

# NEWSLETTER

March 8, 2024



## WORSHIP DATES

- 10th March, 2024
- 17th March, 2024
- 24th March, 2024
- 31st March, 2024

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<http://melroseunited.ca>

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! Check your email for the Zoom invitation.

## Kirkendall Neighbourhood Nocturnes

**Saturday, March 9 @7:00 pm.** Join us in the Auditorium for this wonderful event! Performances by local musicians. A fundraiser for Wesley Resettlement Assistance for Refugees. Admission Donation \$10.

## Fiddes Fresh Food Drive

**March 10 to 17.** The Fresh Food Drive is happening in partnership with St John the Evangelist to assist bringing fresh food to Mission Services Food bank. The food and price list is now available on our website [www.melroseunited.ca](http://www.melroseunited.ca). Orders and e-transfers can be emailed to [dustin@fwp1.ca](mailto:dustin@fwp1.ca). Please indicate the items are for Melrose United Church and Mission Services and include your name.

## 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](mailto:melrose@melroseunited.ca). Please be sure to include the name of your loved one!



905-522-1323



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# 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 as 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>

## Looking Ahead!

**Saturday, March 9:** Community Concert @7:00pm. Support Wesley's Refugee Program! Admission \$10.

**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.

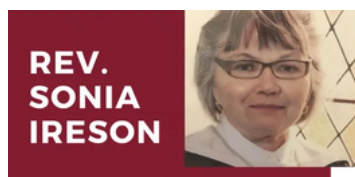
**Friday, March 22:** Progressive Euchre. Doors open at 7:00, games start at 7:30 sharp!

**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](mailto: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 from **April 1 to 18**. The drop off will be located in the auditorium. Please label your bags "Textile Drive".



## Minister's Corner



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Have you ever had an urge to do something at the last minute not recognizing where it was coming from? Our Daily Bread speaks about a teacher who was heading off to school when he felt the need to tuck a five-dollar bill into his pocket. We know where these thoughts come from, don't we. He got to school and overheard the lunchroom administrator say, a boy needed five dollars to cover his lunches for the rest of the week. We are God's agents, and the Holy Spirit can be very active planting the

thoughts into our mind that help us to do "God's work."

Some of my favourite stories revolve around these encounters, when we allow ourselves to respond without questioning, the randomness of the ask..

In my first year at seminary, Tom and I motorcycled (I on the back) with his good friend Tommy Hoan to a Gold Wing rally in the States. While we were away, he received word that his wife was terminally ill, and we had to come home rather quickly. She died a short time later. Friends of the family were invited to White Chapel for a farewell. Tommy had made no arrangements for a minister or speaker, no service was intended.

Just before leaving, Tom was already in the car, and I was about to get in, when I had this overwhelming urge to run back into the house to get my brand new United Church Service Book that I had purchased just a few short weeks before. I hadn't even cracked the cover on it yet, followed up on the urge and put it in my purse. We found ourselves seated in the pews in the chapel, quiet, no music, hardly anyone talking. Tommy

must have decided this wasn't quite right. He got up from his seat at the front, and came back to me and said, "Sonia, would you say a few words?" I said, yes, felt like throwing up, and reached in my purse for the fresh new service book. Keep in mind this was my first year in seminary, and I had not yet served with a church until the end of my three year studies.

I opened the book, thumbed through the index looking for funerals, took a deep breath, and with trembling hands and pounding heart began my first and impromptu funeral. Somehow, I got through it because God was with me before I even got to the chapel, and God was with me during the time I inadequately performed a ritual that brought peace of mind to a room full of people.

If you search through your memories, you will find stories that lead you to believe that you were God's agent at a time when your strength and help were needed. It happens to everyone, but we don't always recognize it as a God-moment. The impulse to call someone at the precise moment they need to be uplifted. We are all interconnected and we definitely are "our brother's keepers."