

MELROSE NEWSLETTER

November 20, 2026

SUNDAY WORSHIP DATES AT MELROSE

- November 22, 2026
- November 29, 2026
- December 6, 2026
- December 13, 2026

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.

A Message from the Board

Official Board Meeting ~ TBA @ 7:30pm
All are welcome at any board meeting! Our meetings are held in person and on Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact the office for more information, melrose@melroseunited.ca

Mistletoe Bazaar!



The Mistletoe bazaar is tomorrow!

Saturday, November 21st, 9:00 am to Noon!

This year there will be more vendors than ever!

Check our our famous Cookie Walk, Tea Room and Bake Table!

See you there!

Connect With Us

melroseuc

melroseunitedchurch

http:// melroseunited.ca

melrose @melroseunited.ca

86 Homewood Avenue
Hamilton, ON
L8P 2M4



We always welcome children and understand that they may not be quiet during the service. We appreciate their joyful noise and are glad that they are here!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT MELROSE

Sunday, November 29 ~ Advent I

Sunday, December 6 ~ Advent II

Sunday, December 13 ~ Advent II ~ CHRISTMAS GIVING SERVICE
Help us spread the joy of Christmas. If you are able, please bring gifts for Wesley Urban Centre (gloves & socks) and Operation Santa Claus (toys).

Sunday, December 13 @7:30pm ~ CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE
A beautiful service of carols and readings for the beginning of the Advent season.

Thursday, December 17 ~ LIGHT IN DECEMBER DARKNESS SERVICE
The holiday season can be difficult for many people. But there is hope. Join us for a quiet service of rest and renewal.

Sunday, December 20 ~ Advent IV ~ CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Calling all sheep, shepherds and angels! Join us for our Christmas pageant, everyone is welcome to participate (even the adults)! No rehearsals necessary!

Thursday, December 24th @ 7:00pm ~ FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Join us for a short, family-friendly service celebrating the true meaning of Christmas with Rev Ken Jackson.

Thursday, December 24th @10:30pm ~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
A beautiful service of carols and readings to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the promise of peace, hope, joy and love with Rev Dr. Philip Gardner. All are welcome to take Communion.

Sunday, December 27th @10:30am ~ JAZZ CAROLS
And now for something completely different! Join us for an informal service in the church parlour.

905-522-1323 melrose@melroseunited.ca

DIVERSE
INCLUSIVE
ACCEPTING
WELCOMING
SAFE SPACE
FOR EVERYONE

PAR

We love our monthly PAR (pre-authorised remittance) donors at Melrose United Church, and you can join the group! When you give monthly through PAR, you show that your giving and generosity are both dedicated and strategic. Your gifts help keep our mission sustainable and our community presence possible. Plus, it's so good for your spiritual health. So, if you've been thinking about becoming a monthly donor or thinking about making changes to your PAR contribution but have been holding out for the right time, this is it! PAR forms are available at the front of the Church or contact Sue in the Church Office for more information, melrose@melroseunited.ca. Speak with Tabitha for more information too!

Giving Hope This Holiday Season



At Wesley, we're committed to helping those most affected by poverty—many of whom have nowhere else to turn. This includes families experiencing homelessness, newcomers building a life in Canada, and youth, parents, and seniors seeking vital support.

The holiday season is a time for giving, connection and hope. At Wesley, we support individuals and families in Hamilton, Halton and Brantford who are facing poverty, homelessness and other challenges—and your support can make a meaningful difference.

This year, your support could be a family's greatest gift. Please help us offer shelter & care to those in need by making a cash donation to Wesley and/or purchasing a new item from our clients' wish list of most-needed items.

The most needed items are:

- Financial donations to Wesley to support programs & services: Cash, cheque, credit card, or gifts of securities are greatly appreciated.
- $25 gift cards: Walmart, grocery stores (Food Basics, No Frills, PC Stores), Dollarama, Giant Tiger, Canadian Tire.
- Essentials: New L/XL gloves, socks, slippers and underwear for teens, men & women.
- Linens: New towels, sheets and blankets for single and double, including knitted blankets.
- Kitchen: New microwaves, toaster ovens, electric kettles, air fryers.

