

Prayer for Our Community

- MCI requests prayer for their Graduates – That they can make meaningful memories during their last few weeks on campus. We ask for peace and joy as they process the disappointment of graduation celebrations not unfolding as they had hoped. AND also for their Transitioning Staff - Jozanna Loewen (Dean), Paul Peters (Director of Student Life), and Kathy Franz (EA). We ask for prayer over these staff members as they complete their last weeks at MCI and anticipate the changes that lie ahead. We are grateful for their service at MCI, they will be missed.

- 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.

- Pray for Michael Pahl, our MCManitoba's Executive Minister.

Prayers for the World

- **Pray and act for peace in the Holy Land.** In recent days, hundreds of people have been killed and injured in fresh violence fueled by pent-up hatred and ongoing injustice. Pray for our partners at Bethlehem Bible College and for all Palestinian Christians as they bear witness to Jesus' way of peace. Contact your MP to ask Canada to take a clearer stand for justice and international law. For more, please visit: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/pin>.

- **COVID complicates ministry in Thailand**
COVID-19 restrictions on travel in Thailand are keeping infection rates down but also making ministry more difficult for Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong, and Myrrl and Ruthie Byler, who work jointly for Mennonite Church Canada and MC USA in Asia. Pray that relationships can be formed and maintained in creative ways.

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

"Joy is like the rain" from the Medical Mission Sisters.

1. I saw raindrops on my window, joy is like the rain.
Laughter runs across my pain, slips away and comes again.
Joy is like the rain.
2. I saw clouds upon a mountain, joy is like a cloud.
Sometimes silver, sometimes grey, always sun not far away. Joy is like a cloud.

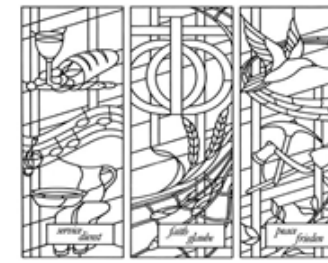
3. I saw Christ in wind and thunder, joy is tried by storm.
Christ asleep within my boat, whipped by wind, yet still afloat. Joy is tried by storm.
4. I saw raindrops on the river, joy is like the rain.
Bit by bit the river grows, till all at once it overflows.
Joy is like the rain.
--text and music by Sister Miriam Therese Winter

From the Pastor:

This summer AMC's worship will be centered on the theme *Nurturing Joy*. How do we nurture joy in our lives not only during a pandemic but in all seasons of life? Restrictions to keep our community safe have taken away many of the things that make life rich and meaningful. Many people say they have become unmotivated to engage with daily routines and schedules. Others have suggested that we are experiencing "Groundhog days." This is in reference the 1993 movie where Bill Murray is a reporter doing a story on local Groundhog lore. In a twist of fate, he wakes up every morning at 6:00 AM only to repeat the same day over and over. Some say there is a disconnection with life in general creating a haze of time where one day runs into the next with no sense moving forward. If you have asked what day of the week it is more than once a week this could be you. It is like a mild depression that exhausts one's motivation for basic daily plans. The stereotypical portrait of this is sitting on the couch wearing pajamas in a messy house eating junk food while endlessly binge watching TV.

Psychologists have used the term languishing to describe this condition. Even with the hope offered by the vaccines, the lingering effects of languishing for so long will be with us for months, even years. Paul's letter to the Philippians is often called his epistle of joy. Shackled in prison, possibly facing execution for his belief that Jesus is Lord and Caesar is not, the apostle Paul experiences a remarkable joy despite his dire circumstances. How can this be? But what is joy that it might be found while imprisoned?

How is it that Paul could nurture such Joy with his freedoms severely curtailed? Perhaps joy can only be nurtured when we realize the finitude of our existence in the vast unknowability of the cosmos. Paul's letter to the church at Philippi informs us how we might nurture joy in this extended time of languishing.



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LX No.23

June 6, 2021

Nurturing Joy – Joy Rides

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT #428 Praise with Joy the World's Creator

Call to Worship and Prayer

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory. [Isaiah 6:3 NRSV]

The Lord of hosts is with us.

Let us lift up our hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is a good and joyful thing to give God thanks and praise!

Let us pray:

Holy God, we come together as your people
searching for sacred space, longing to be cherished,
craving a real connection.

In this hour of worship let thankfulness sink deep
and joy spring up.

