



Hope Mennonite Church acknowledges our presence on the lands of the Cree, Ojibway, Dakota, and Metis nations, on Treaty lands, covenanted between Indigenous and settler peoples in 1871. We are grateful to our host nations.

Sunday, March 12 (Second Sunday of Lent)

Focus Statement: In our humanness, we want to know, to define, and to have concrete answers for everything. However, life is filled with uncertainty. We trust that God, the great Mystery, is always present with us in our wondering.

The theme is “Restore us, O God: We wonder”. Lynell is speaking, Clare is leading worship, Jason H and Rachel K are leading music. Vivian is greeting. During Adult Ed, Clare, Dori, Jacqueline and Andrea will be leading discussion about the Mennonite Church Manitoba meeting that was held on March 3-4. Remember: **Spring forward!**

Children’s Circle / Youth leaders for December 11		
Age group	Leader	Assistant
Preschool	Charlotte E.	Sam D.
Primary	Molly S.	Madeleine W.
Middle	Laura C-P.	Erin F.
Youth	Chrystie & Richard	

Parents, please contact your child(ren)’s teacher if you know your child(ren) will be absent.

On The Way To Sunday

You say, but with no touch of scorn,
Sweet-hearted, you, whose light-blue eyes
Are tender over drowning flies,
You tell me, doubt is Devil-born.

I know not: one indeed I knew
In many a subtle question versed,
Who touch’d a jarring lyre at first,
But ever strove to make it true:

Perplexed in faith, but pure in deeds,
At last he beat his music out.
There lives more faith in honest doubt,
Believe me, than in half the creeds.

He fought his doubts and gather’d strength,
He would not make his judgment blind,
He faced the spectres of the mind
And laid them: thus he came at length

To find a stronger faith his own;
And Power was with him in the night,
Which makes the darkness and the light,
And dwells not in the light alone,

But in the darkness and the cloud,
As over Sinai’s peaks of old,
While Israel made their gods of gold,
Altho’ the trumpet blew so loud.

- Alfred Tennyson, “In Memoriam,” XCV

Sunday, March 19 (Third Sunday of Lent)

Focus Statement: Our bodies know the desperate need for water; we cannot survive without it. Likewise, our deepest selves are parched and yearn to be drenched in God's love. God, who is love, quenches our thirst so that we can live into the fullness of life.

The theme is "Restore us, O God: We thirst". Jacqueline is speaking, Lisa M is leading worship, Vic B and Dave F are leading music. Thomas is greeting. During Adult Ed, Laura F will be leading a discussion on "Tools for 'on-the-go' spirituality".

Hope News

West Broadway Community Ministry is holding their annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 5, at Crossways. They are asking Hope to contribute;

- Coleslaw for 20 people
- 3 dozen dainties

These items would need to be delivered to the church between 4 pm and 5 pm on Wed, April 5. Please let Lynell know if you are able to contribute any of these items. We could likely arrange to have food delivered earlier, if necessary.

Canadian Mennonite University

CMU Open House, Wednesday, March 29: Be part of a grade 9–12 student 'come and go' Open House to explore programs and opportunities at CMU. Join a campus tour (scheduled every 30 minutes), participate in a class, meet professors and current students, and enjoy free gelato. Parents welcome. Drop in at Marpeck Commons (library and bookstore commons at 2299 Grant Avenue) anytime between 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. For more information go to cmu.ca/openhouse or call 204-594-0537.

Want to encounter other cultures? Come hear fascinating stories and experience the diversity at the **Canadian School of Peacebuilding**. Courses run **June 12-16 and June 19-23, 2017** and are a great opportunity to experience an inspiring community of people gathered to learn about peace. For more information, go to csop.cmu.ca or email csop@cmu.ca. Apply by April 1 to avoid a \$50 late fee.

The final CMU Choral Vespers service of the academic year will be held on Sunday, March 19 at 7:00 PM in the Laudamus Auditorium, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. The theme is "**Hold Us in Your Mercy**". Julie Doerksen will lead the choir and Dan Epp-Thiessen is the reader. All are welcome to attend.

