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## Scripture Reading

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### Genesis 2:4b-9 (NRSV)

<sup>4b</sup> In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup> when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; <sup>6</sup> but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— <sup>7</sup> then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup> Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

### Revelation 22:1-5

<sup>1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life, with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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## Education

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**Adult Ed:** Jan. 10: Does the Church still have legs? Session one. We will listen to part of Sara Wenger Shenk's first presentation at the MC Canada Study Conference: Church Identity and character, and discuss the concept of the Church as a "womb of joy". You can preview the presentations at <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/23303>.

| Jan. 17: Does the Church still have legs? Session two. We will continue listening to Part one of Sara Wenger Shenk's presentation at the MC Canada Study Conference: Church Identity and character, and discuss the images of the Church as a North Star, a body, and a river.

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## Bethel Announcements

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**From Church Council** | Re: 2021 draft budget. Please review the draft budget and budget notes and send comments or questions to the chair of our finance committee. Those members who have received the draft budget by mail may call the church. Given the inability during this pandemic time to physically gather in a congregational meeting, there will be another mailing toward the end of January/beginning of February inviting a formal ballot vote to accept the proposed budget.



**Cook the Books** | Thank you to everyone who participated in the Cook the Books FUNdraising and community building initiative. The collection of stories and recipes is expected to be available in late January. Watch for details!

**Bethel's Live-Stream Link** now resides on the Home (main) page of our website. You will find the link on that page below "Loving God, each other and our neighbours". You may choose from the Previous Service or the most recent one. The Upcoming Service is there, too, and will become live on the date shown. If you have questions, please call the church office.

**Bethel Website Update** | A Bethel member has been working diligently with our web hosts to improve functionality on Bethel's website and to bring the Members page up to date. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**Faith Community Nurse** | Church Council is excited to announce that Bethel will establish a Faith Community Nurse (FCN) position, sometimes called a Parish Nurse, for a one-year pilot project beginning January 17, 2021. An FCN is a licensed nurse who is called and committed to the healing ministry of the church. This ministry is grounded in the tradition of the church "to preach the kingdom of God and to heal."(Luke 9: 2).

A Bethel member will volunteer her skills and time. She is grateful for this opportunity to serve the congregation in this capacity and serving the Lord. A dedication service will be held on Sun., Jan. 17.

- **Goal:** to augment the Caregiving Committee's role and be a resource to pastors in providing care to congregants with healthcare concerns;
- To promote emotional, physical, and spiritual health to all age groups in the congregation with special emphasis on elderly members;

- the Legacy Fund will cover the expenses;
- an Advisory Team of four people will provide guidance.

We are thrilled that our Bethel member will volunteer and as an FCN she will be a tremendous addition to caregiving at Bethel. - Church Council, Pastoral Team, and Caregiving Committee.

**Harvest Manitoba** | Our food bank at Bethel serves over 100 families a month, providing food assistance to all those who need it. If you are interested in volunteering in a meaningful way in this new year, and getting to know some of our neighbours, consider volunteering at our food bank. Currently, we are particularly in need of volunteers on Monday afternoons from 3:45 to 6:15 pm to assist with food distribution. COVID protocols are in place, but we recommend those in higher risk demographics not volunteer at this time. Some lifting and moderate physical activity is required. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Kathy McCamis.

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## Partners in Ministry

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**Mennonite Church Canada**

**mennonitechurch.ca**

MC Canada's annual report, "Looking Back on 2020," is available through CommonWord: [commonword.ca/ResourceView/83/10101](https://commonword.ca/ResourceView/83/10101).

**International Witness invites congregations** to join Witness Support Networks and connect with other congregations who support International Witness ministries. Five networks currently support ministry in China, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Burkina Faso. Learn more at: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/witness-support-networks](https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/witness-support-networks).

**Mennonite Church Manitoba**

**mennochurch.mb.ca**

**Video greeting** from the new MCM Executive Minister - Michael Pahl, who began this week. Click [this link](#) to watch.

**Pastoral Starts** | We invite your prayers for these people and the congregations that they serve: Lisa Enns – Charleswood MC, Co-Pastor; Ben Pauls – Morden MC, Interim Pastor; Michael Pahl – Mennonite Church Manitoba, Executive Minister.

**Two MCM Job Openings** | Administrative Assistant and Financial Services; closing date extended to Jan. 20. See [MCM Website](#).

**MCM (Online) Gathering 2021** | On March 6, delegates (and friends, all are welcome) will gather around our shared MCM and MC Canada ministries from 9:00-12:30. More info coming soon.

## **Canadian Mennonite University**

**cmu.ca**

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*Live and Thrive on Campus webinar* will explore how university learning and on-campus residence life can go hand in hand! Jan. 13, 4:00 PM (CST). Register at [www.cmu.ca/webinar](http://www.cmu.ca/webinar).

**Community School of Music and the Arts** continues to offer fabulous *online group classes* for kids and adults, starting in January 2021! Go to [www.cmu.ca/csma/](http://www.cmu.ca/csma/) or contact Judith Oatway, CSMA Program Coordinator, for more information [CSMA@cmu.ca](mailto:CSMA@cmu.ca).

## **Mennonite Central Committee**

**mccmb.ca**

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**Apply for SALT** | Serve internationally in a wide variety of fields like education, agriculture, healthcare, information technology, peace and more. Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience for Christian young adults. Visit [mccmb.ca/SALT](http://mccmb.ca/SALT) to register and learn more.