



September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 9:30 a.m.

**Prelude** Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts** Jan Steven

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship & Prayer**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song.

**People: We will worship God, our Maker!**

Leader: Let us praise God with song and dance,

**People: for God is gracious and loving!**

Leader: Let us bring God glory and honour,

**All: for God deserves our praise.**

**Hymn** *I sing the mighty power of God* HWB #46

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Women's Chorus** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

**Prayers of the People** Jan Steven

**Hymn** *Come, we that love the Lord* HWB #14, vv.1,2,3

**Scripture Reading** Psalm 149 [OT p.583]

**Women's Chorus** *Where True Love*

**Scripture Reading** Romans 13:8-14 [NT p.162]

**Meditation** "The Gift of a Loving Community" Darrell Winger

**Hymn of Response** *Love divine, all loves excelling*  
HWB #592, vv.1,2,3

**Benediction** (Congregation please stand) Darrell Winger

**Sending Hymn** *Heart with loving heart united* HWB #420, vv.1,3

**Postlude**

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

## **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 ~ Attendance – 45**

**Budget offering for August ~ \$11,191.91**

**Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – Speaker: David Brubacher**  
**Scripture Texts: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 103 (1-7), 8:13;**  
**Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35; Psalm 130:1-2, 5-8;**  
**Matthew 4:1-11**

**Installation Service for Pastor Darrell Winger.**  
**Coffee Time following the service.**

**Worship Committee ~ Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Church Council ~ Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.**

**♪ Women's Chorus ~ Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 a.m.**

**Anna and I are very grateful for your warm welcome** as we join this congregation. Thank you! It is a privilege and joy to serve on the pastoral team; to be a friend on the journey as we follow Jesus together. I am always glad for a conversation, a phone call or a visit. If I can be of support or encouragement, please feel completely free to reach out to me. While I hope to connect with the congregation over the coming weeks and months, don't feel you need to wait. Just call, text or email me. I am praying for you and I welcome your prayers as we walk forward together. Pastor Darrell.

**Chaplain's Corner ~** This week your pastoral care and community chaplain was interviewed by Niagara This Week, the St. Catharines Standard, and Newstalk 610 CKTB. The topic was the Bears and Blankets program our church offers to people in long term care who are feeling lonely. Thank you to MCC Thrift for the affordable bears, to Ester for crocheting the blankets, and Mary K for making the scarves. So far I am visiting Extendicare and Heidehof Long Term Care. Soon I hope to be visiting at Henley House and Lundy Lane Manor. If you would like me to email you the links to these stories, I gladly will. – Jan Steven

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

**Effect Hope** is excited to present their speaking tour “**Restoring Hope**” with **accomplished Christian author Philip Yancey**. Neglected diseases like leprosy affect 1.7 billion people worldwide. Effect Hope is the only Canadian Christian global health organization exclusively focused on addressing diseases like leprosy. Philip Yancey will share a message of hope and his perspective on understanding the purpose of pain, and how to make sense of human suffering.

**Sunday, September 24, 7 – 9 p.m. at Bethany Community Church**  
**For tickets: Contact Bethany Community Church**



### **Doing good...better**

A discussion workshop on **Tuesday September 26, 7-9 p.m. at First Mennonite Church in Vineland.**

We want to do good and make a difference, but sometimes our intentions to do good haven't always translated into the positive changes we intend. The event is free, but registration is required. <https://mcc.org/events/doing-good-better>



### **From Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC)**

\*Please pray for MCEC as they seek someone to fill the key leadership position of **MCEC Operations and Finance Director**. Pray for those who view and apply to the opportunity, those involved in the interview process and for the individual who will accept the call to this position. We ask for God's wisdom and leading.



**MCC Coin Jug:** Ted Stephen had a request that Grace continue throwing our coins into the MCC Jug, even if he was no longer physically with us. The Finance Committee affirmed that and will be counting the coins and sending the amounts to MCC. In April, Grace sent \$161.22 and this month \$43.30 will be forwarded to MCC. So to the women, if you have coins lying in the bottom of your purses or in a little change purse, and men, check your jacket/pant pockets or wallets for coins to throw into the jug. Let's see what we can collect by the end of this year! Submitted by the Finance Committee



## **A Moment for MCC ~ Wicking gardens in Palestine: A little water and a little space provide fresh vegetables for struggling families**

Huda Al Takatka spends up to four hours a day tending her wicking garden near the town of Beit Fajjar, West Bank, Palestine. “It doesn’t really need that much time,” she says, beaming her infectious smile. “I just like spending time there...with my loved ones.” Those include her husband, Muhammad, six children and 11 grandchildren.

For almost a year, she has been able to grow the fresh vegetables in her four garden boxes, placed beside a tiny citrus and fig orchard in her yard. With Muhammad out of work because of a visual impairment, vegetables used to be something she couldn’t always afford. “Now we can grow what we like,” she says, “and they are much better than what we find at the market.” She grows radishes, onions, cabbages, eggplant, spinach and tomatoes.

Huda is one of 20 gardeners in the Bethlehem governorate who have benefited from the wicking garden project of the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ), a longstanding MCC partner that promoted responsible land development within the realities of Israel’s military occupation of the West Bank. The MCC-funded pilot program not only boosts food security for low-income families, but also models a sustainable alternative for food production.

MCC – Relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ  
**<https://mcc.org/our-stories/wicking-gardens-palestine>**

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