

NEWSLETTER

July 19, 2024



WORSHIP DATES

- 21st July , 2024
- 28th July, 2024
- 4th August, 2024
- 11th August, 2024

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..

Connect With Us



[melroseuc](#)



[melroseunitedchurch](#)



<http://melroseunited.ca>

86 Homewood Avenue
Hamilton, ON
L8P 2M4

Message from the Board

Monday, September 9 ~ Official Board Meeting @7:30 pm.
All are welcome at any board meeting!

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>.



Summer Worship

Summer Worship is held in our beautiful air conditioned chapel!

Enjoy fellowship on the patio afterwards!



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 Get ready for the upcoming Mistletoe Bazaar! Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 23rd, from 9am to noon. Start preparing by stocking up on sugar and butter for baking treats! We're also accepting donations of jam jars in the kitchen. If you're interested in becoming a vendor or know someone who would be a great fit, please contact Gwyn at gwynxag@gmail.com to apply.

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.

From the Church Office

Starting 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. Thank you!

Looking Ahead!

Saturday July 20 & August 17 : Community Knitting and Crochet. Bring your current project and materials, beginners welcome! Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

Friday, June 28 ~ Progressive Euchre. Doors open @7pm. Games start @7:30pm sharp! Beginners welcome, you do not need a partner!

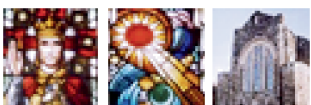


Minister's Corner



REV.
SONIA
IRESON

sonia.ireson@gmail.com
cell 226-203-4674



This summer's series of reflections have been based on the Wisdom writings. One such writing is not part of the offering – Song of Songs. One will rarely find it ever being preached on. I am not aware of any reference to it in Seminary, so the preacher feels unprepared and intimidated by its poetry.

Seven Chapters speak about a longing, seeking, passion, and power of love. Scholars disagree over whether the book is clearly about human love or an allegory for God's love for God's people.

Also, the purpose of the book is widely debated and its inclusion in the bible is the most controversial of

all the books.

The main message seems to be that love and desire are innate to human beings and cannot be legislated, curtailed or controlled. The words of the song promote loyalty and respect and emphasizes that love is a decision not merely an emotion.

I can't say I ever read it through until now, and I don't know what to make of it. I offer it to you just because it exists in our bible. There is no mention of God throughout the book. Yet scholars have interpreted it as God's relationship to the church and the Jewish people.

