
Scripture Reading

1 John 3:16-24 (NRSV)

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Education

Adult Ed | April 25: Lukasz Firla, Iraqi Kurdistan Program Support Coordinator for Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) will speak about the work of CPT. May 2, 9, 16, 30: Madeleine Friesen will lead a series introducing the *Voices Together* hymnal. | For more details on these and upcoming sessions, please consult the Adult Ed link on the Bethel website. Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87394238023?pwd=dUF4RVZzTXk2OERPZ2lZZVZOVXVjUT09>; Meeting ID: 873 9423 8023; Passcode: 415282.

Bethel Announcements

In-person worship gatherings | The current provincial government guidelines, announced April 20, allow places of worship to hold regular religious services if a service does not exceed 25 per cent of usual capacity or 50 people, whichever is lower. The church council executive and the pastoral team, however, have decided to continue with the suspension of in-person worship gatherings. The rationale for this decision includes the reality that we are in the code red danger zone as a province and that a large portion of the Bethel Family has not yet

Bethel Mennonite Church, April 25, 2021

received the coronavirus vaccine. Looking to the future, in-person worship gatherings will be reinstated at the appropriate time. *See the April 20 updated protocol document on the Bethel website.*

The online worship services will continue to be held on Sundays at 10:00 am as usual, and all are welcome to join in 'real time' to worship together or to view the service at a more convenient time during the following week. Go to our website: www.bethelmennonite.ca. Click on the small picture of the sanctuary to join the worship service.

Usage of masks in the building | Masks will continue to be mandatory and required of all persons entering the church building. However, as comfort levels allow, the preacher (and perhaps the worship leader as well) will remove the mask when preaching/leading from the pulpit. All musicians and song leaders would continue wearing the mask.

Our last Bethel Kidz Club meeting of 2020-2021 is next Tuesday, April 27. This time we will be playing an online game Civic Doodle (on Zoom). Make sure to get an extra device with the internet connection. If not available, join us to be a judge of the drawings. Feel free to bring your friends! When? Next Tuesday (Apr. 27, 2021) at 6:30. Where? On Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85451074342?pwd=RDFiY0RTbitZK2ZGV2dlbHNyUy8xUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 5107 4342; Passcode: Bethel2021; See you next week!
Pastor Valerie & BKC volunteers.

The Carter school-age expansion project, while a bit behind schedule of an April opening date, is progressing well. The lower lounge is looking beautiful and refreshed. Inspections are underway for Occupancy and Licensing. A realistic opening date at this point is June 1, but it could be earlier. Fifteen families are excited to have their children begin when the doors open. Filling to 25 will proceed gradually over the following months. We look forward to inviting you all to a grand opening, likely virtual, shortly after operations begin. Stay tuned for updates. If there are questions please contact Irene at irenenpatterson5@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunity | We are looking at launching a virtual version of our *Harrow Reading Program* this spring. If you are comfortable with technology (Google Meet), can spare a half hour a week, and would be interested in listening to a student from Harrow School practice their reading skills, please contact Pastor Kathy.

Library Update | *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennet is a best-selling novel that looks at the issue of racism by telling the parallel stories of twin sisters who decide to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white. Although they become separated for many years, the women's families will inevitably intertwine when their daughters meet. *The Vanishing Half* is being made into an HBO television series. Another book in the Bethel Library about racism is *Born a Crime*, the autobiography of television personality Trevor Noah.

The **2021 Virtual Walk with L'Arche** happens on May 1 and we're asking you to consider sponsoring Stacey and the Winnipeg L'Arche Community. To donate online, go to www.larchewinnipeg.org, click on "Community Life/Walk with L'Arche" & then click the "CanadaHelps.org" link.

Partners in Ministry

Mennonite Church Canada

mennonitechurch.ca

Earth Day Resources | On April 22, celebrate the natural beauty and wonder of the earth, and promote advocacy and action to protect the earth's resources and environment. See: commonword.ca/Browse/2876 . Then go outside and give thanks to God for our incredible world.

Mennonite Church Manitoba

mennochurch.mb.ca

Michael Pahl works at connecting with all MCM congregations. "I have enjoyed having conversations with our MCM pastors recently—32 conversations with 49 pastors and other church leaders over 5 weeks! This has given me a crash course in MC Manitoba 'on the ground.' Two things have become clear to me through these conversations: we are diverse in our united commitment to follow Jesus, and God is very much at work among us! May God continue to bless us with the presence, power, and peace of Christ as we walk in the way of Christ by the Spirit of Christ." – *Michael Pahl*

Campers are registering for summer camps; this means we also need staff and volunteers! Kitchen and maintenance help, camp pastors and health officers are needed for one-day pop-up camps in various locations and week-long day camps at both camps: campswithmeaning.org Summer.

University students | *Emmaus House* has openings for summer/fall 2021. It is a place that immediately feels like home and where you'll find good food, friends, and lots of laughter. See: www.emmaushousewinnipeg.ca or call 204-272-9191 and ask for Rod or Susan.

Virtual Open House | Take an online tour of the CMU campus, Wed., Apr. 28, at 4:00 pm. Register at: www.cmu.ca/virtualopenhouse.

Position available | Full-time Admissions Counsellor. Details at: www.cmu.ca/employment.

Climate Crisis Zoom event | Join panelists Marta Bunnett Wiebe, Bob Haverluck, and Zoe Matties, and together explore what ‘Ecological Grief’ can mean in our lives. Wed., April 28th at 7:00 pm (CDT). Register your interest at www.arocho.ca/events to receive a zoom link prior to the event.

CMU Fall Planning | For the school year starting September 2021, CMU is planning for primarily in-person classes, with some accommodation via hybrid/online formats where needed. As it has over the past 12 months, CMU is following all guidelines put forth by Manitoba Health. Check out more details on fall plans at media.cmu.ca/news-release-fall-2021-plans.

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate**westgatemennonite.ca**

Virtual Spring Bursary Fundraiser is on May 18. Every year we rely on donations from our generous community to raise funds for the bursaries. We have a number of events planned this year including a virtual program, an online prize raffle, torte raffle, and gourmet pick-up meal. Go to westgatemennonite.ca to learn more about how to make a donation and help support our students and their families!

Mennonite Central Committee**mccmb.ca**

Sponsor an acre of Manitoba farmland with Grow Hope and help provide food and agriculture training for people in places like Cambodia and DR Congo. Plus, every \$1 you give can grow up to \$5! Info at: www.mccmb.ca/GrowHope or call Simone at 204-261-6381.

Care for our planet by making secondhand your first choice. Help reduce textile waste by checking out a thrift shop before you look at any new clothing. Pledge your commitment at www.choosethriftfirst.ca .

Other

The April edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: MDS is celebrating National Volunteer Week, the Homes of Hope facility in Ephrata, Penn. is almost completed and a royal thank you to MDS volunteers. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/2QLOrAJ> .