**We lift our hearts and souls and minds
to the God of our creation, for we are wholly yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Posted at 04:30 PM in [Joy](#), [Prayers: Call to Worship](#), [Prayers: Responsive](#) | [Permalink](#)

AMC Contact information:

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

Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 am to Noon

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

altonamennonite@gmail.com

Custodians: Dale Klassen 204-324-7458 Sandra Klassen 204-324-1475

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Passing the Peace
Hymn VT #395 The Church of Christ, in Every Age
Introduction to the Theme

LISTENING

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-26
Hymn STJ #103 Why should I feel discouraged
Sermon Joy Increased Pastor Dan Kehler

RESPONDING

Time for Reflection
"Joy to the World" - poem
Prayers of the People
Hymn VT #849 We Your People, Sing Your Praises
Benediction
Postlude - Joy is like the rain

Worship Leader: Elaine Loewen
Musicians: Dave Regehr, Hildie Regehr,
Elaine Loewen, Ken Loewen, Nancy Ratzlaff
Recording Technician: Loren Braul

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

June 9	7:15 pm	Worship Committee meeting
June 13		Worship Service on-line <i>Theme:</i> Music Sunday <i>Scripture:</i> <i>Speaker(s):</i> <i>Worship Leader:</i> Marilyn Houser Hamm <i>Musicians:</i> <i>Sound:</i> Nathan Loewen
June 20		Worship Service on-line
June 27		Worship

Birthdays: June 6 – Kristina Thiessen, Abi Mullet; June 7 – Doreen Mireau; June 12 – Ted Klassen

Anniversaries: June 8 – Harry & Susan Wiens

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- From the treasurer:

As we mourn with our Indigenous sisters and brothers, we are thankful that our regular AMC donations to Mennonite Church Canada contribute, to the ongoing work of reconciliation. Thank you again for supporting the all 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 etransfer to amchurchdonations@gmail.com, or send or bring

a cheque to AMC (Box 1237, Altona, R0G 0B0)
Check the latest minutes and financial statements for more information.

- **Work on the front stairs and wheelchair ramp has begun!** Because we are adding the ramp right away, costs are higher. Donations are being asked for to cover the extra monies needed. Contact Robert Martens or Bill Loewen for more information

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming mobile Blood Donor clinic:** Thursday, June 17th, 2 – 7 pm at Altona - Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Main Floor Hall 227 10th Ave NW. Please call 1-888-236-6283, or go on-line to book your appointment - **NO WALK INS PLEASE.**

- **MCI Golf Classic – The 7th Annual MCI Golf Classic has been postponed to July 10-18** at the Minnewasta Gold Course. To Register, call MCI at 204-327-5891 by June 30th. (\$150 per player/\$35 donation receipt)

- **MCC is hosting an online Quilt Sale this spring from June 7-11!** Browse through quilts, purses and stuffed animals for the perfect gift for yourself or a loved one. All items are handmade by volunteers as part of MCC's Quilt Show & Sale Committee. To learn more visit our [Facebook page](#) or mccmb.ca/Events.

- **MCC'S virtual challenge is back!** Join us for GO! 100 all summer long. Challenge yourself or a team to complete 100 of anything while raising funds for peacebuilding projects around the world. Click [here](#) to get started or visit mccmb.ca/go-100.

- **Join the "Ring up the Cash" Camps with Meaning Covid Relief Campaign.** We are expecting a concerning deficit this year. So far, about a third of the hoped for \$25,000 has been raised. Donate and/or join the campaign. Visit our special campaign site to learn more and participate: ringupthecash.causevox.com

- Camps with Meaning volunteer needs:

Health Officers needed for our one-day pop-up camps (Aug 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13) and August 22-26 at Assiniboia. Kitchen Help needed July 4-9 and July 12-16 at Assiniboia. Maintenance Help needed most weeks. Camp Pastors needed August 9-13, 22-28 at Assiniboia.

- **Camps with Meaning day camp weeks** have filled up fast but we still have room at many of our Pop-Up Camps in August. Let us bring a little taste of camp to you! August 4 at Grace MC in Steinbach, August 5 at Morden MC, August 6 at Koinonia, August 9 at Fort Garry MF, August 10 at Jubilee, August 12 at Bethel MC and August 13 at Assiniboia. www.campswithmeaning.org

Join our nationwide community of faith for Mennonite Church Canada's AGM on Saturday, June 19, 1-2:30 p.m. EDT.

We will hear updates from our program directors, enjoy worship and reflect together as members of Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council share what God has showed them over the past year. All are welcome to register. Link: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/event/11737-2021-06-19-mennonite-church-canada-agm-2021>

- **20th annual CMU Golf Classic:** Join us at CMU's annual golf fundraiser in support of student athletes and student financial aid on **June 15** at Kingswood Golf & Country Club. Visit www.cmu.ca/golf to register or become a sponsor.

- Eden Foundation invites you to come play golf at Gretna's Oakview Golf Course on Saturday, June 26. Tee off time 9 am. **Eden Foundation's Charity Golf Tournament.** A new twist on an old game. Play 36 holes, 54 holes or 72 holes all for the same low price. Free! Here's the twist, we want you to raise some money for mental health care. Due to present Covid health regulations, the maximum number of people we can accept is 36 participants. For more information go to <http://edenhealthcare.ca>

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

- Ken Hamm has returned home. He is doing very well.

- 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 people they are concerned about. Pray for healing, strength and calm for all.