

# NEWSLETTER

July 26, 2024



## WORSHIP DATES

- 28th July, 2024
- 4th August, 2024
- 11th August, 2024
- 18th 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!

## 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.

## From the Church Office

**Next week Sue will be on holidays!** There will be no Congregational Letter or Newsletter, but they will return the following week. for you to enjoy. If there is a pastoral emergency, please email Rev. Sonia at [sonia.ireson@gmail.com](mailto:sonia.ireson@gmail.com). For any other immediate issues, please email Margaret Duff at [margaret.duff2143@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.duff2143@gmail.com)

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!



## 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, July 26 & August 23 ~ Progressive Euchre.** Doors open @7pm. Games start @7:30pm sharp! Beginners welcome, you do not need a partner!

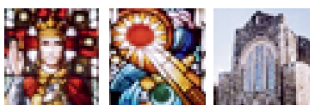


## Minister's Corner

REV.  
SONIA  
IRESON



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cell 226-203-4674



We all yearn to belong somewhere, to feel accepted and be respected. As children in the playground, we want to be chosen on teams and not left out. We want to eat lunch with classmates and be invited to their birthday parties. We never lose that desire to belong.

It is interesting to note that many of the perpetrators of violence – lone gunmen who assassinate high profile figures are often loners, outsiders, who have no friends and who feel rejected and left out.

The Bible tells us of a man who is

known only as an Ethiopian Eunuch who was banned from entering the inner courts of the temple. How he, like all of us, yearned to be included. Philip felt called to his area for the purpose of spreading the gospel of Jesus, telling him about Jesus' love and acceptance. The Eunuch asks, "What would prevent me from being baptized? Am I really accepted? Do I belong?"

Indeed, he was accepted, and he did belong! We all do. We need only seek it; sometimes we are even sought! Let's make sure we choose the right crowd, the family of God.

