MELROSE NEWSLETTER

November 27, 2026



SUNDAY WORSHIP DATES AT MELROSE

- December 6, 2026
- December 13, 2026
- December 20, 2026
- December 27, 2026

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 the Board

Official Board Meeting ~ TBA @ 7:30pm
All are welcome at any board meeting! Our meetings are held in person and on Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact the office for more information, melrose@melroseunited.ca

PAR

We love our monthly PAR (pre-authorised remittance) donors at Melrose United Church, and you can join the group! When you give monthly through PAR, you show that your giving and generosity are both dedicated and strategic. Your gifts help keep our mission sustainable and our community presence possible. Plus, it's so good for your spiritual health.

So, if you've been thinking about becoming a monthly donor or thinking about making changes to your PAR contribution but have been holding out for the right time, this is it! PAR forms are available at the front of the Church or contact Sue in the Church Office for more information, melrose@melroseunited.ca. Speak with Tabitha for more information too!

Connect With Us

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86 Homewood Avenue
Hamilton, ON
L8P 2M4



We always welcome children and understand that they may not be quiet during the service. We appreciate their joyful noise and are glad that they are here!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT MELROSE



Sunday, November 29 ~ Advent I

Sunday, December 6 ~ Advent II

Sunday, December 13 ~ Advent II ~ CHRISTMAS GIVING SERVICE
Help us spread the joy of Christmas. If you are able, please bring gifts for Wesley Urban Centre (gloves & socks) and Operation Santa Claus (toys).

Sunday, December 13 @7:30pm ~ CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE
A beautiful service of carols and readings for the beginning of the Advent season.

Thursday, December 17 ~ LIGHT IN DECEMBER DARKNESS SERVICE
The holiday season can be difficult for many people. But there is hope. Join us for a quiet service of rest and renewal.

Sunday, December 20 ~ Advent IV ~ CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Calling all sheep, shepherds and angels! Join us for our Christmas pageant, everyone is welcome to participate (even the adults)! No rehearsals necessary!

Thursday, December 24th @ 7:00pm ~ FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Join us for a short, family-friendly service celebrating the true meaning of Christmas with Rev Ken Jackson.

Thursday, December 24th @10:30pm ~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
A beautiful service of carols and readings to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the promise of peace, hope, joy and love with Rev Dr. Philip Gardner. All are welcome to take Communion.

Sunday, December 27th @10:30am ~ JAZZ CAROLS
And now for something completely different! Join us for an informal service in the church parlour.

905-522-1323 melrose@melroseunited.ca

DIVERSE
INCLUSIVE
ACCEPTING
WELCOMING
SAFE SPACE
FOR EVERYONE

Mistletoe Bazaar



A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Mistletoe Bazaar such a wonderful success last Saturday! We are so grateful to all our amazing volunteers who baked, cooked, made jam, helped throughout the day, and to everyone who supported our online store and purchased from our fabulous vendors. Your time, talents, and generosity made this special day possible! A very special thank you to our Bazaar Coordinator, Gwyn, for her countless hours of hard work, dedication, and commitment in bringing everything together. This day could not be possible without YOU!

Giving Hope This Holiday Season



wesley

At Wesley, we're committed to helping those most affected by poverty —many of whom have nowhere else to turn. This includes families experiencing homelessness, newcomers building a life in Canada, and youth, parents, and seniors seeking vital support.
The holiday season is a time for giving, connection and hope. At Wesley, we support individuals and families in Hamilton, Halton and Brantford who are facing poverty, homelessness and other challenges —and your support can make a meaningful difference.
This year, your support could be a family's greatest gift. Please help us offer shelter & care to those in need by making a cash donation to Wesley and/or purchasing a new item from our clients' wish list of most-needed items.
The most needed items are:

- Financial donations to Wesley to support programs & services: Cash, cheque, credit card, or gifts of securities are greatly appreciated.
- $25 gift cards: Walmart, grocery stores (Food Basics, No Frills, PC Stores), Dollarama, Giant Tiger, Canadian Tire.
- Essentials: New L/XL gloves, socks, slippers and underwear for teens, men & women.
- Linens: New towels, sheets and blankets for single and double, including knitted blankets.
- Kitchen: New microwaves, toaster ovens, electric kettles, air fryers.

If you would like to contribute to our efforts and help us continue creating positive change, please click the donate button below. Every contribution helps us provide essential services and support to those in need. To dontate please visit **https://wesley.ca/giving/donate/**

Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday, December 13th
@ 7:00pm

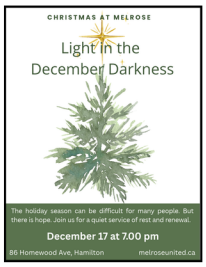
Join us for a beautiful service of carolls and readings, feturing our fabulous chancle choir and great muscians!



