in MCEC) and sharing stories from their ministry experience in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Please keep the Otto/Rabus family in your prayers as they transition to life in Canada after serving 6 years cross-culturally. Gregory, Jennifer and boys will settle in Lethbridge, Alberta in mid-July.

- **Mike** and **Cheryl Nimz** have been in North America since April 27 making some good connections with MC Canada congregations and beyond. Pray as Mike and Cheryl near the completion of their itineration, that they would continue to enjoy good health, perseverance and establish new relationships. They will be returning to United Kingdom in mid July.

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