Grace Mennonite Church

October 25th 2026 9:30 a.m.

Seasons of Life

Prelude Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts Erika Klassen

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Leader: Source of all hope and holiness,
we gather today to be church.

**People: Bless those who are absent,
but not from our hearts.**

Leader: Bless those who are distant,
but not from our love.

***All: Bless each of us here,
that we may choose justice by your Spirit,
draw kindness from the well of your mercy,
and walk humbly in your path, O God.***

Prayer

Hymn *God Welcomes All / Amen* VT 32

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Offerings

[Offering plate is available on table at back of sanctuary]

Musical Reflection *Spirit, Open My Heart* VT 636

Prayers of the People Erika Klassen

Hymn *Jesus, Be the Center* VT 584

Scripture Reading Matthew 22:34-40 (NT p.25)

Women's Chorus *Love the Lord your God*

Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 (NT p.201)

Meditation "Love in this Season" Darrell Winger

Hymn of Response *Use Us, God* VT 811

Benediction Darrell Winger

Sending Hymn *The Lord Lift You Up* VT 832

Postlude

It is good to be together in worship this morning!
The ushers are pleased to help any who need assistance.

Coffee time after the service in the Church Hall

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seasons ~ As we journey together through our worship services this fall, we move from a theme of "Season of Creation" to "Seasons of Life" -- from considering what it means to live faithfully as a part of God's creation, to experiencing God's faithfulness in the ever-changing seasons of life. There are days when we experience thanksgiving, and there are times of grief; seasons when we experience confusion or heaviness, and then there are times of encouragement. In all seasons of life we can experience the presence and promise of Christ Jesus. May we be open to what the Spirit has for us in these coming weeks.

Attendance ~ Sunday October 18th – 32

Sunday November 1st ~ Speaker: Jan Steven
Scripture Readings: Psalm 34; Matthew 23:1-12

Women's Chorus ~ Thursdays November 5th & 19th 9:30 am

Coffee Times ~ Sundays November 8th & 22nd

On Peace Sunday, November 8th, Fanosie Legesse will be our guest speaker. Fanosie serves as the Intercultural Minister and co-leader of the Congregational Ministries Team for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC). Appointed in March 2020, he draws on his Ethiopian Oromo-Amhara heritage, prior teaching at Meserete Kristos College, and pastoring experience in Ontario to connect diverse communities. His work focuses on building bridges and fostering inclusion across newcomer and established congregations.

Following the worship service there will be opportunity for those who would value further engagement with Fanosie on our call to be peacemakers to gather in the Fellowship Room.
Please note: There is Coffee Time that Sunday in the Church Hall, as well, for those who would like to gather for conversation and fellowship.

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD

Please pray for the MCEC community of congregations; this week we hold **Hiyaw Amalack Evangelical Church** in prayer. Fitsum Debesay provides pastoral leadership to this community in Ottawa, ON. God, bless Hiyaw Amalack Evangelical Church with faith, unity and joy as they grow in your love and share the hope of Christ with their community.

"Community Trunk or Treat" on Tues Oct 27, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm We're excited to host Trunk or Treat again here at Linwell Church (335 Linwell Road, St. Catharines) on the front parking lot. For those new to the idea, this is a fun alternative to trick-or-treating where kids can enjoy candy, costumes, and decorated car trunks... all in a safe environment.

Invitation to Candlelight Choir ~ Niagara UM invites anyone who loves to sing to join the Candlelight Choir. Rehearsals begin on **Thursday October 29th at 7:00 pm** at NUMC and continue every Thursday until the concert on Sunday December 20th at 7:00 pm. If you can make 90% of the rehearsals, we'd love to have you join us! Please contact Rachael Peters to let us know if you plan to join the choir: rachael@redbrickchurch.ca

Grace-Linwell Community Bible Study
Footsteps of Jesus: Walking with Jesus
Our next study is **Wednesday, November 4, from 1:00–2:00 p.m.**
Location: Grace-Linwell Apartments Lounge (behind Grace Mennonite Church) 671 Niagara Street, St. Catharines
☕ Coffee and chocolates will be served!
All are welcome! Questions? Contact Jan at 289-990-4839 or janscats@gmail.com.
Please note: There will be no study in December or January. We will resume in February.

MCC Ontario Peace Conference 2026
Theme…Nourishing Peace Together
In the midst of conflict how can you build a culture of Peace?
Place…Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener
Date…. Saturday November 7, 2026 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Registration at https://peaceconference2026.rsvpify.com and closes October 27. Cost recommended $60, but welcome to pay what you can.

AED/CPR Training at Niagara UM ~ On Friday November 13 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am, Heart Niagara will hold a **FREE** AED/CPR training session in the gym. If you would like to attend please contact Julie in the church office **no later than Wednesday November 4** by email or phone: office@redbrickchurch.ca
or 905-468- 3313.

Bethany Mennonite Church Borscht Lunch is **Saturday November 14th** from 11-2 pm (or until sold out). Cost is $20 per person. Cash only. Also available for sale are preserves, quilts and quilted items. Please bring your own reusable bags. All proceeds support local and international missions.

Villages Port Colborne presents the 3rd Annual Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale at The First Mennonite Church, 3557 Rittenhouse Road. **Saturday November 14th 9 am – 2 pm.**
Discover unique, handcrafted fair trade gifts-an ideal start to your holiday shopping before Advent begins. Each item is carefully made by farmers and artisans from the Global South who receive fair compensation for their work. From textiles to home goods, jewelry to kitchenware, you'll discover treasures with stories behind them.
Com support global partners and shop with purpose this holiday season.

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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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