



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 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. We will be celebrating communion together. During Adult Ed, we will be responding to and discussing Adam's sermon.

Children's Circle leaders for March 26		
Age group	Leader	Assistant
Preschool	Emma H.	Vi S.
Primary	Clare S.	Jacqueline G.
Middle	Anika R.	Anna E.

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

**On The Way To Sunday**

Strong Son of God, immortal Love,  
Whom we, that have not seen thy face,  
By faith, and faith alone, embrace,  
Believing where we cannot prove;

...

Our little systems have their day;  
They have their day and cease to be:  
They are but broken lights of thee,  
And thou, O Lord, art more than they.

We have but faith: we cannot know;  
For knowledge is of things we see;  
And yet we trust it comes from thee,  
A beam in darkness: let it grow.

Let knowledge grow from more to more,  
But more of reverence in us dwell;  
That mind and soul, according well,  
May make one music as before ...

*- Alfred Tennyson, Strong Son of God, Immortal Love*

**Sunday, April 2** *(Fifth Sunday of Lent):* “Restore us, O God! We breathe.”

**Focus Statement:** When we come to the end of our human strength, vitality, and purpose, we recognize the reality of death in and around us. God, who is Spirit, breathes life into us, revealing God's glory and purpose. We, and the community, are restored.

Chrystie is speaking Lynell is worship leading. Curt and Laura are leading music. Raya is greeting. After the service, we will gather in the mini-gym for potluck.

## Holy Week events

In Christian tradition, the Thursday before Easter is known as Maundy Thursday- a day in which many churches commemorate Jesus' last supper with his disciples before his arrest later that night. We will be having a Maundy Thursday Service on **April 13th at 7:00pm** in the upstairs adult ed room. This service will consist of scripture, singing, foot washing, and eating a small meal. This is an opportunity to contemplate and enter into the Holy Week story by walking alongside Jesus and his followers on the night of Passover. Childcare will be provided.

We will be marking Good Friday along with Charleswood, Home St and Fort Garry Mennonite Churches. Everyone is invited to meet at Home St Mennonite Church, 318 Home St, on Friday, April 14, beginning at 10:00 am. There will be a fellowship time after the service.

## Hope News

West Broadway Community Ministry is holding their annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 5, at Crossways. I am still needing:

- Coleslaw for 10 people
- 1 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

**Spring at CMU** – You're warmly invited to the 2017 annual fundraising evening in support of CMU. Wednesday April 5, 7:00 PM, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. RSVP by March 29<sup>th</sup> to Joyce Friesen, [jfriesen@cmu.ca](mailto:jfriesen@cmu.ca) or 204-594-0517. **Gather. Give. Celebrate.**

**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](http://cmu.ca/openhouse) or call 204-594-0537.

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

- **Bells and Whistles with Strings Attached**, showcasing CMU handbell and guitar ensembles, April 2 at 7:00 PM in the Laudamus Auditorium, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. \$5 admission.
- **Jazz at CMU** presenting CMU Jazz Band, Vocal Jazz Soloists and Jazz Guitar Duo, April 4 at 7:00 PM in the Great Hall, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. \$5 admission.
- The **Mennonite Community Orchestra**, CMU's Resident Orchestra, featuring guest soloist **Matthew Pauls**, baritone, CMU Assistant Professor of Music, April 9 at 3:00 PM in CMU Chapel, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Admission \$15 adults & \$5 students, 12 & under free.

- **CMU Spring Choral Concert, with CMU Singers, CMU Women's and CMU Men's Choruses**, April 22 at 7:00 PM in the Loewen Athletic Centre.

Wondering if the **Canadian School of Peacebuilding** is for you? If you are interested in peace and are between the ages of 21 and 90, the CSOP is for you. Check out our participant profiles to learn a little about some of the many diverse people who participate in the CSOP. For profiles and more information, go to [csop.cmu.ca](http://csop.cmu.ca) or email [csop@cmu.ca](mailto:csop@cmu.ca). Register now to join us, **June 12-16 and 19-23, 2017**. Apply now as costs go up after April 1.

**Celebrate with Outtown students at Outtown Guatemala & South Africa Gradation** on April 9 at 2:00 PM in the Loewen Athletic Centre.

