

NEWSLETTER

March 1, 2024



WORSHIP DATES

- 3rd March, 2024
- 10th March, 2024
- 17th March, 2024
- 24th March, 2024

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86 Homewood Avenue
Hamilton, ON
L8P 2M4



Easter Services

Palm Sunday, March 24th
10:30am

Maundy Thursday, March 28th
6:00pm

Good Friday, March 29th
10:30am

Easter Sunday, March 31
Sunrise Service - 8:30am
Worship Service - 10:30am

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, March 11 ~ Official Board Meeting by Zoom @ 7:30 pm. All are welcome at any board meeting!

Choral Evensong

Sunday, March 3 @4:00pm

A short evening service of beautiful music, quiet prayer and scripture featuring our wonderful Chancel Choir..

Creating An Autonomous Indigenous Church Within UCC, Remit 1

As the board prepares to vote to register its 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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Easter Flowers

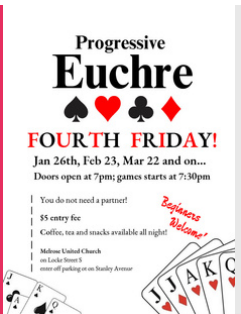
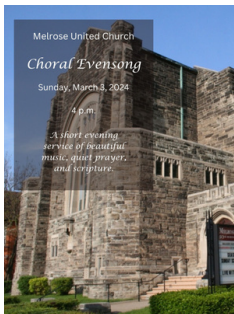
Donations for Easter flowers are being accepted until Palm Sunday. The names of loved ones will appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Envelopes for donations are available in the Narthex or email the office at melrose@melroseunited.ca. Please be sure the include the name of your loved one!

Decorating for Easter

We are looking for any and all ceramic planters in white or can be spray painted white. they will be used for the decorations for the Easter season. They will be delivered along with spring bulbs after the Sunday service. If you can help, please speak with Jeff Ogino.

Looking Ahead!

- Sunday, March 3:** Choral Evensong @4:00pm. A short evening service of beautiful music, quiet prayer and scripture.
- Saturday, March 9:** Community Concert @7:00pm. Support Wesley's Refugee Program! Free will donation at the door.
- Friday, March 15:** Family Movie Night. The Jungle Book! Doors open @5:30pm, movie starts @6:00pm. A free family event!
- Saturday, March 2 & 16:** Community Knitting and Crochet. Bring your current project and materials, beginners welcome! Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.
- Saturday, March 9:** Community Concert! Freewill donation at the door. Refreshments will be provided.
- March 8 - 21:** Fiddes Fresh Food Drive is happening again with St John's Anglican Church to assist bringing fresh fruits and vegetables to local food banks. Food list and prices will be available on our website shortly. We will be accepting etransfers.
- Friday, March 22:** Progressive Euchre. Doors open at 7:00, games start at 7:30 sharp!
- Easter Flowers:** Donations for Easter flowers are being accepted until Palm Sunday. Envelopes for donations are available in the Narthex or email the office at melrose@melroseunited.ca. Don't forget to include the name of your loved ones for the Easter bulletin!
- 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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Another look at the Bible.
Our Daily Bread continues to amaze me in getting me to look at something in a different way or to delve deeper into something I haven't looked at closely before. Let's admit it, parts of the bible are boring. Who wants to read through, so and so begat.... Names of generations of people until Jesus shows up? Or, instructions for setting up priestly affairs, or medical knowledge o

f skin diseases, and so on. I, and probably you, tend to gloss over on our studious desire to read through the entire bible one more time, or even for the first time.
The writer of Our Daily Bread makes the comment that a doctor friend who was an atheist became a converted believer, as a result of Leviticus reading. "It contained surprising details about contagious and noncontagious sores and how to treat them." He said, "there was no way Moses could have known all this and that he began to consider Moses really did receive his information from God."
There are parts of the bible that just feel comfortable, like an old, well-worn shoe, and they resonate with us and feed into our faith. There are other parts that cause us to raise our eyebrows and think there must have been a misinterpretation here somewhere because that is not how we understand

things to be today.
The writer of Our Daily Bread claims that everything is in the bible for a reason. We may not know that reason. But in learning about the relationship between God and God's people, we begin to learn a bit more about Godself.
I love the statement, "All Scripture is God-breathed." That does not confine us to believing that every word in the bible has been dictated by God.
We can leave room for interpretation and evolution of thought. I can appreciate the bible, and be guided by it, without having to buy into its 100 per cent accuracy. And I can say, and I hope you come to this understanding as well, it is foundational and both relevant and influential in how we live our daily lives.