

Prayer for Our World

- **Myanmar congregation builds church** - Pray for the Mission Anabaptist Church in Chin State, Myanmar, as they build a place where they can worship with and train members of their community. Pray that God will bless this place and use it to be a blessing to their region and country.

- **Daycare program offered by Bolivia Mennonite Church forced to close** - Iglesia Evangélica Menonita de Bolivia (IEMB) community daycare program for vulnerable and marginalized children in Santa Cruz has been forced to close due to COVID-19 numbers in the area. Pray for the families affected by this closure. Pray they can find ways to work while taking care of their children. Pray for the staff of the daycare program who have been without work for many months due to the closure.

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."

"There is no such thing as preaching patience unto people unless the sermon is so long that they have to practise it while they hear." H.W. Beecher

Altona Mennonite Church Vision

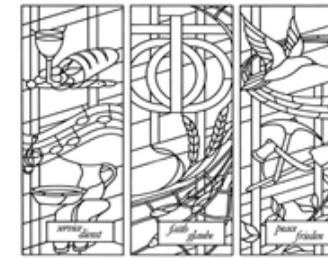
God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

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.5

January 31, 2021

Cultivating Loving Kindness

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude

Call to Worship Psalm 100: 1-5 (HWB#821)

Hymn of Praise HWB #71 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn HWB #383 God, whose giving

CONFESSING/RECONCILING

Prayer of Confession – HWB #696

RECEIVING THE WORD

Scripture Theme: Galatians 5:22-25; 6:9-10; I Thess. 5:19-24

Hymn HWB #507 Gracious Spirit

Scripture Focus: I Thess. 5:19-22; 2 Peter 1:3-8

Message – Dave Regehr

RESPONDING IN PRAYER AND ACTION

Hymn HWB #367 For the healing of the nations

Prayers for the World

Affirmation of Faith – HWB#713

Closing Hymn HWB # 421 Bless'd be the tie that binds

Benediction – I Thess. 5: 23-24

POSTLUDE

Worship Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm

Music: Loren Braul, Nancy Ratzlaff

Sound: Nathan Loewen

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Dan Kehler amcpastordan@gmail.com 204-324-6773

Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952

altonamennonite@gmail.com

Custodians: Dale/Sandra Klassen: H:204-324-1475 C: 204-324-7458

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

Feb. 2 7:30 pm Zoom Coffee, email Dan
Feb. 3 7:15 pm Worship Committee meeting
Feb. 7 Worship Service

Theme: The Fruit of Guidance: Peace, Patience, Meekness

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2, Titus 3:3-8, 1 Peter 3:8-11,

Proverbs 15:18, Ecclesiastes 7:8-9 *Speaker(s):* Dan Kehler

Worship Leader: Ang Enns *Musicians:* Loren & Lori Hiebert

Sound: Henry Rempel

1 pm AGM via Zoom – details will be emailed

Feb. 10 10:30 am Zoom Coffee, email Dan

Feb. 14 Worship Service

Birthdays: Feb. 1 – Marne Mierau Friesen; Feb. 5 – Ryan Geirnaert

Anniversaries: Jan. 31 – Irv & Cheryl Giesbrecht

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are excited to announce that Dan will be returning to full time pastoring starting February 1, 2021! We are grateful to Dave and Hilde Regehr for actively taking on the challenge of leading our congregation for the past six (6) months. Interim leadership is difficult in normal times but AMC has been ably guided through these exceptional times. We are hopeful that Dan's return is one of many things that return to normal in 2021.

- **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

- Camps with Meaning Summer Staff applications are on the CwM website. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org and follow the Summer links.

- MCM Annual Gathering 2021 - March 6 online

Summary agenda is available on the [MCM website Gathering event page](#).

- Be part of CMU's next **Wednesday Webinar** entitled **Free Money: CMU's Scholarships**. Each year, *over 50%* of CMU students receive scholarship and bursary support. Find out about CMU's financial support of students from academic entrance to leadership scholarships! Learn about every scholarship offered, along with criteria details and how to apply. **Wednesday, February 3, 4:00 PM (CST)**. Register at www.cmu.ca/webinar.

- The **CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre** is now **open for in-person shopping**, from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday–Friday. 'Non-essential items' are again available in-store at CommonWord! On arrival, simply call 204-594-0524 and a CommonWord employee will open the doors for you. Online orders are welcome and continue to be processed. Visit www.commonword.ca for an amazing array of resources to buy, borrow, or access online.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Elaine Loewen sends this "Thank you for your many caring thoughts and prayers, emails, and phone calls. I have felt very cared for by family and friends. Surgery went well and I am on the road to recovery."

- Pray for Pastor Dan as he resumes full time pastoral duties on February 1.

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

- While still recovering, pray for Ken Hamm as he returned to HSC for some further tests.

- 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.