Canadian Mennonite University invites inquiries and applications for the full-time salaried position of **Maintenance Technician 2**. Applications should be submitted immediately and will be reviewed upon receipt and accepted until this position is filled. Please share this opportunity with suitable candidates. Inquiries should be directed to Dianna Robson, Director of Human Resources at [drobson@cmu.ca](mailto:drobson@cmu.ca) or 204-594-0532.

## Mennonite Disaster Services

Mennonite Disaster Service will be running the 2017 Family Project at Camp Wildwood, New Brunswick. We invite families to apply online by visiting our website, [mds.mennonite.net/volunteer/family-programs](http://mds.mennonite.net/volunteer/family-programs), and filling out the Family Project application. You may contact the MDS Office if you have any further questions; our email is [mdscn@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:mdscn@mds.mennonite.net) or call us at 866-261-1274. Please note that preference will be given to families from Atlantic Canada until April 15, but we invite all to apply beginning March 23.

## Mennonite Central Committee

**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](http://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/openings/executive-assistant-director-programs).

**Special Event: Stolen Identities: Thursday, April 6, 7 pm, 159 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg.** Join Skip Gagnon, founder of the International Indigenous Adoptees Movement, who will share his personal story as a survivor of the Sixties Scoop. For more information, please visit <http://mccmb.ca/stolen-identities>.

**Film Night: Reserve 107 and For Love of a River: Monday, April 10, 7 pm, 159 Henderson Hwy, Winnipe.** Join us for the screenings of two inspiring documentaries that explore themes of injustice and reconciliation. The screening will be followed by a Q & A with the filmmakers and featured elder Ellen Cook. For more information, please visit [mccmb.ca/film-night](http://mccmb.ca/film-night).

## Mennonite Church Canada and Manitoba

Sie sind herzlich eingeladen am Sonntagmorgen um 7.30 Uhr (CFAM / CHSM / CJRB) **Frohe Botschaft** einzuschalten, eine Sendung die von Mennonite Church Manitoba produziert wird. Im April bringt Prediger Victor Kliewer aus der Steinbach Mennoniten Gemeinde eine Predigtserie.

*Please join us for **Frohe Botschaft**, a German language worship service produced by Mennonite Church Manitoba and broadcast on Sunday morning at 7:30 on CFAM / CHSM / CJRB. The speaker in April is Pastor Victor Kliewer from Steinbach Mennonite Church.*

**Featured prayer request from the wider church** (to receive regular prayer requests, subscribe to PrayerNet at: [commonword.ca/ResourceView/59/7507](http://commonword.ca/ResourceView/59/7507)): Jeanette Hanson is a Witness worker for China ministry based in Rosthern, Sask., and is Associate Director of Mennonite Partners in China (MPC). Pray for her while she travels to China in March to coordinate ministry programs and connect with Chinese church leaders in the flourishing Anabaptist community there.

March 31 is the deadline to register for the Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights. Sign up now to join all or part of a 600 km pilgrimage of neighbours from Kitchener-Waterloo to Ottawa – April 23 - May 14. Details at [www.pfir.ca](http://www.pfir.ca).

Might you still need an inspirational read this Lent? CommonWord can get you material quickly, at no cost. See [www.commonword.ca/go/504](http://www.commonword.ca/go/504)

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](http://futuredirectionsmc.ca/the-proposal).

## Community

Coffee House at Young United Church (222 Furby at Broadway): Friday, March 31 (Doors open at 7 pm; music begins at 7:30 pm) Featuring two amazing section leads, Adam Sperry and Dan Peasgood and our resident violinist, Andi Block. This will truly be an aural feast - bring all your friends! Seating is casual cafe style. Delectable treats and beverages will be available for purchase all evening; cover charge is \$10; students \$5; children 14 and under are free. Parking is available at Thompson's on Broadway; at Epic Solutions accessed off of Sara Street from Broadway or Furby and, of course, on the street.

The First Mennonite Church choir with orchestra, under the direction of Yuri Klaz present Mozart's Requiem on Good Friday at 7pm at the church, 922 Notre Dame Ave. Soloists are, Karis Wiebe, Anne Marie Dueck, James Magnus-Johnston and Howard Rempel.

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). [www.allsaints.mb.ca](http://www.allsaints.mb.ca), [facebook.com/pages/All-Saints-Alive](https://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.

## Contact Information

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## 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*