Bach on the Bridge: Celebrate J.S. Bach's birthday with musicians around the world as musicians from the CMU community perform his music to uplift, educate, and entertain – all on CMU's Marpeck Commons pedestrian bridge. Join us Tuesday, March 21 from 10:00 –11:30 AM and 12:00 –1:30 PM.

Pop-Up Poetry at CMU: Celebrate World Poetry Day with poets stationed at vintage typewriters to write poems for you on demand, on Tuesday, March 21, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM, Marpeck Commons.

Upcoming concerts at CMU (for more information see cmu.ca/events):

- **Bells and Whistles with Strings Attached**, (handbell, flute and guitar ensembles) April 2 at 7:00 PM in the Laudamus Auditorium, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. \$5 admission.
- **Jazz at CMU**, April 4 at 7:00 PM in the Great Hall, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. \$5 admission.
- The **Mennonite Community Orchestra**, CMU's Resident Orchestra, April 9 at 3:00 PM in the CMU Chapel, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Admission \$15 adults and \$5 students, with 12 and under free.

Mennonite Disaster Services

The annual Manitoba MDS Awareness & Fundraising Events are approaching. Come hear MDS stories from 2016 projects and plans for 2017 - especially, Fort McMurray. Please attend either the Arborg area supper at the Morweena E.M Church on APRIL 8th; or the Altona area event (Details to follow shortly) on APRIL 22nd. See the poster for details. Reserve your complimentary attendance by calling **MDS at 1-866-261-1274**.

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC Canada welcomes applications for MCC Canada Executive Director. Interested individuals are asked to apply online at <http://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/openings> by April 7. Any inquiries regarding this position can be sent to karengracepankratz@mcccanada.ca.

Special Event: MCC in Haiti - Thursday, March 16, 7 pm; 159 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg. Join us for an update on MCC's disaster response and development efforts in Haiti, featuring MCC's director of disaster response Bruce Guenther, who recently returned from visiting communities affected by Hurricane Matthew. For more information, please visit <http://mccmb.ca/events>.

Note: We regret to inform you that the March 15 event to be hosted in Winkler has been postponed.

IVEP Night - Thursday, March 23, 7 pm; 159 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg. Every year we welcome young adults from around the world through MCC's International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP). Join us at Sam's Place as Winnipeg IVEP participants share a taste of their home countries: Bolivia, Germany and South Africa.

Film Premiere - For one Cree family, the area to be soon flooded by the Keeyask hydro dam is the most precious place on the planet. Travel to the flood zone with them. And visit the site from which another community was relocated with an elder who imagines a future beyond concrete. ***For Love of a River: Two Stories of Loss & Longing*, March 18, 7:30, Dramatic Arts Centre, 585 Ellice Ave, Winnipeg.** Panel discussion to follow. Presented by the Interchurch Council on Hydropower. See hydrojustice.org.

Mennonite Church Canada and Manitoba

Do you want to learn how to recognize and resist racism? Come to a training event on "Dismantling Racism," hosted by Home Street Mennonite Church on Saturday, April 8, 1:30 to 4:30 PM. Sarah Thompson, director of Christian Peacemaker Teams, will be the key presenter. Suggested donation is \$25 for waged persons and \$10 for students. For more information and to reserve a spot, contact administrator@hsmc.ca or [204-783-1721](tel:204-783-1721).

If you, or someone you know, is a university student looking for accommodation in Winnipeg for the summer or for the 2017/18 academic year, take a look at Emmaus House! Located in the heart of Winnipeg, Emmaus House is a place where students can find support academically, spiritually, in lives of service, healthy living and relationship and fun. Check us out at: emmaushousewinnipeg.ca

New this year: Auction, Camp sing-a-long! The Camps with Meaning "Raise the Roof" Song-a-thon will be March 18th from 1-9 PM! campswithmeaning.org/songathon

Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights: Save the date – April 23 - May 14 – to join all or part of a 600 km pilgrimage from Kitchener-Waterloo to Ottawa. Further details at pfir.ca. You can also check out the new video invitation from Willard Metzger, Executive Director of Mennonite Church Canada: youtu.be/oHaTgt1k-EU.

