

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

- **Myanmar church suffering due to COVID and civil unrest** - Pray for the country and the people of Myanmar. Amos Chin, leader of the Bible Missionary Church (a Mennonite World Conference denomination) says, "The death toll has risen to the highest level in Burma's Kalembo, which is suffering from the third wave of COVID-19. There is a shortage of oxygen for our patients. We have to supply our patients with oxygen and treat ourselves because there is no government treatment. Sixty-three Christian pastors, including two of our pastors, have died in Kalembo. People are suffering and dying because of the civil war and COVID-19."
- **China Mennonite Network meets for first time** - The first gathering of the China Mennonite Network takes place July 23-25, 2021. Pray for encouragement in this small group as they learn from each other and listen and discern God's leading.
- **AIMM offers community development training** - Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission asks us to join them in thanking God for the recent training in assets-based community development (ABCD) that AIMM offered to the Christ Salvation Mennonite Church in Sierra Leone. Twenty-six church leaders learned strategies for building sustainability and making good use of local resources.

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

The Quilts bring me joy when I plan, create, meditate while I stitch. The Sunflower quilt is named "A little bit embarrassed, a lot delighted" because I showed how to make the block at one of our guild meetings for one of the block draws. As each person completed their block and returned it to me for the draw, I would say something like "That will look so nice in my quilt"! So I was both embarrassed and delighted when my name was legitimately drawn.

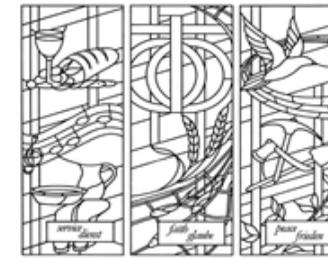
"My Not So Secret Garden" was the project for a class I took over several months. I love learning new ways to do the various techniques involved in the making of a quilt. There were 8 of us in the class, and 8 very different results.

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.30

July 25, 2021

Nurturing Joy – Joy subverts

GATHERING

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 66:1-4

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: Sing the glory of God's name with glorious praise!

Leader: say to God:

People: "How awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great power your enemies cringe before you.

Leader: All the earth worships you;

People: They sing praise to you,

ALL: Sing praises to your name."

Hymn VT#436 O Lord, My God (How Great Thou Art!)

Invocation VT #866

Hymn VT #816 Guide My Feet

SJ #96 I'm pressing on the upward

HEARING THE WORD

Philippians 3

vs. 1-11 (The MESSAGE) Pressing Toward the goal

vs. 12-16 (New RSV)

Message Citizens of Heaven living in Hostile Territory

Pastor Dan Kehler

AMC Contact information:

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn VT#416 Beyond a Dying Sun
Praying

SENDING

Hymn VT #816 Guide My Feet (reprise)
Benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm
Speaker: Dan Kehler
Musicians: Dave & Hildie Regehr, Ken & Elaine Loewen, Crystal Kehler
Sound: Loren Braul

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

August 1 Worship Service

Theme: Nurturing Joy – Joy unites *Scripture:* Philippians 4:1-9
Speaker(s): Pastor Dan Kehler *Worship Leader:* Ray Hamm
Musicians: Marilyn Houser Hamm, Gina Enns *Recording:*

Kevin Neufeld

August 8 Worship Service

August 15 Outdoor service on the Krahn yard

August 22 Small groups meet again this week

August 29 In person Sunday worship resumes 11:00 am

Birthdays: July 28 – Sandra Klassen

Anniversaries: July 25 – Mick & Marnie Mierau Friesen; July 28 – John & Lil Gerbrandt; July 31 – Greg & Mary Costen

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **An Invitation to Worship** – Under the current PHOs places of worship are allowed to hold services with limited capacity. The plan for AMC as adopted by the Leadership Council is as follows. The summer schedule of recorded/outdoor services will continue as planned until August 22nd. Congregants are invited to participate in the service when it is recorded. Each week, the time and date will be announced in the weekly email. Attendees will need to wear a mask as they enter, are seated and depart from the sanctuary. Members from different households must maintain the standard 2 metre (6 feet) physical distance at all times. Once seated masks may be removed but must be worn to sing. Prior to and after the service, all visiting must take

place outdoors. We hope to resume in person Sunday morning services August 29th. Also, there will be a sign in/sign out sheet near the main sanctuary doors.

- **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, 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.

- 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 three permanent positions at Camp Assiniboia. Head of Maintenance, Food Services Coordinator, Custodian/General Assistant. Go to www.campswithmeaning.org for the job descriptions.

- 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.

- **Eden Foundation's Head for the Hills 2021** is going to happen this year. They are hoping restrictions will be lifted by September 11, the day of the event. For more information and to register, visit www.edenhealthcare.ca

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 for her, Emily and Steven as they travel.

- 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.