

# NEWSLETTER

August 9, 2024



## WORSHIP DATES

- 11th August, 2024
- 18th August, 2024
- 25th August, 2022
- 1st Sept, 202

## 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..

## Message from the Board

**Monday, September 9 ~ Official Board Meeting @7:30 pm.**

All are welcome at any board meeting!

## Mark Your Calendar!

The Mistletoe Bazaar is right around the corner! This year's bazaar will be held on **Saturday, November 23rd** from 9am to noon. Start stocking up on sugar and butter for baking! Donations of 250ml jam jars can be dropped off in the kitchen. If you wish to be a vendor or if you know of a great vendor, please contact Gwyn at [gwynxag@gmail.com](mailto:gwynxag@gmail.com) to apply.

## Help for YMCA Fire Victims

A donation bin has been set up outside the chapel to support the victims of the recent YMCA fire. We are collecting the following items: summer clothing (men's t-shirts & shorts), men's toiletries, flip flop sandals, backpacks, new socks and underwear. Your generous contributions will greatly help those in need! Thank you!

## Message from the Office

In July, our summer office hours will be Wednesday Thursday and Friday from 9:00am until 2:00pm. If you have any news items or announcements for the bulletin or newsletter, please be sure to submit them to Sue in the office by Wednesday of each week. Just send your items to [melrose@melroseunited.ca](mailto:melrose@melroseunited.ca). Thank you!

## Connect With Us



[melroseuc](#)



[melroseunitedchurch](#)



<http://melroseunited.ca>

86 Homewood Avenue  
Hamilton, ON  
L8P 2M4



## Summer Worship

Summer Worship  
is held  
in our beautiful  
air conditioned chapel!

Enjoy fellowship  
on the patio  
afterwards!



905-522-1323



[melrose@melroseunited.ca](mailto:melrose@melroseunited.ca)





## Action on Gaza

Please consider signing the parliamentary petition organized by Mervyn Russell from Horseshoe Falls, which is in the office during Sue's working hours (Wednesday to Friday from 9am to 2pm), and on Sunday. The petition calls for humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza, for protection for UNRWA workers and infrastructure, and for an immediate ceasefire. Since we started working on this petition, on 15 July the UNRWA headquarters in Gaza were completely destroyed by the Israeli Defense Forces. 197 UNRWA workers have been killed since the start of the conflict. Added to ongoing and severe restrictions on the entry of food and humanitarian aid, on July 18, Oxfam International reported that Israel is "systematically weaponizing water against Palestinians in Gaza" and that Israeli forces had damaged or destroyed "five water and sanitation sites every three days since the start of the war". On July 5, global health experts in the Lancet, including McMaster's Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Dr Salim Yusuf, OC, reported that the likely death count in Gaza is many-fold greater than deaths from trauma, because it is known that deaths from communicable and non-communicable diseases in war outstrip deaths in combat by a factor of 3 to 15 fold. They estimate deaths of 186,000 or more, 8% of the Gaza strip population (<https://shorturl.at/j8laf>). Please check out our website for more information <https://melroseunited.ca/actions>.

## Circles of Care

We are very grateful to Rev Sonia for volunteering to continue to visit our members who are homebound, after her retirement. We also want to be sure that we are taking care of each other. As discussed in the congregational meeting, we will be creating circles of care. We are looking for people, young and older, who are prepared to be responsible for keeping in touch with between one and six other families. Duties include calling every couple of months to ensure all is well; to help connect with a minister for pastoral care if ever needed; to help arrange lay pastoral care, such as meals, rides or visits, in the event of illness; and to keep people informed about what is happening at Melrose if they aren't able to get to church often on Sundays. We don't know what to call this 'role formerly known as elder'. We are debating between 'elder' and 'friendly visitor' and would welcome your feedback, or alternative suggestions, through Sue. Whatever we call it, please strongly consider doing this so that we can grow stronger and increase our connectedness. Contact Sue and let her know how many families you would like in your circle.

## Looking Ahead!

**Saturday August 17: Community Knitting and Crochet.** Bring your current project and materials, beginners welcome! Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

**Friday, August 23 ~ Progressive Euchre.** Doors open @7pm. Games start @7:30pm sharp! Beginners welcome, you do not need a partner!



## Minister's Corner

August 7th's "Our Daily Bread" offers a warning to see and listen to "the voice we can trust."

Artificial Intelligence is the current rage in the news giving us the potential for both good and evil. Concerns have been expressed by some of its creators that it has the potential to wreak havoc through misinformation and issuing damaging instructions. The writer of this offering ponders, while "AI was not really alive or able to feel, he wondered what harm could be caused by its encouraging people to act in

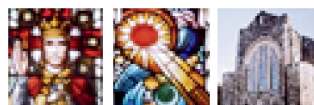
destructive ways."

We are in a time of influence being pedaled from untrustworthy voices. The book of Proverbs warns us against listening to those who wish to harm others. We are urged to listen instead to the voice of wisdom. The Lord gives wisdom, and it is only through accessing his love and power that we can follow what is just and fair. May we make the right choices that bring peace and seek to prevent harm.

REV.  
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