

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

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

Our Community

- Summer is a time to slow down, relax and enjoy the gifts of creation. But for some in our community summer can be a time of stress and hardship. Many families rely on support from programs and services offered by the school division which shut down for the summer. Things like lunch and breakfast programs are no longer available adding extra financial burden to already tight budgets. Schedules are difficult to manage as daycare spots are not available. Missed days at work and possible layoff add stress to families struggling to make ends meet. Food banks report reduced giving and increased use in the summer months. Let us remember to pray for our community and the many needs that people have. Let us also be mindful of the needs around praying for "eyes to see" the needs and wisdom to know how to respond

- 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

- **75 staff gathered at Camp Assiniboia** from July 1-5 for Staff Training Week. Energy and enthusiasm abounded! We learned together, worshiped together, played together and ate together, building community while preparing for the summer. Staff split up for on-site training at each camp over the weekend and Sunday July 8th sees adults with disabilities arriving at Koinonia and Junior High campers arriving at Assiniboia for a week of inspiration and fun. Please continue to pray for the staff, that they may continue to live out their faith and grow together throughout the business of summer camp.

Our World

- **Please join Dann and Joji Pantoja in special prayer**

as they grieve the recent passing of Joji's mother, Aurora Francisco Bautista (84 years of age). Dann and Joji have traveled from their home in the city of Davao (southern island of Mindanao) to Manila where Joji's family has gathered to

celebrate her mother's life. Pray also for Joji's siblings and for Dann and Joji's children that God's peace would surround them all during this time of grief and loss.

- You are encouraged to read Dann Pantoja's reflections of a conversation with a young peace builder who has been struggling with remaining faithful to non-violent peacebuilding practices. Dann's conversation and reflections give an excellent window into the ongoing peacebuilding work that he and his wife Joji have been invested in since 2006.

Please read Dann and Joji's blog :

<https://waves.ca/2018/05/28/field-notes-and-reflection-on-the-meaning-of-violent-extremism/>

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

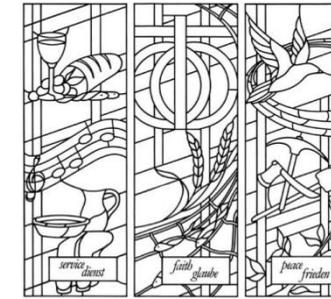
From the Pastor:

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 writin



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LVII No. 25

July 8, 2018

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD THE CREATOR

Welcoming each other

Call to Worship (Psalm 19, paraphrased by Jim Taylor)

Songs of Praise:

SS #122 Let all creation dance

HWB #34 When the morning stars together

Prayer of invocation

WE WORSHIP THE GOD OF LOVE

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13

Hymn STJ #38 Beloved, God's chosen

Message: Love, 1 Corinthians Style:

Tough Tenderness and Tender Toughness – Tim Wiebe

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

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S LOVE AND PEACE

Praying for and with each other

Offering our gifts

Benediction

Sending Song: STS #16 Peace before us

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.

Worship Leader: Dave Regehr
Song Leader: Dave Regehr
Accompanist(s): Hildie Regehr

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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. Breakfast programs in the schools are closed for the summer. It's another meal that is needed!

- 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: July 10 – Rachel Bergen; July 12 – Harry Klassen, Chris Regehr

Anniversaries: July 11 – Ken & Marianne Braun

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

July 15 10:30 am Worship Service

Scripture: Matthew 10:38-39, 16:21-27 *Theme:* Paradox of Life: Life is found in losing it *Worship Leader:* Peggy Martens
Song Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm *Accompanist(s):* Gina Enns

Sound: Perry Batchelor

July 22 10:30 am Worship Service

July 29 Sunflower Festival, Worship Service at the park

August 5 10:30 am Worship Service

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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.

- **September 15, 2018** - 2nd annual Bike For Kids event
The ride will take place from W.C. Miller to Gretna and back down the Trans Canada trail. All proceeds for this event goes towards Big Brothers Big Sisters and the programing done here in Altona.

Make it a ride for yourself, your kids, family, or put a team together from work!!! See the link below for all the info and registration. Lots of prizes, food, & free T-shirt for early registration.

<https://pembinavalley.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/bike-for-kids/>

- **September 27 – 7 pm – MCC Manitoba Annual Meeting** at North Kildonan Mennonite Church (1131 Roch St.) Refreshments at 6 pm. Schedule is on the bulletin board in the general office. We are allowed one voting delegate per 50 members.

- **Save the date! Saturday, September 29th** is the 2018 **Ride for Refuge event**. Mennonite Church Canada is once again inviting its congregational family to participate in this fun, nationwide bike-a-thon/walk in support of our international Witness ministry. As the Ride for Refuge website indicates: "The Ride for Refuge is a family-friendly cycling and walking fundraiser that supports charities who provide refuge and hope for displaced, vulnerable and exploited people everywhere." Please visit the Ride website: <https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/mennonitechurchca>

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

- **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

Interdependence Day (Each and Every Day)

Independence is not "I'm on my own;"
Nor "all on us" individuality;
It's our desire to make our weakness known
And freedom find in our fragility.
Interdependent creatures, young and old,
We've been divinely made to share our need,
Such vulnerable openness – it's bold
In spirit, and, in daily living, freed.
A tender-hearted Spirit lets us yield
To guidance full of faithful hope and love:
And following our Teacher who appeals
To us beside, around, below, above.
Our Maker grants us gifts to serve our neighbor,
And find joy eternal in such daily labor.

MCI Retirement Poem

Four brief, and sometimes endless decades hence,
We look upon a graduation day
We thought was, as life's moments go, the best.
Then meaning in other forms joined the way.

A wedding day, brim-filled with newness, delight,
'Midst sisters and brothers in faith on the way.
Children, each born so dramatically right,
Made mom and dad learn what to do, what to say.

Anniversaries reached with gentle surprise,
Parties for birthdays evolved with the ages.
Work schedules normal for this family's eyes
For years – changed when we reached a new set of pages.

Life's next phase calls us, with wisdom and verve:
"Share God's love deeply; continue to serve."