



**June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9:30 a.m.**

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

**Prelude**

Ester Funk

**Gathering Thoughts  
Lighting the Christ Candle**

David Brubacher

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We open our ears

**People: to hear your word.**

Leader: We open our eyes

**People: to see your presence.**

Leader: We open our arms

**People: to the embrace of community.**

Leader: We open our minds

**People: to the beauty of truth.**

Leader: We open our hearts

**People: to the joy of new life.**

*All: We worship you, o God of all.*

**Prayer**

**Hymn**            *Come, let us all unite to sing*

HWB #12

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Musical Reflection**    *God Loves All His Many People*

Grace Singers

**Prayers of the People**

David Brubacher

**Hymn**

Refrain: *Draw the Circle, draw the circle wide. (2x)*

*No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.*

*Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.*

Verse: *Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.*

*Let this be our song: no one stands alone.*

*Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.*

*(Repeat verse)*

*Refrain*

**Scripture Reading** Galatians 3:23-28 (NT p.189)  
**Hymn** *In Christ there is no East or West* HWB #306  
**Scripture Reading** Mark 5:21-43 (NT p.39)  
**Meditation** “No Clean or Unclean” Mac Plunkett  
**Hymn of Response** *Healer of our every ill* HWB #377, vv.1,3,4  
**Benediction** Mac Plunkett  
**Sending Hymn** *As you go out from here,  
may the Lord go with you.  
The face of God shine on you ev’ry day.  
We are sent by God wherever we are living,  
salt and light as people of the Way.*

## Postlude

***It is good to be together in worship this morning!  
The ushers are pleased to help any who need assistance.***  
[Offering plate is available on table at back of sanctuary]

**Experiencing Grace** ~ Immediately following the worship service this morning, there is an opportunity to explore church membership at Grace in the Fellowship Room downstairs.

## **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>** ~ Speaker: Dr. Tom Yoder Neufeld

**Scripture Texts:** Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:1-14

**Coffee Time Next Sunday** ~ During our coffee time, following the worship service next Sunday, Dr. Tom Yoder Neufeld will be sharing with us on how the book of Ephesians invites us to be a people of peace. A good opportunity to ask questions and learn together.

**Soup is Always On at Grace Mennonite Church** ~ Did you know that your Community Chaplain is always delighted to bring you soup and a flowery card – and if you like – have a friendly visit? The soup is from “Raw Carrot Soup Enterprises” – which is supported by MCC. The soup is not raw and there are a variety of options available! Reach Jan at 289-990-4839 or [janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com) 😊  
Learn more about Raw Carrot at <https://therawcarrot.com>

## **Summer Teaching Series**

For the months of July and August we will be focusing on the book of Ephesians. Dr. Tom Yoder Neufeld, professor emeritus of Religious Studies and Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College will be us July 7th to launch this series, both in the morning service and the Coffee Time to follow. Dr. Yoder Neufeld, in his commentary on Ephesians, writes: "The overall gist of Ephesians can be summarized as follows: The secret is out! In Christ, God is gathering up all things. God's mercy and grace not only extend forgiveness to sinners. The Creator has also taken the initiative to mend broken humanity by removing enmity and by re-creating humanity anew in Christ. This reclaimed human community is immediately drawn into the process of peacemaking: it has become a new home for insiders and outsiders, for humanity and God. But it is also summoned and empowered to take up the divine struggle against the powers of evil that still thwart the full realization of God's peace, and to do so in the trenches of everyday existence."

To encourage further study and reflection, we will be providing a few questions in the bulletin each week based on the portion in focus that day, for our use during the following week.

## **Grandparent and other Scams in Niagara**

**In the past year Grace** has been involved in raising awareness of "grandparent scams" and other scams targeting older adults in the Niagara Region.

This is a reminder that if you receive a phone call, text, or email from someone asking you for banking information, money, or personal information, **DO NOT** provide them with anything. Scammers will pretend to be police officers, lawyers, doctors, government agencies, a grandchild, or some other person. It is even possible for scammers to create fake email addresses or call display names to make themselves seem legitimate.

If you receive a suspicious email do not reply to it or click on any attachments. If you receive a suspicious phone call hang up and phone a family member, the police, or someone you trust. Do not stay on the phone with the person who is asking you for money, no matter who they claim to be.

