

Prayer for Our World

- **Vietnam believers celebrate** - Praise God for the Christmas celebrations and services held by the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Vietnam. Over 2,000 people attended multiple gatherings during Christmas week in six different counties. Pray for the leadership of these congregations and for the new believers that are worshipping with them.

- **Peace in South Korea** - This month pray for Song Kang-ho, founder of Frontiers (a Christian-based peace organization), who is appealing a two-year sentence for trespassing onto a military base during a peaceful protest. Pray for Witness workers Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park as they support and provide study resources for the Christian peace community in South Korea.

- **Outbreaks in China put student holidays at risk** - Pray that the students of Tobia Veith, in Harbin, China, are able to end the semester well before returning to their homes for the Chinese New Year holiday. Students under end-of-term exam pressure are worried about being caught in Harbin for the holiday due to COVID-19 outbreaks and a potential lockdown. Pray for Tobia as she provides support and a calm presence in their lives.

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

From the Pastor:

"Cultivating Lovingkindness." This is the theme that we will engage during the winter season. Perhaps it is a bit misaligned as the ground is dormant waiting for the warm sun and rain of April to awaken its potential. And yet, as God's beloved, the work of becoming the loving people God desires us to be never ends. The cultivating metaphor is to be applied to the fertile soil of our hearts. It is a familiar Biblical image. From Jesus parables of sowing and reaping, to Isaiah's and the Psalmist's imagery of trees planted by streams of water it is used to help us understand the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, our congregation and in our community. It is a fitting metaphor for us as rural folk for we are not so far removed from the land as some of our city brothers and sisters. Many of us, maybe even all of us have gotten our hands decorated by the beautiful soil sowing seeds in anticipation of a bountiful harvest.

To guide us in this particular cultivation of lovingkindness, we will look at what Paul calls the "Fruit of the Spirit" in Galatians 5. It is here we find the pleasant variety of this lovingkindness. You might think of it as a beautiful flower garden in full bloom displaying its countless colours and forms. Or perhaps it could be seen as an orchard of many varieties each giving its fruit in season. Or the mosaic that can be seen on the prairie land scape from an airplane, a patchwork of golds, greens, blues, and yellows. However you imagine the "Fruit of the Spirit" it is our desire to become more Christ-like in our being, and loving in our living as we explore this theme of "Cultivating Lovingkindness."

Altona Mennonite Church Vision

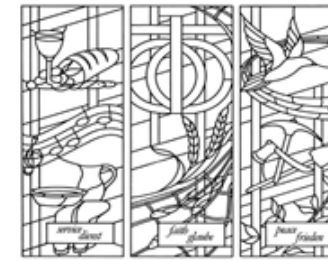
God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Purpose

We seek to know God through Jesus, the center of our faith.

We seek to follow God in community, through worship, fellowship, and interpreting the Scripture from a Christ-centered point of view, in the Anabaptist tradition.

We seek to obey God by working toward peace and reconciliation, in the spirit of Jesus, reconciling all people to God, to each other, and to the world around them.



Altona Mennonite Church

Sunday School – Adults & Children: 10:00 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

VOLUME LX No.2

January 10, 2021

Cultivating Loving Kindness

If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit
Galatians 5:25

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship – from our new Voices Together Hymnal # 855

V.1 To worship is to stand in awe under a heaven of stars,
before a flower, a leaf in sunlight, or a grain of sand.

V.2 To worship is to be silent, receptive,
below a tree astir with the wind, or the passing shadow of
a cloud.

V.1 To worship is to work with dedication and with skill,
it is to pause from work and listen to a strain of music.

V.2 To worship is to sing with the singing beauty of the
earth;
it is to listen through a storm to the still small voice within.

**All: Worship is the mystery within us
reaching out to the Mystery beyond.**

Prayer

Hymn STJ #4 You've Got a Place

Reflections

Scripture: Galatians 5:22 – 26 Psalm 25 4 – 10

Hymn STS #54 What does the Lord Require of You?

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 17: 7 – 8 Luke 6:43-45

AMC Contact information:

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

John 15: 1 – 5 Congregational reading from VT #472

Jesus said,
"I am the true vine.

God is the gardener.