Those attending upcoming Area Church annual meetings - or in case you missed the AGM in your region – you can check out documents outlining the re-vitalization of Mennonite Church Canada and Area Churches as a result of our Future Directions process: futuredirectionsmc.ca/the-proposal.

Featured prayer request from the wider church (to receive regular prayer requests, subscribe to PrayerNet at: commonword.ca/ResourceView/59/7507): On March 17-18 MCA's Annual Assembly will take place at Trinity Mennonite Church in Calgary. Pray for leaders, delegates, and church participants as they gather to discern, connect, and worship, guided by the theme, "Sharing the Light of Jesus." Several Alberta ministry leaders will offer reflections on this topic, including Donna Entz from the North Edmonton Ministry, Jon Olfert from Camp Valaqua, and Pastor Leng Thang of the Calgary Chin Christian Church. Pray that our time may be inspiring and empowering as we seek to be God's people together.

Community

Mennonite Collegiate Institute Celebrates 50 Years of Musicals! Join us for our Fundraising Gala Concert and Reception, featuring musicals from the past 50 years, on April 8th at 7:30pm in Buhler Hall, Gretna, MB. To reserve a seat for the show, call MCI at 204-327-5891. Opportunity for donations will be available at the concert.

Menfolk is an annual expose of fringe Mennonite art and music. This year we invite you hold your fear, stand beside it, or perhaps glare at it from a distance. In this world which gives fear the power to draw boundaries, to validate existence, and to arrest truth, we ask: where does hope meet fear? Shall we resist our very consumption? Bring your family, bring your friends. March 25, 2017, 7:00 pm @ X-cues 551 Sargent Avenue. For more information check out the event page - facebook.com/events/1565795743438392/

The West Central Women's Resource Centre is hiring a Housing First Worker for their More than Four Walls Housing First program. The Housing First Worker will assist women, trans people and families who are chronically or episodically homeless find and maintain permanent housing through a Housing First Intensive Case Management approach. For more details see the poster at bit.ly/2mJz36F.

The Migrant Worker Solidarity Network & Migrante Manitoba are presenting the film "Migrant Dreams" in Winnipeg on Friday, March 10, 2017 at the Dramatic Arts Centre, 585 Ellice Ave at 7:00 pm followed by a panel discussion with director Min Sook Lee. This powerful documentary tells the story of women struggling to resist oppression and exploitation as migrant workers. Free admission.

Contact Information

Lynell Bergen, Pastor
lynell@hopemennonite.ca

Clare Schellenberg, Associate Pastor
clare@hopemennonite.ca

Office: [\(204\) 786-5077](tel:2047865077)
<http://www.hopemennonite.ca/>

Richard Boggs, Bulletin Coordinator
roll.tide.richard@gmail.com

Thoughts on Worship

Because we live most of the time in a culture preoccupied with the ego and the small self, we all need to be reminded of how the culture of Christian faith is different. Each week, we need to hear once again why we have come. We need words that are direct and concrete to usher us into an alternative time and space.

In worship we come not to succeed and be noticed, not to achieve or to prove ourselves. We come rather to lose ourselves. We come to die to all our petty concerns and fears and to be submerged once again into the being and the story of God, so that we may rise to new life in Christ. We come to return to the source of true joy and sustenance.

Christian worship is a counter-cultural activity, and it requires clear signals and rituals if it is to draw us out of the culture of narcissism. Preparing ourselves for worship requires disciplined work. To the outsider, it may seem a strange and unnecessary activity. But when we finally arrive and settle in, we will surely remember why we have come.

Scott Brubaker-Zehr, from "Receiving before Responding" Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology, Fall 2005, Vol 6, No 2