

## **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.
- MCI Prayer Requests - For rest and rejuvenation for our students and staff as they enjoy the summer break. We pray that our students will have a meaningful summer, connecting with their family and home churches – and for our international students, who went through many weeks of quarantine to be at home for the first time in over a year. And for wisdom for our school administration as we plan and prepare for the upcoming school year.

## **Prayers for the World**

- **Military seizes Indigenous land in Philippines** - While Lakan and Lakambini Sumulong (Dann and Joji Pantoja), Witness workers in the Philippines, help to coordinate a Peace Memorial for the Bagobo Tagabawa Tribe to celebrate peace made in this formerly violent area, 200 hectares of the tribe's farmland was seized by the military without proper ritual and respect. Please pray for peace and wisdom during this conflict.
- **Witness worker continues restorative-justice training** - Witness worker Bock Ki Kim, together with colleagues at the Chuncheon Community Peace Centre, have been asked to instruct trainers in restorative justice practices in Chuncheon schools and police services. The end of June marked the 17th training course for school divisions in the Chuncheon area dealing with school violence and conflict transformation. We thank God for Bock Ki's presence and work in this community.
- **AIMM opens office in Kinshasa** - Thank God that the AIMM (Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission) Kinshasa office in DRC is now open and allows AIMM to be closer to African partners. Pray for God's presence and wisdom as AIMM serves God's people through the church

*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.

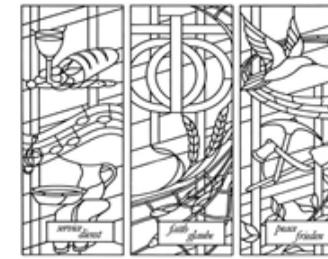
Psychologists have used the term languishing to describe this condition. Even with the hope offered by the vaccines, the lingering effects of languishing for so long will be with us for months, even years. Paul's letter to the Philippians is often called his epistle of joy. Shackled in prison, possibly 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.29

July 18, 2021

## **Joy Empties**

### **WELCOMING**

#### **Welcome**

**Call to Worship:** Psalm 30:4-5, 11-12

**Opening Song** – VT #29 Come, Now is the Time to Worship

### **Prayer of Invocation** – VT 866

Leader: Open our ears

**All: to hear your word.**

Leader: Open our eyes

**All: to see your presence.**

Leader: Open our arms

**All: to the embrace of community.**

Leader: Open our minds

**All: to the beauty of truth.**

Leader: Open our hearts

**All: to the joy of new life.**

### **HEARING THE WORD**

**Scripture:** Philippians 2: 1-11

**Song** – VT #563 Come, Thou Fount

**Sermon:** Joy Empties Julia Thiessen

#### **AMC Contact information:**

Pastor: Dan Kehler [amcpastordan@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:altonamennonite@gmail.com)

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

*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Poem** – Hafiz

**Song** – VT #758 Who will Speak a Word of Warning

**Prayer** – from VT #996

## SENDING

### Announcements

**Song** – VT #847 You shall go out with Joy

**Benediction** Based on *Philippians 2:2-5*

Worship Leader: Laura Thiessen, Norma Thiessen

Speakers: Julia Thiessen

Musicians: Loren Brault, Marilyn Houser Hamm

Sound: Kevin Neufeld

### Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

July 21 7:15 pm Worship Committee Meeting

July 25 Worship Service

*Theme:* Nurturing Joy – Joy empties *Scripture:* Philippians

2:1-11 *Speaker(s):* Pastor Dan Kehler *Worship Leader:*

*Musicians:* Dave & Hildie Regehr *Recording:* Loren Brault

August 1 Worship Service

August 8 Worship Service

**Birthdays:** July 18 – Darlene Klassen, Gina Enns; July 20 – Sydney Hildebrand; July 22 – June Schwartz; July 23 – Kim Batchelor

**Anniversaries:** July 19 – Rudy & Elsie Krahn, Albert & Marilyn Bergen; July 20 – Don & Ang Enns; July 22 – Kim & Perry Batchelor

### AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **From the treasurer:** Thank you to all who have continued to give generously to the ongoing work of the church through AMC. In the last several announcements various programs have been highlighted: Camps with Meaning, furthering Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and Church leadership support. Other work we support through our donations will be highlighted in future announcements.

Of course, we also have AMC bills to pay and salaries to honour, even while we have been apart. Fortunately, AMC has received generous Bridge grants, totalling \$20,000. To put this

into perspective, our other Revenues are lower than usual, and even in normal times we are often up to, or exceeding our maximum line of credit by this time of the year. This year we are just nearing our line of credit for the first time. Now our steps and ramp project is nearing completion. The steps are covered by past Bequests, but it made sense to build the ramp at the same time, and this leads to the need for an automatic door opener, a railing, and some landscaping. Costs are somewhat higher than anticipated, so in spite of some generous commitments, we are inviting you to consider making an extra donation for this project. **Thank you to those who have already done so.**

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](mailto: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

### WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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](http://mccmb.ca/go-100).

- 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](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)

- **Camps with Meaning** invites applications for three permanent positions at Camp Assiniboia. Head of Maintenance, Food Services Coordinator, Custodian/General Assistant. Go to [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org) for the job descriptions.

- **Many thanks** to all who contributed to Camps With Meaning's Ring Up the Cash Campaign – we far surpassed our goal. The money will be used to reduce the financial losses that we've incurred due to the pandemic. Our heartfelt thanks for your support!

- 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](http://mccmb.ca/golf).

- Eden Foundation is offering motorcycle riders the opportunity to ride together and explore some of the towns around southern Manitoba. It's a fun-ride with no requirement to raise funds. The Motorheads for Mental Health ride will start at Winkler Coop / Outpost Grill truck stop just east of the junction of Hwy #3 and #14. Check-in at 1 pm on Sunday July 25th. For more details go to: [edenhealthcare.ca/news](http://edenhealthcare.ca/news) or call 204-325-5355.

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Marlene Wiebe will be going to Saskatchewan to take care of final arrangements for the interment of her father and then to Alberta to visit her mother who has Alzheimer's. This trip takes place in August. She asks for prayers.

- Prayers for the Heinrichs family as they mourn the passing of Kathy's sister Rosie Penner Asari. Pray also for Rosie's husband Kwasi who is in Ontario. There will be a private memorial service at a later date. Rosie was a member of our church.

- 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.