Light in December Darkness Service

Thursday, December 17th
@ 7:00pm

Join us for a beautiful service of carolls and readings, feturing our fabulous chancle choir and great muscians!



A Story from Rev Ken's Book
Maddie and Mom, Lessons in Christian Living



Wait for It

Madison's mother came into the kitchen just as her daughter was about to open the oven.
"Maddie, what are you doing?" she exclaimed.
Maddie took her hand away immediately from the oven and turned to her mother with a guilty look.
"I only wanted to see how the cake was doing," she said.
"You could ruin the cake if you did that, Maddie. Look at it through the glass in the door. That's why it's there."
"But I can't see it very well through there. I wanted to take a closer look. To see if it was done."
"Maddie, we just put the cake in the oven a few minutes ago. It takes longer than that to bake it. Just wait. It won't be long."
Maddie frowned. "Waiting's no fun. You said we could have some cake after lunch. I didn't even eat any dessert so I could have some cake. When is it going to be done?"
"Some things you have to wait for, Maddie. They'll be ready when it's time for them to be ready."
"I guess so," Maddie conceded. "But it's still no fun."
"Waiting is never much fun, Maddie, but think about it for a moment. I'll bet you're going to appreciate this cake a lot more if you have to wait for it."
"What do you mean?" Maddie asked.
"Well, you helped make the cake, didn't you?"
"Yes, that was fun."
"And you can smell it baking now. That makes you even more eager to have some. And when it's done, we'll put it on a rack to cool. That's a nice aroma, too."
Maddie perked up. "And then we get to put the frosting on it!"
"When it's cool enough," her mother said.
Maddie slumped. "Waiting again. It's as bad as waiting for Christmas. We've just started opening the Advent calendar. And there's twenty-five more sleeps before Christmas. And presents."
"Maddie, Christmas is more than presents."
"I know, Mom," Maddie said. "It's about God sending Jesus to us. It's when we celebrate his birth."
"Good for you, Maddie. And Advent is a time for us to think about that. About hope and peace and joy and love. All those are part of God's gift to us, too. And thinking about them can help us appreciate Christmas even more."
Maddie smiled. "Like smelling the cake when it's baking! So you can think about enjoying it when it's ready."
"I guess Advent is a little like that," her mother agreed. "Four weeks in which we get ready to enjoy Christmas."
"Four whole weeks," said Maddie, staring glumly at the floor. Then she looked up, "Mom?"
"Yes, Maddie?"
"Why can't Advent be just one week?"



Looking Ahead!



McMaster University Choir Presents: A World Alive

Saturday, November 28th @ 2pm and 5pm ~ The McMaster University Choir and Vocal Ensemble come together in performance at Melrose, sharing timeless sacred and secular works that nourish the soul, alongside contemporary explorations of timbre (and big data). Through sound, we explore the many ways we make meaning, find connection, and listen for life within us, around us, and beyond us. Tickets are $10 for students, $25 for general admission. Tickets are available at https://www.showpass.com/muc-fall-concert/ or at the door.

Women of Song Concert ~ Let It Snow!



Sunday, November 29th @ 2:30pm ~ Women of Song will be presenting our Annual Holiday Concert, "Let It Snow!" at Melrose United Church from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. Women of Song have been busy rehearsing and will be joined by other local talent for your listening enjoyment. Tickets will go on sale soon and will also be available at the door. For more information, contact the Church Office, melrose@melroseunited.ca.



Christmas Movie Party

Friday, December 4th @ 5:30pm ~ Join us for our annual Christmas Movie Party in the Auditorium! A classic Christmas movie! Crafts! Cookies! Hot Chocolate! Fun for all ages!

Community Knitting and Crochet (and needlework too!)



Saturday, December 5th & 19th ~ 9:30am - 11:30am ~ Bring your current project and materials, beginners welcome! Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. Please enter through the doors off of the Stanley Ave parking lot. We will be meeting on the stage in the Auditorium during the Bazaar!



Advent Carol Walk

Monday, Dedember 7th @ 7:30pm ~ Our annual Advent Carol Walk will begin at Central Presbyterian Church at 7:30pm! Be sure to bring along a candle or a lantern. Electronic is best!

Board Games



Sunday, December 13th @ 1:00pm ~ Come and play your favourite board game or bring your own! You do not need a partner. Entry fee is $5, children under grade 1 are free!



Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday, December 13th @ 1:00pm ~ Come and play your favourite board game or bring your own! You do not need a partner. Entry fee is $5, children under grade 1 are free!

Progressive Euchre



Friday, December 18th ~ @7pm ~ Doors open at 7pm, games start at 7:30pm. You do not need a partner! Entry fee $5, coffee, tea and snacks available all night!

Social Media at Melrose

Did you know? Melrose has an active social media presence on Facebook and Instagram! Check out our pages for information on Melrose events and for messages of inspiration! Please like and share our posts!

A Message From the Church Office

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

The Church Office hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm.