



September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9:30 a.m.

*Shaped by the Spirit*

**Prelude** Annie Schulz

**Gathering Thoughts**  
**Lighting the Christ Candle** Mac Plunkett

**Call to Worship**

Leader: For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**People: I praise you**  
**because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;**

Leader: your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

**All: All the days ordained for me were written in your book**  
**before one of them came to be.**

**Prayer**

**Hymn** *Sing praise to God who reigns* HWB #59, vv.1,2,4

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Grace Singers** *Spirit of Life* VT #368

**Prayers of the People** Mac Plunkett

**Hymn** *This little light of mine* HWB #401

**Scripture Reading** Jeremiah 18:1-11 (OT p.720)

**Hymn** *Build Your Kingdom Here* (Insert) VT #393

**Scripture Reading** Luke 14:25-33 (NT p.78)

**Meditation** "Shaped by the Spirit" Darrell Winger

**Hymn of Response** *Gracious Spirit, dwell with me*  
HWB #507, vv.1,5

**Benediction** Darrell Winger

**Sending Hymn**    *Christ Has No Body Here but Ours*    VT #568

*Christ has no body here but ours; no hands,  
no feet here on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes  
through which he looks on this world with kindness.*

*Ours are the hands through which he works, ours are the feet  
on which he moves, ours are the voices through which he speaks  
to this world with kindness.*

*Through our touch, our smile, our list'ning ear, embodies in us,  
Jesus is living here. So let us go now, filled with the Spirit,  
into this world with kindness.*

### **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]

**Adult Bible Study after the service in the Fellowship Room**  
**For more information please see the insert.**

### **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>** ~ Attendance – 51

**Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** ~ Speaker: David Brubacher  
Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; **Psalm 14**;  
1 Timothy 1:12-17; **Luke 15:1-10**

**The budget offerings** in August totalled \$6,181.59

**Women's Chorus** September 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.  
New singers are welcome to come to our Women's Chorus  
practices on Thursday mornings every other week.

**Coffee Times** ~ September 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

**Our thanks** to Doug and Ester Funk for hosting the Grace Church  
Social this past Sunday afternoon at their beautiful farm! Thank you  
to those who made the delicious rollkuchen, provided the  
watermelon, and the other tasty refreshments. It was a great time  
being together as church family and friends.

**Church Membership.** If you are interested in exploring becoming a member of Grace Mennonite Church, Pastor Darrell welcomes you to join him after the worship service on September 21st to learn more about our vision and core values. We will meet in the room beside the pastor's office (off of the Church Hall).

**Call for Grace Garden Helpers** ~ Council recently received a call for assistance from our gracious gardeners Bob and Irene Dell. They are acknowledging that while they are still able and willing to contribute time, labour, and expertise, they are no longer physically able to do all of the necessary work to ensure that the Gardens continue to offer comfort and beauty.



A few 'Others' are needed to contribute their time and effort to, when necessary, weed, cultivate, water, and perform cleanup so that the property continually offers 'curb appeal'.

3-4 volunteers willing to commit a few hours a week to garden maintenance tasks would be greatly appreciated by the Dells, and by Grace as a whole. If you feel you can be one of these "helper garden gnomes", please contact our Property Management Chair, Ted Kopp.

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



**A Moment for MCC: Haiti** ~ Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has been actively working in Haiti since 1958, partnering with local organizations to support some of the country's most vulnerable communities. Their work spans a wide range of humanitarian and development efforts, especially in response to Haiti's ongoing challenges with political instability, violence, and natural disasters.

To support the work of MCC in Haiti, through your giving, mark your offering envelope "MCC Haiti" or e-transfer and write "MCC Haiti" in the message box. Thank you for your gifts.

**Grace Gleaners** ~ Jan Steven has recently updated the Grace Gleaners page on the church's website. If you don't use the internet, no worries. If you have stuff you need to donate, talk to Jan. For large furniture donations, contact Niagara Gateway Furniture Bank. (905) 735-4445.



**Please pray for** the MCEC community of congregations. This week we are praying for **Vineland United Mennonite Church**. Steven Giugovaz provides pastoral leadership for this community. Pray for this community in Vineland, ON who are committed to praying, singing and learning from God's word.



God of all nations, in a **world torn by conflict and division**, we ask that you **bring peace** where there is war, **understanding** where there is hatred **and healing** where there is deep and ancient pain. Stir the hearts of your people to be makers of peace, listen more deeply, act more justly and love more boldly.

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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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**Contact Us:** Telephone: 905-935-6112 Email: [gracemennonite@bellnet.ca](mailto:gracemennonite@bellnet.ca)

**677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines**

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

[www.gracemennonitechurch.com](http://www.gracemennonitechurch.com)

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

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Community Chaplain	Jan Steven 289-990-4839	<a href="mailto:janscats@gmail.com">janscats@gmail.com</a>

## ***Build Your Kingdom Here***

**Verse 1:** *Come set your rule, and reign in our hearts again.*

*Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.*

*Come set our hearts ablaze with hope,*

*like wildfire in our very souls;*

*Holy Spirit, come, invade us now.*

*We are your church; we need your pow'r in us.*

**Verse 2:** *We seek your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;  
refuse to waste our lives, for you're our joy and prize.*

