

NEWSLETTER

January 3, 2025



GREETINGS!

In the name of the One who loves us and holds us dear

We are an inclusive community on Locke Street, dedicated to seeking justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God. We are a progressive church with traditional elements to our

service and quite a lot of music. We welcome people who are questioning. We dress informally and understand that children often run around and make noise.

A Message From Margaret Duff

With a mixture of feelings, I have decided to step back from my position as Chair of the Melrose Board at the Annual Meeting, which will be held on March 2, 2024. I do this for a variety of reasons, including the wish to have more time for important personal priorities, and also out of a recognition that after three years of working hard, I am losing some of the necessary enthusiasm and passion for the role of Chair. At our last Board meeting, we decided that after more than a year of working toward a collaboration with another congregation, we actually weren't ready to take the next steps toward that goal, and needed more time to discern our future. There was considerable interest expressed in trying to appoint or call a parttime minister and to continue on in our ministry in this corner of Hamilton. This work really will require some fresh energy and vision.

Catherine Clase, having spent the past year as a very busy the Vice Chair of the Board, has also decided that she does not have the necessary time, energy and passion to continue in her role, and will step back as of the Annual Meeting.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP DATES AT MELROSE

- 5th Jan, 2025
- 12th Jan, 2025
- 19th Jan, 2025
- 26th Jan, 2025

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As you already know, Michael Clase decided to resign as Treasurer some months ago. If you were to investigate most of our committees,

you would find that almost all need at least one new member. Although these leadership vacancies could be seen as a challenge, an alternative interpretation is to see them as opportunities for hope-filled new directions. This is the moment when all within our congregation need to consider how to help to support our collective work, and to live our faith together.

A decision to continue (for the present) as a single congregation, hopefully with the consistent leadership of an appointed or called minister, will require dedicated lay leadership from within the congregation to ensure its success. I truly hope, and pray that one or more leaders will emerge to lead us forward with resolve, vision and strength. I will do my best to support the next Board Chair, as the Past Chair. I will also continue with my other committee work at Melrose, to the best of my ability.

A Message from the Board

Wednesday, January 8th ~ Official Board Meeting @7:30 pm.

Please note the change of day! All are welcome at any board meeting! If you would like to attend, please contact the office for more information.

At its recent meeting, the Board of Melrose Church decided to suspend work on the proposal to seek collaboration and/or amalgamation with Westdale United Church. After considerable discussion, and under the guidance of Lynne Allin from the Horseshoe Falls region, we decided that we need more time to truly discern our best way forward. We have arranged regular pulpit supply for the new year and will explore a short-term ministry appointment in the coming months, as we do the continuing work of discernment. We will continue to work in fellowship with Westdale on outreach initiatives and other areas of mutual support.



Advent Carol Walk

Sunday, January 5th ~ Epiphany Christmas Carol Walk @7:00pm ~ A wonderful way to finish up the holidays as a church community! Meet up at St Joseph's Church and finish at St John's. Bring a treat to share if you can!



Community Knitting and Crochet

Saturday, January 4th ~ 9:30am - 11:30am ~ Bring your current project and materials, beginners welcome! Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.



Progressive Euchre

Friday, January 24th @7:00pm ~ Doors open at 6:30pm, games start at 7:30 sharp! Beginners welcome! You do not need a partner!



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Congratulations!

With heartfelt joy, we extend our warmest congratulations to Grandfather Jeff Ogino, his daughter Caitlin, and her husband Jason! Their precious twins, Melody and Evelyn, graced the world with their presence on Thursday, December 19th, arriving safely for Christmas!



A Message From the Office

All reports for the **Annual General Meeting** must be submitted to the office in an MS Word document no later than Friday, January 24th. Please email your reports to melrose@melroseunited.ca. Thanks!

Please be sure to submit your items for the bulletin or newsletter by Wednesday of each week. Kindly email melrose@melroseunited.ca. Thank you!

Looking Ahead!

Saturday, January 4th ~ Community Knitting and Crochet @9:30 Bring your current project and materials, beginners welcome! Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

Sunday, January 5th ~ Advent Walk @6:00pm ~ ~ A wonderful way to finish up the holidays as a church community

Friday, January 24th ~ Progressive Euchre ~ Doors open at 6:30, games start at 7:30 sharp!

Saturday, February 8 ~ Vendor Sale @11:00am



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