

NEWSLETTER

February 9, 2024



WORSHIP DATES

- 11th February, 2024
- 18th February, 2024
- 25th February, 2024
- 3rd March, 2024

GREETINGS

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

Melrose worship services blend contemporary and traditional elements, with a focus on thoughtful sermons and appealing music. Our Choir warms us up and provides wonderful punctuation to the liturgy and scripture readings.

From September-June services are held in the magnificent sanctuary, surrounded by a colourful array of stained glass windows. In the summer we worship in our air conditioned chapel located beside the sanctuary.

Message from the Board

Monday, February 12th @ 7:30: Our next board meeting will be held in the Parlour. All are welcome to attend.

Notice of Motion for the Annual Meeting

1. That the Congregation approves the withdrawal of up to \$52,133 from the capital of the Sustaining Fund in support of the operating budget.
2. That the Congregation approves the withdrawal of up to \$45,100 from the capital of the Sustaining Fund

Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East

Wednesday, February 21 @ First Unitarian Church. We are coming together as a community of churches, in humility and sorrow, to bear witness to the suffering but also in a spirit of hope, to pray for an end of violence and for a lasting peace.

Creating An Autonomous Indigenous Church Within UCC, Remit 1

As the board prepares to vote to register its strong support of this motion, we are talking about the reasons for this change as part of our Life & Work. over the next few weeks. We will recall UCC's role in colonizing practices, the denigration of others' spiritual practices, and the abuses of the indigenous schools system. We will revisit the apologies that the UCC has made for these wrongdoings. Reflecting on these issues, we hope to deepen understanding of the need for an independent Indigenous Church and what this will mean. A great summary of these issues is found in this video, just click the link. <https://youtu.be/d5KbFs8BRMw>

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Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 25
after the 10:30am
Worship Service



905-522-1323



melrose@melroseunited.ca



Melrose Lecture Series

Wednesday, February 14th @12:30 to 2:00pm with Dr. Ellen Badone. Dr. Badone will explore the transitions encountered when older adults move to congregate care institutions, viewed from the perspective of family caregivers.

Joint Potluck

Wednesday, February 28th @6:30

Come together with friends, family, and our Locke Street neighbours for a Joint Potluck! Our guest speaker will be Annabella Aoshana, Urban Forest Program Coordinator, Green Venture. Her topic will be Canopy for Community: Growing Hamilton's Urban Forest, One Tree at a Time. Please bring a hot or cold item to share.

Looking Ahead!

Monday, February 12 @ 5:30 Baking muffins for Helping Hands Street Mission. Please rsvp Gwyn if you can help.

Wednesday, February 14: Melrose Lecture Series with Dr. Ellen Badone.

Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday Service @6:00pm. Join us in the Chapel for a time of reconciliation.

Friday, February 16: Family Movie Night. This month's movie will be 101 Dalmatians. Free admission!

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

Saturday, February 17 noon to 3pm: Drive Through Drop Off Food Station at Central Presbyterian for Hamilton Food Share. Please drop off your non-perishable food donations in the alley between Hess and Caroline Sts next to Central.

Wednesday, February 21 @7:00pm: Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at First Unitarian Church. A time of quiet reflection and prayer for the suffering in Israel and Gaza.

Friday, February 23: Progressive Euchre. Doors open at 7:00, games start at 7:30 sharp!

Sunday, February 25: Annual Meeting after the 10:30 am service. Bring a bag lunch!

Saturday, March 9: Community Concert! Freewill donation at the door. Refreshments will be provided.

March 11 & 12: Fiddes Fresh Food Drive is happening again with St John's Anglican Church to assist brining fresh fruits and vegetables to local food banks. Stay tuned for more details!

Fabric & Clothing Drop off: Start saving your old clothes and fabrics! The churches of Locke Street will be hosting another drop off event in April. More details to come!



Minister's Corner



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What do you think? Is there an entity known as Satan or the Devil? Apparently 57 per cent of Americans surveyed believe there is. Both the Hebrew scriptures and the Christian scriptures reference the Satan as an accuser/adversary/deceiver.

The serpent in the Garden of Eden is expressed as a deceiver and there are many references in the Bible to a

devil or Satan as the cause of illness and the power to possess. The New Testament contains the scene of Jesus being tested by the Devil and Judas is said to betray Jesus because the Satan entered him. And many of Jesus parables reference the role of Satan in controlling human action. Was this indicative of the prevalent thought of the time?

Any contemplation of the wide-spread evil that exists in the world would lead us to reflect on why it exists and whether there is a supernatural being that causes it.

The phrase said in zest, "the devil made me do it," was an attempt to lay the blame outside oneself. In naming a

a "creature" as responsible for the evil that is undertaken, are we presenting a mythological attempt to express the extent of evil that exists within the world? The horrors that are perpetuated on human and animal life may be truly evil, but are we excusing the perpetrator from being in control and the ultimate one responsible, by giving credence to an influencer controlling their actions?

My own take on this theological quandary is that we, ourselves, are ultimately responsible for our actions. By choice, we choose to debase ourselves by abdicating our social and moral responsibility to do what is right, just, and good, and thereby create harm to another.