*To see the captives' hearts released,*

*the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace,*

*we lay down our lives for heaven's cause.*

*We are your church; we pray, revive this earth.*

**Refrain:** *Build your kingdom here. Let the evil fear.*

*Show your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.*

*Set your church on fire. Win your people back.*

*Change the atmosphere. Build your kingdom here, we pray!*

**Verse 3:** *Unleash your kingdom's pow'r, reaching the near and far.*

*No force of hell can stop your beauty, changing hearts.*

*You made us for much more than this;*

*awake the kingdom seed in us.*

*Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.*

*We are your church; we are the hope on earth.*

**Refrain:** *Build your kingdom here. Let the evil fear.*

*Show your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.*

*Set your church on fire. Win your people back.*

*Change the atmosphere. Build your kingdom here, we pray!*

## Fall 2025 Sunday Bible Study Group Opportunities

### ***Study Group #1 – Laur Steven and John Rempel facilitators***

A vital part of congregational life is ongoing conversation concerning issues that matter in being faithful Christians. An important expression of that conversation is Adult Sunday School. We are eager to gather people of different ages and concerns to grapple with issues together. Here is our proposed schedule for the fall. We will meet on Sundays when there is not a coffee hour.

#### *September 7*

A group chat inviting suggestions for topics that engage or perplex class members. We will take the themes that arise for study beginning on Nov 2 so we have time to prepare for them. On the Sundays before that we will have a three-week study with resources from the Kairos Apartheid Study. It focuses on concrete commitments to help Christians act justly.

#### *September 21, October 5, 19*

Kairos Apartheid study using PowerPoint Slides

#### *November 2, 16, 30, December 14*

Study topics we will have agreed on September 7

One option is to follow the preaching theme "Shaped by the Spirit" for each of these weeks and build on them.

### ***Study Group #2 – Kevin McCabe facilitator***

"Practical Christianity" starting Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and meeting on the same Sundays as coffee time and running from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants will be free to pick up coffee and snacks and bring them along. Late-comers will be welcome.

This study intends to take a less theological and less textual analysis approach, except where the text itself suggests it. So, the first part of the study will be looking at one chapter of Titus, 1st Timothy and 2nd Timothy per study (and in that order of readings). The second part will be making applications of the text. There seems to be an element of urgency and even impatience in the Pastoral Epistles which reflects both problems in the churches and the threat of persecution. Titus and Timothy are instructed to pick up the torch and pass it on.

## Shaped by the Spirit

This fall we are exploring what it means to be “shaped by the Spirit”. In John 14, Jesus promised his followers that he would send his Spirit to teach and guide them in the way of truth and life. The Apostle Paul picks up on this teaching in his writing to the church at Corinth: “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate (or reflect) the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Spirit.” It is encouraging to know that God, by his Spirit, is shaping us so that we increasingly reflect the life of Christ. But how are we shaped by the Spirit?

We want to consider some of the ways we are shaped by the Spirit at Grace:

- Shaped by Scripture, liturgy, music, preaching, and praying as we gather each Sunday
- Shaped by being in community together – listening to and learning from each other as we discern the way of Christ (even when we don’t all agree!)
- Shaped as we actively respond to the needs of others locally and globally
- Shaped as we pursue ways of furthering peace and justice in our world
- Shaped as we serve using our gifts, abilities, and resources
- Shaped as we care well for the environment and all of creation
- Shaped as we keep our eyes open to God’s presence in the “ordinary” all around us
- Shaped as we endeavour to be a safe and welcoming place for all

There are many ways the Spirit desires to shape us into the image of Christ if we are open. May we listen to and learn from each other this coming fall as we follow the guidance of the Spirit of Jesus.

## ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD



### **MEDA Niagara Network Hub Event ~**

*Be the Change: A Morning with MEDA in East Africa*

**Wednesday, September 10** at 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Buffet breakfast provided by Grand Oak Culinary Market, followed by an inspiring presentation from Katelynn Folkerts, MEDA's Compliance & Program Quality Lead for East & Southern Africa.

Register at [www.meda.org/events](http://www.meda.org/events)

**Sat Sept 13, 5-7 pm at Linwell Church** ~ Annual Corn Roast at the back of Linwell Church (335 Linwell Road, St. Catharines).

Everyone is welcome to watch corn be engine steamed, then enjoy the delicious fresh and free corn! BBQ & drinks will be for sale.

### **Walking with Grace: New Testament Wisdom for the Journey**

Meeting 2 of a 12-Week Bible Study and Prayer Time at Grace Linwell Apts in the Lounge! (Each unit is an individual study, so you don't have to worry about missing the first one!)

**Next meeting – Wednesday, September 17, 1-2 p.m.** in the lounge. BYOB! Bring your own beverage and Bible! I'll provide some chocolate.

**Week 2 – The Power of Gratitude** – Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

Theme: Thankfulness in every season of life

Study Coordinator – Jan Steven, Community Chaplain, Grace Mennonite Church. Questions? 289-990-4839 or

[janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com)

**Save the dates:** Wednesdays October 1, 15; November 5, 19 at 1 – 2 p.m.

### **Bethany 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration weekend**

**Saturday September 27**, Bethany will celebrate with a fundraising banquet for the Friends of the Mennonite Centre of Ukraine with a delicious Ukrainian catered meal and program at the church. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and may be purchased by e-transfer to [Office@bethanymennonite.ca](mailto:Office@bethanymennonite.ca) (Please include your address for receipting purposes) or from the church office. A charitable receipt will be issued for \$30. If you would like to make a donation without attending the banquet or contribute additional funds, you will be receipted for the full amount.

**Sunday September 28** at 9:30 a.m. there will be a celebratory service followed by cake and coffee. All are invited.