

- **Join the "Ring up the Cash" Camps** with Meaning Covid Relief Campaign. We are expecting a concerning deficit this year. Donate and/or join the campaign. Visit our special campaign site to learn more and participate: ringupthecash.causevox.com

- **Sign up for the 18th Annual MCC Manitoba Golf Tournament** today! Join us for a day of golfing, prizes and dinner on September 9th in support of families impacted by the Beirut explosion. Register [here](#) or at mccmb.ca/golf.

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.

Prayer for Our Community

- 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

- **Calls for unity amid election in Ethiopia** - Pray that the recent elections in Ethiopia will help bring unity not division to ongoing ethnic tensions. Pray that Meserete Kristos Church will be strengthened as a living example of Jesus's prayer for his disciples.

- **Bill C-15 reaches Royal Assent!** - Bill C-15, An Act regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, received Royal Assent on June 21, 2021, National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a victory to celebrate! Many thanks to everyone who showed their support through written e-mails and letters the Senate. See <https://www.faithinthedeclaration.ca/> for more info.

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

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.

The Quilts bring me joy, designing, making, meditating.

Colour My World With...Love I love applique, circles, and rainbows in all their meanings – love, inclusion, promise, hope.

Hearts and Tulips 3.0 – This quilt was started in 2009. I intended to do a whole quilt with just the small blocks, but got caught up making many baby quilts instead. So Version 2.0 was to add the larger blocks to the quilt. Version 3.0 happened when I decided to join the sections with the appliqued vine.



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LX No.27

July 4, 2021

Nurturing Joy: Joy Shines

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn: HWB #87 Great is the Lord

Call to Worship: VT #857

Prayer of Invocation: VT #866

L: Open our ears

P: to hear your word.

L: Open our eyes

P: to see your presence

L: Open our arms

P: to the embrace of community.

L: Open our minds

P: to the beauty of truth.

L: Open our hearts

P: to the joy of new life.

Hymn: VT #732 Open My Eyes

LISTENING

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:12-30

Sermon I Wish I Were a Glow Worm – Pastor Dan Kehler

RESPONDING

Hymn: VT #396 May You Be Rooted and Grounded

Offering

Prayers of the People

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.

Benediction
Hymn: VT #771 We Have Been Sent by God
Postlude

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Worship Leader: Elaine Loewen
Musicians: Gina Enns, Marlene Wiebe
Recording Technician: Henry Rempel

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

July 11 Small groups meet as possible, no recorded service
July 18 Worship Service
Theme: Nurturing Joy – Joy Shines *Scripture:* Philippians 2:12-30 *Speaker(s):* Laura Thiessen, Julia Thiessen *Worship Leader:* Norma Thiessen *Musicians:* Loren Brault, Marilyn Houser Hamm *Recording:* Nathan Loewen
July 21 7:15 pm Worship Committee Meeting
July 25 Worship Service
August 1 Worship Service

Birthdays: July 10 – Rachel Bergen

Anniversaries: July 7 – Harry & Susan Klassen

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Congratulations to Jesse Wiebe** who graduated from MCI this year. Best wishes in the coming year!

- **email correction** Nancy Ratzlaff is ratzlaffn24@gmail.com

- **Sunday July 11 Small group gatherings** - As restrictions are easing, it is time to refamiliarize ourselves with gathering as a congregation. The plan is to start off small and ease our way in. Instead of a worship service, the groups that were previously organized for the passing of the communion bread and the sharing acts of kindness will be meeting. Group leaders will organize a time and place to meet (doesn't have to be Sunday morning but could be) for a time of sharing and fellowship. In keeping with the *Nurturing Joy* theme the following starter question is offered. "What has been a source of joy for you during the long months of restricted/limited contact with others?" You might consider recording some of the ways that emerge to be shared with the congregation at a later date.

- From the treasurer:

Part of AMC's giving supports Mennonite Church Manitoba's Leadership Ministries. Facilitated by The Director of Leadership Ministries, this program supports and cares for pastors by offering individual pastoral care, opportunities for continuing education, seminars and workshops designed to strengthen and stretch ministry, and by facilitating and leading monthly pastors' cluster meetings in each of 5 regions within MCM. They assist Congregations in areas such as encouraging and calling persons to ministry, pastoral searches, pastor-congregation relationships, credentialing persons for ministry, pastoral reviews, and when necessary, receive assistance in situations of mediation and conflict resolution. Like many pastors in MCM, Pastor Dan is at AMC because of access to grants and loans for pastoral studies provided by MCM's Leadership Ministries. Thank you again for supporting all 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) Check the latest minutes and financial statements for more information

- Work on the front stairs and wheelchair ramp is done!

Landscaping needs to be completed. Donations are being asked for to cover the extra monies needed. Contact Robert Martens or Bill Loewen for more information.

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MCI is hiring a Head of Maintenance.** This position is responsible to ensure that all physical aspects of MCI's fourteen-acre campus are well maintained, often using a hands-on approach. This includes our academic wing, Buhler Hall, and student dormitory. Know someone who would be a good fit? Encourage them to apply today by emailing ryanpotter@mciblues.net

- **The 7th Annual MCI Golf Classic** kicks off next week, running from July 10 – 18th at the beautiful Minnewasta Golf & Country Club in Morden MB. ***We'd love to have YOU join us.*** E-mail info@mciblues.net or call 204-327-5891 to register and book a tee-time. The cost is \$150 per player with a \$35 donation receipt (golf cart and meal voucher included). Register soon to ensure you can book your desired tee-time.

- **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.

- **Visit the Villages Tractor Trek is in its 14th year** as a signature fund-raising event for Eden Foundation. The ride this year is now scheduled to Saturday October 2nd.

- **20th Annual CMU Golf Classic:** Join us at CMU's annual golf fundraiser in support of student athletes and student financial aid. Due to public health restrictions, the event has been rescheduled to July 7 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, **August 14. (note new date)** 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>

- **Camps with Meaning is opening more spots at the day camps!** Many new spots available for grades 1-5, a few for grades 6-9, and lots of room at Youth Week. Our Pop-Up Camps also have room – there is probably one near you! So grateful that we get to spend part of our summer with you! Visit www.campswithmeaning.org

- **Camps with Meaning invites applications for the Head of Maintenance position at Camp Assiniboia.** This is a full-time, permanent position with potential housing at the camp. [Find the job description on the Camps with Meaning website.](#)

- **Camps with Meaning invites applications for the Summer Head Cook position at Camp Assiniboia.** This summer position supports the summer camping ministry. [Find the job description on the Camps with Meaning website.](#)