## **Save the date ~ September 1st, 4:00 p.m.**

Grace Church Social at Doug & Ester's Farm

**The ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY BIBLE** is now on sale in honour of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Anabaptist movement! There are short commentaries on every part of the Bible by groups of Mennonites all around the world. People from Grace participated in this process.

If you would like to order one or more copies, please let John Rempel know or sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer, and he will make a bulk order. The shipping costs are vastly reduced with a bulk order. You can pay John when the books arrive.

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***The Lord's Prayer***

*Our Father who art in heaven.*

*Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.*

*Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our trespasses,*

*as we forgive those that trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.*

*For ever and ever. Amen.*

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Office Hours: 8:30-2:30 ~ Wednesday, Thursday

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[www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines](https://www.facebook.com/gracemennonitechurchstcatharines)

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## **A Moment for MCC (Mennonite Central Committee)**

### **MCC responds to disastrous floods in Burundi with local partners ~** MCC and its partners in Burundi are

working together to respond to the immense needs in the country after torrential rainfall and a series of floods and landslides have displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

Whole villages have been submerged or leveled by landslides. More than 300,000 people are in desperate need of relief. Nearly 90% of Burundians make their living as subsistence farmers, and many have lost their entire livelihoods as their farmland is violently washed away.

MCC is responding to the immense need in Burundi in a joint effort with many of its partners in the region. Working with partners MCC has begun its emergency relief response for 500 affected families. Each family will receive 20 kgs of rice, 10 kgs of beans, a bucket, a package of sanitary pads (where needed), a carton of soap and a flashlight with batteries.

Read the whole story at <https://mcc.org/our-stories/mcc-responds-disastrous-floods-burundi-local-partners>

MCC: Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ



## **Hello Supporting Churches of Grow Hope Niagara!**

**On July Sunday 14, 2024, at 4:00pm, we are inviting** interested supporters to come to **2832 Campden Road** for

a chance to visit this year's wheat field that is being grown for CFGB/MCC. The address we are meeting at is the home of Tom and Mary Anne Neufeld and our farm is about a mile away from the growing project field on Tintern road and Bethesda Road. We will meet at our farm to gather the group and then drive to the field for a look at the crop; soon to be harvested. Following the field visit , we will return to the Neufeld farm for some nibbles and discussion on CFGB/MCC current challenges .

There is a link here that shows a picture of the green wheat heads that have filled nicely following some generous rainfall in early June.

We hope for good harvest conditions in July.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/14AdpQqDLVaPI6-rNo6aVRa1CP7vdFhzs/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14AdpQqDLVaPI6-rNo6aVRa1CP7vdFhzs/view?usp=drive_link)

Mark the date on your calendars! We hope to see you all on Sunday afternoon, July 14 at 4:00 PM!

Tom Neufeld

Stewardship Associate for CFGB projects, MCC Ontario



## **RESPONDING TO THE GAZA CRISIS AS PEACE CHURCHES: Seeking the Mind of Christ**

**Special Guest Dr. Tom Yoder Neufeld**

**Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.,  
Grace Mennonite Church**

With over 37000 mostly civilian deaths (thus far), and the entire 2.1 million population of the Gaza strip suffering from conflict-induced famine, the observing world is shocked, appalled, and risks being mesmerized into moral paralysis in the face of the catastrophe. What are pacifist Christians called to do—and *not to do*—to promote peace in Gaza? What insights does the New Testament have, and especially the book of Ephesians, to guide us in practical ways to pursue peace without getting caught up in the spiral of conflict?

We encourage you to join us in seeking the mind of Christ in this time of crisis with our guest Dr. Tom Yoder Neufeld, professor emeritus of Religious Studies (New Testament and Peace Studies) and Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College. Tom Y. Neufeld is the author of numerous articles and books focusing on Jesus, Paul, Peace, and the Bible. Pertinent titles include *Ephesians* (Believers Church Bible Commentary), 2002, *Recovering Jesus: the Witness of the New Testament*, 2007, and *Killing Enmity: Violence and the New Testament*, 2011.

For more information, contact Laurence Steven at [aursteven53@gmail.com](mailto:aursteven53@gmail.com) 289-990-4839

### **ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD**



\*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **KW House Church**. Margaret Nally provides leadership for this congregation as they gather at homes to worship and care.

**\*Continue to pray for Myanmar, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine and throughout a world that cries for peace.** Pray for those who are displaced, those who search for family members, those who make decisions and those who attempt to provide aid. Lord, make us channels of your peace!