

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Mary Voth, Sadie [Willie] Funk, Waldo Schulz, and Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre; Marge Schellenberg at Health Sciences Centre.
- ~ **Esther Braun** part of our church community passed away Aug 24. Our love and sympathy to her husband Otto and family, and to the extended family including Bernie & Dorothy Friesen, Menno & Helen Braun, Tina Braun, Jolanda Friesen, and families. We are invited to join in gratitude for her life, and pray for her family and extended family.
- ~ **Peter Kroeker** of Calgary, AB, formerly of Altona and part of our Church family, passed away August 21. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life, and pray for his family and extended family.
- ~ **Congratulations** to Matthew Fast and Alexis [Lexie] Flynn who are getting married today. Matthew is the son of Tim & Denise Fast, Alexis is the daughter of Kim & Mike Flynn of Winnipeg, God bless.
- ~ **Pastor Mark** is taking this weekend off. He will return to the office on September 1.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:**
Pray for teachers everywhere. Pray for Tobia Veith, Witness worker in China, and all teachers around you as they step back into classrooms. Pray that they will be given a spirit of courage, caution and love for their students. Pray that they will be a non-anxious presence in a difficult time.

Access to the livestreaming on Sunday mornings will be available from the Altona Bergthaler Church website [abchurchcommunity.ca]. The live stream will begin at 10:30am.

Our worship service will be posted to abchurch.libsyn.com [Audio] abchurchcommunity.ca [Video] Sunday afternoon.

Children's teaching will be posted to abchurchcommunity.ca
This week's teacher is Amanda Wiens.

This Sunday our "Moment in Mission" video is from Siloam Mission and shares about the impact that Siloam Mission has made in people's lives. Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3ydlfAQhpU>

From the Pastor – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Recently I have noticed that my emotions are all over the place, including a lot of negative emotions like anger, frustration, sadness or a sense of feeling overwhelmed. I know that life with young children can be tiring, but it is more than that. Through conversations and reflections, I have come to realize that most of these emotions are really just a symptom of grief. I am grieving what we have lost through this time of COVID.

And I am not the only one that has lost things or is grieving. In many conversations I have had recently, whether people realize it or not, they are naming what they have lost, be it travel opportunities, sporting events, to participate in or watch, time with family or loved ones, outdoor activities, job opportunities, or even having things simply go back to normal.

This time of COVID has created a strange dynamic where the restrictions have caused losses and grief for everyone in our society in some way. Which means that all of us are dealing with grief on some level. And that is one of the hardest parts to understand. Because everyone deals with grief differently.

For myself I have found that the most helpful thing to do is to acknowledge and accept that that is where my emotions are coming from. Dealing with grief is much easier when we know that we are grieving. From there I try to accept the unpredictable journey that grief will take me on. Then I try to be kind and gentle with myself as well as with others who are on their own journey with grief.

A note from the Covid Task Force: wearing masks as we prepare to welcome children back to Sunday School.

Our church is preparing to begin Sunday School before the end of September. In keeping with the precautions of schools and other community places, we are asking children to wear masks when they come to Sunday School. Because we are asking this of children, we are asking this of adults as well. **Beginning on our homecoming Sunday, September 13, we are asking everyone who comes to worship, could you please wear a mask** prior to entering the building until seated in a pew. It is okay to take off your mask once seated, but we ask that you wear your mask again when leaving your pew and visiting indoors, until you have exited the building. As we anticipate larger Sunday morning gatherings, increased activity in our building, and the challenge of physically distancing, this is a way to honour each other, create a safer environment, and demonstrate our love for the children of our church community. Individuals who live with conditions making it difficult to wear a mask are not asked to wear one.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Homecoming Picnic Lunch - Sept 13**
You are invited to a picnic lunch on Sunday, Sept 13 following the worship service. Please bring your own picnic lunch (including drinks) for your family, as well as chairs or a blanket to sit on outside. The church will provide dessert. There will also be some games for the children after lunch.
- **Pastor's summer vacation schedule:**
Pastor Josh will be away Aug 31-Sept 7.
- **Tuesday 10am Coffee** - outside on the church grounds. This will be a physically distanced event and so you will need to bring your own lawn chair and coffee mug, coffee will be provided.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sept 10, 3-7pm** - Blood Donor Clinic at Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Main Floor Hall 227 10th Ave NW. Please call 1-888-236-6238 for your appointment - NO WALK INS please.
- **Sept 19** - Eden Foundation's *Head for the Hills 2020* - join us again this year. For more information and to register click HERE.
- **Sept 19 - Visit the Villages Tractor Trek.**

Mennonite Church Manitoba – mennochurch.mb.ca 896-1616

- **Camps with Meaning** would like to thank all of our churches for supporting us through people and prayers this summer. We were able to connect with our staff body and with a good number of campers. It was good to be together, to play, worship and grow together!
- **No MCM Gathering** will take place this fall, so look for a more comprehensive MCM Report by end of September. Ministry work in most quarters is on-going, maybe even at a greater level than pre-Covid, however, the overall Camping Ministry has been hit very hard.

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennochurch.ca 888-6781

- **Aug 30** – Join MC Canada weekly online worship service from Foothills Mennonite Church. All the services since March 22, when this began are available on the Mennonite Church Canada webpage: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices> .
- **Oct 24, MC Canada Study Conference.** Join us as we gather virtually for "Table Talk: Does the Church still have Legs?", a study on the nature and identity of the church and the role of worship. Registration: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020
- **MC Canada** has donated \$50,000 to Mennonite World Conference's Global Church Sharing Fund to help our sister churches around the world struggling to meet basic needs due to pandemic-response

measures in their countries. Now MC Canada is asking its congregations to match this donation so that we collectively raise \$100,000. Donations go through regional churches. Click here for info.

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – Manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Thank you** to all of those who donated to the Lebanon Crisis. As of August 24, MCC across Canada has raised over \$250,000 to be matched by the Canadian government. Relief efforts will focus on emergency food and hygiene supplies. Donations can still be made at donate.mcccanada.ca/cause/lebanon-crisis.
- **Oct 22, 9am-4pm** -Join us for a Pastoral Care and Domestic Abuse workshop in Morden. \$40 registration includes lunch. Limited capacity - register by Oct 16. For more info or to register visit mccmb.ca/Events.
- **GO! 100** is coming to a close, however, there is still time to support a participant. From biking to eating ice cream sandwiches to sharing time with grandparents, our challengers have been busy this summer. Visit mccmb.ca/GO-100 and click "Donate to a participant" to support.

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