God trims every branch

That bears fruit

so that it will bear even more fruit.

Remain in me,

just as I also remain in you.

No branch can bear fruit by itself.

It must remain in the vine.

In the same way, you cannot bear fruit

Unless you remain in me.

I am the vine.

You are the branches.

If you remain in me,

And I in you,

You will bear much fruit."

Message "A Tree and its Fruit" Dan Kehler

Hymn Let the Words of the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 3:17)

Congregational Prayer

Hymn STS #16 Peace before us

Benediction

Worship Leader: Marge Friesen

Music: Gina Enns, Kevin Neufeld

Sound: Perry Batchelor

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

January 15 Reports for the AGM due

January 17 service on-line

Theme: Cultivating Kindness *Speaker(s):* Dave Regehr

Scripture: *Worship Leader:* Norma Thiessen *Musicians:* Loren

& Lori Hiebert *Sound:* Dale Klassen

January 20 7:30 pm Leadership Committee

January 24 Worship Service

January 31 Worship Service

Feb. 7 Projected date for an AGM, platform to be decided

Birthdays: January 10 – Karen Martens; January 17 – Fredric Dyck; January 15 – Sylvia Klassen; January 19 – Dave Regehr, Ken Hamm

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AMC virtual coffee.** Wednesday January 13th 10:30 AM. If you would like to join email Pastor Dan. A link will be provided prior to the coffee time. Also watch for an evening virtual coffee time in the coming weeks.

- **If you are interested in joining the sound/video team at AMC,** please let the church office know. You'd be part of a rotation, like 1 Sunday every 5 weeks or so. You'd be needed to run the sound/video system when the services are (pre)recorded. For further details as to what the position entails, contact Kevin Neufeld.

- **From the treasurer:** You have generously responded to AMC's financial needs, and we ended the year able to meet all expenses, as well as sending our 4th Quarter donations to MCI, MCC and The Station. We were even able to send just over half of our 4th Quarter commitment to Mennonite Church Manitoba. Thank you for this financial support for the work of the church.

Thank you again for supporting the work of the Church. You may contribute online if you bank at Access (using your 7-digit phone number as your account number) make an e-transfer to amchurchdonations@gmail.com, or send or bring a cheque to AMC (Box 1237, Altona, R0G 0B0)

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Darryl Loewen from MCC Manitoba sends this... **"Beginning April 1, MCC Canada will relocate its central material resources warehouse from Plum Coulee, Manitoba, to New Hamburg, Ontario.**

This transition will help facilitate the more rapid distribution of relief supplies – such as comforters, relief kits and canned meat – by reducing the number of Canadian shipping sites and locating the central warehouse closer to an international port. The move will also allow for canned meat, produced by volunteers in Ontario with MCC's mobile meat canner, to be stored in and shipped directly from Ontario.

As part of this relocation, the Plum Coulee warehouse will permanently close its doors on June 30 of this year. This means community members will no longer be able to gather for volunteer activities or drop off donations at this location."

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Cornie and Hilda Elias are grateful for the cards and letters they have received. They have been blessed by the online services from their new home at Bethania Personal Care Home. Hilda had a mild case of COVID, but has recovered. They wish AMC well, and keep us in their prayers.

- Pray for Pastor Dan Kehler, and for Dave & Hildie Regehr as they together lead the church.

- Harv Heinrichs has received his report after chemo treatments. The results are very good, indicating that the cancer is now in remission! Thank you for your encouragement and prayers.

- Pray for Ken & Marianne Braun and Mike Tarnick who are at

- Pray for Ken Hamm as he continues to recover at home.

- Anne Loewen goes for chemotherapy monthly. Pray for strength, safety and peace.

- Pray for all those for whom mental health makes daily life a struggle. The current situation increases anxiety for many.

- Pray for those who experience physical pain, and for friends and family who help with their care.

- Many of our church family have other family they are concerned about. Pray for healing, strength and calm for all.

Prayer for Our Community

- Pray for ALL the teachers, students and staff as they navigate all the regulations and requirements.

- Pray also for the Health Care Providers.

- Pray for Doug Klassen (MCCanada's Executive Minister) and for church leaders at all levels of our conference.

- Michael Pahl is the new MCManitoba's Executive Minister.