

## WILMOT MENNONITE CHURCH

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**March 16, 2025**

**Bread for Growth**

Prelude Sharon Heipel  
Welcome Bonnie-Lee Bowman

### Call to Worship

Calling all who are hungry for the goodness of life!

**The bread of life satisfies our hunger and thirst.**

Come with empty pockets and open hands!

**The bread of life loves us and knows our needs.**

Let us gather from all walks of life, celebrating in unity our common needs and singular purpose.

**The bread of life has come to sustain us. Believing this promise, let us worship together!**

### Opening Prayer

Song Sing Praise to God VT 101

Psalm 92

Song Be Thou My Vision VT 549

### Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Often, we allow our imaginations and our work to be confined, limiting the scope of God's reach.

Let us confess our sins and commit ourselves to God's ever-expanding purposes.

### God Most High,

**who knows the highest heights and deepest valleys of this universe, we confess we have limited your work because of our small thinking.**

**While you long for the bread of life to expand and nourish all creation, our fears and worries keep us contained.**

**While you long to create kingdoms of peace and reconciliation, we draw lines between us.**

**While you make space for everyone, we worry about sharing too much or being too vulnerable.**

**While you search tirelessly for lost lambs, we focus our concern inward on our own issues.**

**Forgive us for our small perspective, and open our minds to the big ideas you have for our future.**

**Amen.**

As far as the east is from the west, that's how far God has taken our wrongdoings away from us. Our sins are no match for our magnificent, compassionate God. Receive God's pardon and be at peace.

Song Lord, I Want to Be a Christian HWB 444

Scripture Luke 13:18-31 Parable of the yeast

Sermon

### Affirmation of Faith

We believe the kingdom of God is like baker's yeast, thorough and unstoppable, spreading and rising over time.

We believe the bread of life is enough for all creation, enough for the hungry, the weak, and the poor.

We believe Jesus is the bread of life, broken and shared with all who will receive it.

We believe the bread of life cannot be limited to our finite imaginations. The bread of life is making all things new.

Song of Response Bread of Life: A Lenten Song

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Song In the Bulb there is a Flower VT 670

Sending

Postlude

## **BREAD OF LIFE**

If you're hungry, come, tired and undone,  
there's a place for you, a place for you at the table.  
If you're lonely, come, fill your empty cup,  
there's a drink for you, a drink for you at the table.

### **Refrain**

Bread of life, Jesus with us,  
healing our hearts with love.  
Bread of life, broken for you,  
Share with another too.  
There is enough.  
Oh there will always be, so take this bread with me.

Bring your weary mind, every tear you've cried,  
there is peace for you, peace for you at the table.  
Lay your burdens down, hope is all around,  
you are welcome here, welcome here at the table.

## **Lent & Easter Worship**

### **Bread for Life *Bread of Life: Gather. Savour. Share***

The world feels heavy - divided and uncertain. Hearts ache, minds seek peace, and souls hunger for hope. In these moments many search for a way forward. Amid injustice and tragedies, we remember we must first gather around the table for strength so we can respond with love and grace. This Lent, we will gather together to break bread, savour the divine generosity of God, and rise to share with the world out of the abundance we have received from the bread of life.

March 16 Bread for Growth

Susan-Allison Jones Luke 13:18-31 Parable of the Yeast

March 23 Bread for Each Day

Susan-Allison Jones Matthew 6:9-13 Lord's Prayer

March 30 Bread for Sharing

Susan Allison-Jones Luke 14:7-14 Parable of the Great Banquet

April 6 Bread for Community

Bob Thaler Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus

April 13 Bread for the Road

Susan Allison-Jones John 12:12-16 Luke 19:28-40 Palm Sunday

April 18 Bread for Uncertainty - Good Friday

April 20 Bread for Feasting - Easter Sunday

Susan Allison-Jones John 21:1-17 Breakfast on the Beach

## **Upcoming Events**

Alpha Wednesday's at 10am

Wed. March 19 Lenten Lunch 12:00 noon

Wilmot Center Missionary Church

## **Birthdays**

Harold Culp March 20

Mary Schwartzentruber March 21

Sue Wagler March 21

## Prayer Requests

Susan is leading the worship service at Sunnyside Home this afternoon. Keep her and the people who attend this service in your prayers.

Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for Shalom Worship and Healing Centre. Yoni Abraham and Daniel Tela provide pastoral leadership to this community. This congregation, in Kitchener ON, has been growing and planting churches across Ontario.

## Congregational Notes

**Spiritual Practice** Each Sunday during Lent there will be a bookmark tucked in your bulletin with a suggestion with a Spiritual practice. This week you are invited to stretch yourself in new ways.

## Beyond The Congregation

### Join us for a Lunch & Listen with Philip Fountain

*March 20, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m., MCC Community Room, 50 Kent Ave., and on Facebook* Can faith play a part in development work? Author and professor Philip Fountain draws from his new book to discuss how MCC blends Mennonite values with efforts in disaster relief, development and peacebuilding, all while working with people from many different backgrounds. Learn more at [Lunch and Listen with Philip Fountain | Mennonite Central Committee.](#)

**Service of Lament and Hope** that will be held at Zion United on March 23 at 2:00. This has come as a response to people's angst about our current world situation.

### Hope Starts at Home: An evening with Phyllis Webstad

*March 24 at 6 pm, Bingemans Conference Centre.* Join us along with author and speaker, Phyllis Webstad, the founder and ambassador of the Orange Shirt Society. Phyllis will share her childhood of healing and reconciliation in Canada as we seek to restore justice, foster belonging, and address poverty in Ontario.

### New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale Promotion Dinner

*Monday, April 28 at 6 pm, Calvary United Church, 48 Hawkesville Rd, St. Jacobs* More than just a meal, the NHMRS promotion dinner is your chance to connect with community and support MCC! Enjoy a delicious buffet dinner catered by Gracie's Country Oven and hear from representatives of **Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo (CCRD)**, MCC's partners in Cuba. They will share stories of resilience and impact, highlighting the ways MCC supports communities in Cuba. Tickets are \$25 each and children aged 10 and under eat free! Donations will be gratefully accepted at the event in support of the relief sale. Visit [mcc.org/nhmrs-dinner](http://mcc.org/nhmrs-dinner) for tickets.

### Ministry Team Leaders:

Ministry Coordinator & Facilities – John Good

Worship and Formation – Lil Quanz

Fellowship – Fern Good, Marcia Kastner, Susan Wagler

Pastoral Care, Missions and Service - All members

Member at Large (Ministry Team) - Ross Shantz

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