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## Scripture Reading

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### Genesis 12:6 (NRSV)

<sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

### Genesis 13:1-4, 14-18

<sup>1</sup> So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. <sup>2</sup> Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. <sup>3</sup> He journeyed on by stages from the Negeb as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, <sup>4</sup> to the place where he had made an altar at the first; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Raise your eyes now, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; <sup>15</sup> for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. <sup>16</sup> I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth; so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. <sup>17</sup> Rise up, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” <sup>18</sup> So Abram moved his tent, and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron; and there he built an altar to the LORD.

### Isaiah 60:21-61:3

<sup>21</sup> Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever. They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands, so that I might be glorified. <sup>22</sup> The least of them shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will accomplish it quickly.

**61** <sup>1</sup> The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

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## Education

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**Adult Ed** | 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. Jan. 17, at 11:15 am, join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89506090811?pwd=amRoK3pIRzR4ano3ZnAyMHdWV0dz09> . Meeting ID: 895 0609 0811; Passcode: 243969. Dial by your location: +1 204 272 7920 Canada.

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## Bethel Announcements

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**Pilgrim Group** | The next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Please contact Erwin Warkentin (Wark) for details.

**The Deacon Executive** will be hosting a zoom retreat for all its deacon ministry members, on Sat., Jan. 23 (9-11am). The theme is “Loving God leads us to loving each other and our neighbours.” Our resource person will be Laura Funk, who has a Bachelor of Theology and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry from CMU, a certificate in spiritual direction from Shekinah at St. Benedict’s ministry, and a two year formation for healing course with St. Ignatius Church. She is a member of Hope MC in Winnipeg. Working as a chaplain, Laura expresses a passionate delight in the spiritual journey. Please register with Tim Wenger, our deacon executive chair: [tim.wenger@live.ca](mailto:tim.wenger@live.ca) or call 431-999-7138.

**From Church Council** | There will be a Virtual Congregational meeting via Zoom on Wed., Jan. 27, at 7:00-8:30 pm. In preparation for the meeting, please review the 2020 financial statements and the 2021 budget proposal – both documents are available in the member protected area on the Bethel Mennonite Church website. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86740798344?pwd=VnlxSEIyNysxNlFNUVlueINNSXVCQT09> . Meeting ID: 867 4079 8344; Passcode: 340141; One tap mobile: +12042727920,,86740798344#,,,,\*340141# Canada; Dial by your location: +1 204 272 7920 Canada; Meeting ID: 867 4079 8344; Passcode: 340141.

**Thoughtexchange** | You received an invitation from Bethel this past week to participate in a Thoughtexchange. It is our hope that you will go into the program more than once to submit thoughts and rate other comments. This valuable information will help guide our church as we plan for the upcoming year. This Thoughtexchange will close on Thurs., Jan. 21 at midnight. Thank you for your participation.

**Library Update** | Lynda Toews, our Bethel artist in residence, has donated some wonderful books to the church library that were resources as she brainstormed for creative ideas for the tree theme that is the current focus of our worship services. One of those books is *Reforesting Faith*, by Matthew Sleeth. The book connects those who love the Creator with creation and those who love creation with the Creator. Sleeth explores the wonders of life, death and rebirth through the trail of trees mentioned in the Bible.

**Harvest Manitoba** | Our food bank at Bethel serves over 100 families a month, providing food assistance to all those who need it. Currently we are looking for a volunteer to serve as our **Harvest Assistant** on food bank days (typically alternate Mondays) from 11 am to 7 pm during the months of January to April. This position receives a stipend of \$120 for each food bank day worked. We would also welcome additional **volunteers on Monday afternoons** from 3:45 to 6:15 pm to help with food distribution. COVID protocols are in place, but we recommend those in higher risk demographics not volunteer at this time. Moderate physical activity is required. Please contact Pastor Kathy McCamis for information.

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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**

**Please continue** to keep Camps with Meaning staff in your prayers. Janet Peters has begun work again, but most of our onsite staff remain laid off. For further updates on the ministry, [see the CwM website](#).

**Two MCM Job Openings** | Administrative Assistant and Financial Services Assistant; 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.

**Our Winter 2020 Perspective Newsletter** is now available to read online. Inside you will find lots of pictures, stories, links to programs and music, and so much more! Please take a look and discover what Westgate has been up to this past year. [READ HERE](#)

**For more than 60 years**, we have had the honour to work with our families and our churches as partners in Christian education. We are your school and invite you to come learn more. Upcoming *Discover Westgate* events and more info: [www.westgatemennonite.org](http://www.westgatemennonite.org) .

**Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary & Middle Schools** **wmems.ca**

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**At WMEMS**, a child's success starts at an early age. Join our Virtual Open Houses on Jan. 26 (Bedson Campus) and 28 (Katherine Friesen Campus) at 6:30 pm. Visit: [www.wmems.ca](http://www.wmems.ca) to register.

**Canadian Mennonite University** **cmu.ca**

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**Faith Matters webinar** will explore how faith is woven within the life of CMU in classes, dorms and broader student experiences. Wed., Jan. 20, 4:00 pm. Register at [www.cmu.ca/webinar](http://www.cmu.ca/webinar).

**“So What?”** is CMU’s NEW monthly podcast drawing out key ideas from public events at CMU. Host Jonas Cornelsen from Calgary (CMU ’16) guides you through these conversations and events. The first Podcast Episode, entitled **‘Pandemic’** can be found at: [www.cmu.ca/podcast](http://www.cmu.ca/podcast). Expect a new episode at the beginning of every month.

**Sunday@CMU** is a weekly 15-minute radio program featuring biblical meditations, music, and interviews. This month features a sermon series on Colossians from **Cheryl Braun**, former principal at Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna and pastor at Glenlea MC – and a present student in CMU’s Graduate School of Theology and Ministry. Listen at <https://media.cmu.ca/cat/audio/sundayatcmu>

**Conrad Grebel University College** **uwaterloo.ca/grebel/**

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**Jan. 27 at 12:30** | The free Grebel Noon Hour Concert series will feature *Voices Together* committee member Anneli Loepp Thiessen. See: [uwaterloo.ca/music/events/noon-hour-concert-still-singing-women-composers-and-voices](http://uwaterloo.ca/music/events/noon-hour-concert-still-singing-women-composers-and-voices) .

**Jan. 27 at 7 pm** – Join the Grebel Community for a special virtual chapel service to celebrate the arrival of our new hymnal *Voices Together*. Details: [uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/hymnal-celebration-sarah-johnson](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/hymnal-celebration-sarah-johnson) .