

NEWSLETTER

June 28, 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..

Message from the Board

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

All are welcome at any board meeting!

Indigenous Education and Reconciliation

On Monday Catherine Clase, Libby Cook and Dianne Coons joined a group of 30 others at the Neighbour to Neighbour Community centre to participate in a vibrant conversation in Indigenous education and reconciliation. The event was truly inspiring as each person there shared their interest and passion for learning and connecting more fully with Indigenous people in Hamilton. Awareness was deepened, ideas were shared, connections were made in a learning, friendship circle. We came away with new resources and information about a speaker to share with Melrose in the fall. We met others who are committed to furthering educational opportunities and sharing information of local events. We hope others at Melrose will join in similar future events and that we will deepen our commitment to learning and working on the challenges facing Indigenous people in Hamilton. We appreciated the chance to start on a more intentional journey.

WORSHIP DATES

- 30th June, 2024
- 7th July, 2024
- 14th July, 2024
- 21st July, 2024

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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.

Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

To honour the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) this past May, consider joining our letter writing campaign! Just click on <https://melroseunited.ca/actions>. Letters and envelopes will also be available from the office.



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! Thank you!

Looking Ahead!

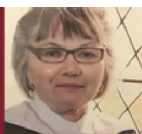
Saturday July 20 & August 17 : Community Knitting and Crochet. Bring your current project and materials, beginners welcome! Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

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

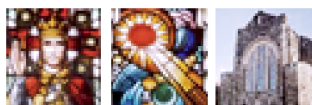


Minister's Corner

REV.
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IRESON



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A message for you, our readers, as you head into a change of pace for summer. Some of you have gone off to cottages to enjoy sunshine, and the joys of nature – water, beautiful scenery, calmness and a time to recharge.

For some, it is a blessed time of being able to slow down and reflect on your lives, a time for thanksgiving for the many blessings you have enjoyed in your relationships and your careers. It may also be a time for travel, for pleasure, for spiritual renewal, for long-awaited dreams of new and exotic places.

However, because of my vocation, I am privy to the sadness and the hurt, the fears and the anxiety that some of you face in your own daily living, and in your health challenges, or those of ones you love.

Some are carrying unbelievable loads of stress over which they have absolutely no control. Some of you hide your troubles behind smiling faces and wish not to let your difficulties be known. You sit beside

us day after day, hurting inside, but not sharing your darkness.

Please be aware that we all have our stories, some that we share, and some that we don't. Be kind; be careful in your words; be supportive and caring. Jesus asks us to love one another as the greatest gift we can offer to God and to each other.

Please take the time to build yourselves up, so that you will have the strength to offer your support to another; to listen and be attentive for the signs that someone is treading water in their day-to-day life and needs a comforting shoulder on which to lean.

As I am preparing for the next season of my life in retirement, (perhaps this one will be the last) I am trying to discern how I might continue to be available as one of God's messengers to ease the burden of others. I believe that to be the essence of my ministry now and into the future.

May God bless you in whatever ways you need.