If you would like to contribute to our efforts and help us continue creating positive change, please click the donate button below. Every contribution helps us provide essential services and support to those in need. To dontate please visit **https://wesley.ca/giving/donate/**

A Story from Rev Ken's Book
Maddie and Mom, Lessons in Christian Living



A Kingdom of Love

Madison's mother noticed the familiar frown on her daughter's face and readied herself for another challenge from her inquisitive child.
"What country is Jesus the king of?" she asked.
"That's a strange question, Maddie," her mother said, knowing that it was best to wait for her daughter to explain. It didn't take long.
"They told us in Sunday school that Jesus was a king," Maddie blurted out in a rush of words. "But they didn't say what country he was king of. It can't be our country. Our country wasn't around in Jesus' time."
"Maddie, Jesus isn't that kind of king."
"There are different kinds?" Maddie asked.
"I suppose you could say so. Sometimes we use the expression 'king of' or 'queen of' to describe someone who's the best at whatever they do. But that's not what we mean when we call Jesus a king."
Maddie's frown was back. "Then why do we call Jesus a king?"
"Well," her mother said, "it's a little hard to describe. A king used to be a ruler over people. We don't really have anything like it today."
"But some countries have kings and queens, don't they?"
"Yes, Maddie, but usually their position is largely ceremonial. That means that when the governments of those countries pass laws, they might ask the ruler's approval to make them official, but they would never disapprove. It's just a ceremony."
"Is that what Jesus is? A ceremony?"
"No, Maddie. I think we have to look at what being a king meant in ancient times. Kings—or sometimes queens—were very powerful people. They made all the decisions in the places they ruled. People had to obey them, and most often were very much afraid of them."
"But Jesus couldn't have been like that," Maddie exclaimed.
"No, Jesus wasn't," her mother said. "He wanted people to obey him, to abide by what he taught, but he didn't use fear to get people to follow him. He used something else. Do you know what that was?"
"What?" Maddie asked.
"He used gentleness, kindness, forgiveness, encouragement. All those things are part of love. But there's one more thing to remember."
"What's that?"
"The same way that those ancient kings and queens wanted to be obeyed, so does Jesus. We do that by loving, as Jesus did. Loving God and loving others. If Jesus has any kingdom, it's a kingdom of love."
Maddie's eyes brightened. "So, Jesus isn't a king of a place. He's the king of love."
"Yes, that's one way to put it, Maddie. And we're part of his kingdom—a kingdom of loving people."

Looking Ahead!

Mistletoe Bazaar



Saturday, November 21st @ 9:00am to noon ~ Enjoy new and returning vendors, Bake Table, Cookie Walk aand Tea Room!



Community Knitting and Crochet (and needlework too!)

Saturday, November 21st ~ 9:30am - 11:30am ~ Bring your current project and materials, beginners welcome! Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. Please enter through the doors off of the Stanley Ave parking lot. We will be meeting on the stage in the Auditorium during the Bazaar!

905-522-1323 melrose@melroseunited.ca

DIVERSE
INCLUSIVE
ACCEPTING
WELCOMING
SAFE SPACE
FOR EVERYONE

Progressive Euchre



Friday, November 27th ~ @7pm ~ Doors open at 7pm, games start at 7:30pm. You do not need a partner! Entry fee $5, coffee, tea and snacks available all night!

McMaster University Choir Presents: A World Alive

Saturday, November 28th @ 2pm and 5pm ~ The McMaster University Choir and Vocal Ensemble come together in performance at Melrose, sharing timeless sacred and secular works that nourish the soul, alongside contemporary explorations of timbre (and big data). Through sound, we explore the many ways we make meaning, find connection, and listen for life within us, around us, and beyond us. Tickets are $10 for students, $25 for general admission. Tickets are available at https://www.showpass.com/muc-fall-concert/



Women of Song Concert ~ Let It Snow!

Sunday, November 29th @ 2:30pm ~ Women of Song will be presenting our Annual Holiday Concert, "Let It Snow!" at Melrose United Church from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. Women of Song have been busy rehearsing and will be joined by other local talent for your listening enjoyment. Tickets will go on sale soon and will also be available at the door. For more information, contact the Church Office, melrose@melroseunited.ca.

Christmas Movie Party



Friday, December 4th @ 5:30pm ~ Join us for our annual Christmas Movie Party in the Auditorium! A classic Christmas movie! Crafts! Cookies! Hot Chocolate! Fun for all ages!

Advent Carol Walk

Monday, Dedember 7th @ 7:30pm ~ Our annual Advent Carol Walk will begin at Central Presbyterian Church at 7:30pm! Be sure to bring along a candle or a lantern. Electronic is best!



Board Games

Sunday, December 13th @ 1:00pm ~ Come and play your favourite board game or bring your own! You do not need a partner. Entry fee is $5, children under grade 1 are free!

Social Media at Melrose

Did you know? Melrose has an active social media presence on Facebook and Instagram! Check out our pages for information on Melrose events and for messages of inspiration! Please like and share our posts!

A Message From the Church Office

Please be sure to submit your church related items for the bulletin or newsletter by Wednesday of each week. Kindly email melrose@melroseunited.ca.

The Church Office hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm.