



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 19 (Third Sunday of Lent)

“Restore us, O God! We thirst.”

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.

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” (see Hope News for more details).

Children’s Circle / Youth leaders for December 11		
Age group	Leader	Assistant
Preschool	Barry S.	Pat J.
Primary	Emily H.	Peter F.
Middle	Clare S.	Karla F.
Youth	Chrystie & Richard	

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

Sunday, March 26 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

“Restore us, O God! We see.”

Focus Statement: We are bombarded by visual images, and can mistake what is seen for what is true. God reveals hidden truths, surprising us and challenging our assumptions. Once our eyes and hearts are opened, we can see with greater clarity.

Adam is speaking, Lynell is worship leading. Thomas and Leah are leading music. Janelle is greeting. During Adult Ed, we will be responding to and discussing Adam’s sermon.

On The Way To Sunday

Welcoming Jesus,
we come to you at the well,
from all walks & seasons of life,
from all circumstances,
and in every mood.

Some of us are eager, curious.
Some of us are defensive and worried.
Some of us are tired or lonely.
But most of all, we are
thankful you’re here.

Please be gracious and kind
as we pour out our stories.
Hear our grief...
Know our joy...
Receive our questions.

We still have not learned to be
satisfied by your abundance.
Pour out life for us yet again
and renew us by your mercy.

- Rachel Hackenberg, Prayer at the Well

Hope News

During Adult Ed this Sunday (March 19th), Laura F will be leading a discussion on “Tools for ‘on-the-go’ spirituality”, an exploration of several spiritual practices that can be done while waiting in line at the grocery store, at a traffic light, or while our computer is booting up. Reclaim those little moments of the day that might just have been spent in impatience! Learn practices that appeal to the left-brain and the right-brain, for little moments or for longer times.

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.

Paska is needed for the gathering after the Good Friday service on April 7. Hope is being asked to bring 15 loaves this year. Alternatively, a plate of squares/treats would be a fine substitute. Paska can be purchased from Sam's Place, if you order in advance. Or perhaps someone should organize a paska-making extravaganza at Hope...!?

Canadian Mennonite University

On Wednesday, April 5 plan to attend **Spring at CMU** – an evening fundraiser in support of CMU's mission and programs. The CMU PAX Award will be presented to Sarah Thompson, Executive Director of Christian Peacemaker Teams, and we will celebrate the leadership of the Capital Campaign Cabinet in constructing Marpeck Commons. Go to cmu.ca/springatcmu for more information.

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 CMU's **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.

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., featuring CMU Jazz Band, Vocal Jazz Soloists and Jazz Guitar Duo. \$5 admission.
- The **Mennonite Community Orchestra**, CMU's Resident Orchestra, April 9 at 3:00 PM in the CMU Chapel, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. , featuring guest soloist **Matthew Pauls**, baritone, CMU assistant professor of music. Admission \$15 adults and \$5 students, with 12 and under free.

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-Tiessen 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.

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

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.

MCC Canada welcomes applications for Executive Assistant to Executive Director (12 month term) based in Winnipeg. Applications are accepted until March 22. For more information and to apply, please visit mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/openings/executive-assistant-12-month-term.

MCC Canada welcomes applications for Executive Assistant to Director of Programs based in Winnipeg. Applications are accepted until March 27. For more information and to apply, please visit mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/openings/executive-assistant-director-programs.

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.

Mennonite Church Canada and Manitoba

Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights: The lawyer in Luke 10 asks, “And who is my neighbour?” Jesus recounts the story of the Good Samaritan after which the lawyer answers his own question: “The one who had mercy on him.” And Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.” Save the date – April 23 - May 14 – to join all or part of a 600 km pilgrimage of neighbours from Kitchener-Waterloo to Ottawa. Further details at www.pfir.ca.

Future Directions: Those attending upcoming Area Church annual meetings - or in case you missed the AGM in your region –check out documents outlining the re-vitalization of Mennonite Church Canada and Area Churches that positions congregations as centres of worship and mission: 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): What does it mean for Anabaptists to live out faith in community? Mike Nimz, a resource worker with the Mennonite Trust in the UK, and his wife Cheryl, a volunteer with the Anabaptist Network in the UK, say it begins with showing vulnerability and being accountable to one another. Pray for Mike and Cheryl as they embody these traits and encourage community through their partnership with Mennonite Church Canada.

AMBS webinar: Intercultural Leadership in Diversity-Oriented Churches: Thursday, March 23, 2–3:30 p.m. EDT. In this interactive webinar, **A. Brian Leander, Ph.D.**, will introduce the concept of “cultural intelligence” and share findings from cultural intelligence research to help leaders who want to learn more about how they can enhance and support diversity in congregational and organizational life. This webinar is an offering of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s Church Leadership Center. Cost: \$20 by noon on March 22; \$30 after. Your first AMBS webinar is free of charge! ambs.edu/lifelong-learning/webinars

Want to learn more about Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary but can't make it to our Elkhart, Indiana, campus? Connect with us at the Seminary and Theological School Virtual Fair on March 29. The fair is a free online event where you can interact with faculty, students and admissions staff. Register today to get answers to your questions. ambs.edu/admissions/visit

Community

All Saints Choir presents Bach Vespers featuring J. S. Bach's Cantatas BWV 10 and BWV 125, based on the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis. With choir, soloists, and orchestra, directed by Dietrich Bartel. Sunday, March 26, 4 pm, All Saints Church (Broadway & Osborne). Admission by donation. Parking available in the Great West parking lot on Colony St. (please do not park in the 500 stalls). allsaints.mb.ca, facebook.com/pages/All-Saints-Alive

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/

Contact Information

Lynell Bergen, Pastor
lynell@hopemennonite.ca

Clare Schellenberg, Associate Pastor
clare@hopemennonite.ca

Office: (204) 786-5077
<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