

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 3, 2023



## WORSHIP DATES

- 5th February 2023
- 12th February 2023
- 19th February 2023
- 26th February 2023

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

- Sunday, February 19 (Family day weekend)
- Sunday, March 12
- Sunday April 9 (Easter Sunday)



DIVERSE  
INCLUSIVE  
ACCEPTING  
WELCOMING  
SAFE SPACE  
FOR EVERYONE

# 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.

## Choir Practice

Choir rehearsals take place on **Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.** and **Sundays from 9:50 to 10:30 a.m.**

Newcomers are always welcome to join us or to drop by and check things out!

Ages 16 and up.

## Readers

- February 5th is **Catherine Clase**
- February 12th is **Imogen Clase**
- February 19th **TBD**
- February 26th is **Margaret Duff**

If you would be willing to read Scripture please contact Carolyn Duff by email at [duffcarolyn@bell.net](mailto:duffcarolyn@bell.net)

905-522-1323



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

# Social Justice & Outreach

Our intrepid Jam makers of Melrose are in need of your gently used jars!



We prefer 250ml size.

If you have jars that are now empty of jam please drop off your jars to the church office or place in the church kitchen.

We still have our own Melrose Cookbook available for purchase for \$15 each!

This is a great gift for family, extended family and friends. Because of course we are great cooks at Melrose and there are excellent recipes in this cookbook!



Once again we thank you, our whole Melrose congregation, for your ongoing support of all of these projects. Your generous contributions shine as a regular part of your faith. Blessings to all of you for your compassion.

**Contact Gwyneth or the Church Office if you would like to purchase a cookbook**

## Family Ministries



## Upcoming Events

**Women & Congregation in Touch Potluck Supper**

**Wednesday Feb 15th  
6:00 pm  
Church Parlour**

Potluck Supper: please bring something to share  
Coffee/Tea/Juice provided

Guest Speakers: Shelter- "Building homes, Building hope-providing safe homes for families in El Salvador"

**Please RSVP with Gwyneth at [gwynxag@gmail.com](mailto:gwynxag@gmail.com)**

We will have about 35 seats available in the Parlour to allow adequate spacing.

A small collection will be received to support this charity.  
Bring your neighbour, friend or family member

## Minister's Corner

Robert Schnase, author of Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, writes about necessary tasks of discipleship – to “welcome the stranger and to take the love of God with us into other communities where God sends us.”

He offers the single most often used phrase by frustrated parishioners in churches “Why don't those people come to church?” The example he gives is about a church living next door to a trailer park. Frequent invitations were sent out to the people but nothing worked at budging them inside the building.

Then they began taking crock pots of food to the residents and started sharing meals with them and conversation happened. Church people started listening to them; then they added prayers and singing. They learned about the conditions the low-income neighbours lived with, and this inspired the church to build restrooms for the residents and eventually an amphitheatre where they offered worship in the trailer park. More than seventy people began to attend.



In this case to reach the people required rethinking how they would be church. They asked themselves “Was their primary goal to get people to come to their sanctuary and join them in their church? Or was it to form relationships with people for the love of Christ wherever that might take place? This is a question for us as we move through our process of revitalization – Is our mission to make people into members of our church, or to gather people into becoming followers of Christ?”

**CHECK  
YOUR  
INBOX**

WEEKLY LETTER  
FROM REV. SONIA



905-522-1323



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

## What is Black History Month and how do we honour it?

Black History month began in 1915 in the U.S. to recognize achievements of blacks (at the time they were called Negroes). It is celebrated in the month of February to honour the birth dates of two men – Abraham Lincoln, President who issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring freedom for enslaved Americans; and Frederick Douglass who escaped from American slavery in 1838 and became a renowned abolitionist, speaker and writer.

Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. were two of the civil rights leaders who popularized Black History Month, U.S. Presidents began to recognize the month officially in 1976 and Canada joined the recognition in 1995. Each year a different theme is chosen. The first one was Civilization: A world Achievement; The year 2023 theme is "Black Resistance." Three countries celebrate Black History Month – United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

## Melrose's Revitalization Task Force would like your input!

In addition to our congregational survey (please check your inbox), we'll be posting questions in the weekly newsletter. Please send your responses to [melrosetaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:melrosetaskforce@gmail.com).

You can also send thoughts, suggestions, concerns, etc. to the same address or speak to **Tabitha de Bruin**, chair of the task force. (All communications will remain confidential.)

### This week's question:

**Would you like to see the return of coffee hour after church service? Would you be willing to help on a monthly basis?**



## This Month's Meetings

Annual General Meeting  
February 26th  
After Service

## Connect With Us



[melroseuc](#)



[melroseunitedchurch](#)

http://

[melroseunited.ca/](#)

86 Homewood Avenue  
Hamilton, ON  
L8P 2M4

If you have any additional updates, news or celebrations please have them into the office by Wednesday of each week.

Minister: Rev. Sonia Ireson  
Music Director: Alexander Cann  
Family Ministries Coordinator:  
Meg Chalmers  
Custodian: Kevin Geluch  
Office Administrator: Lorraine  
Lowry



905-522-1323



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