

WHITEWATER MENNONITE CHURCH

May 10th, 2020

SUNDAY'S BULLETIN



FROM THE PASTOR'S Desk:

- ❖ Bible Readings: Monday, May 11: Joshua 24, Judges 1, Acts 17, Psalm 107
- ❖ Bible Project videos: Judges <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOYy8iCfIJ4>
Psalms <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9phNEaPrv8>
- ❖ May 10th WMC Video Service: P Wes will send out a link via e-mail & WMC's Facebook page.
Participants: **Lorraine Reimer, Catherine & George Heide, Sheldon Dyck & P Wes.**
Scripture: Psalm 31, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14: 1-14
- ❖ Boissevain Ministerial: - Suggested 9 am prayers for health, community, nation, world.
- ❖ Current Covid-19 updates, Manitoba Health's website. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/>



Joshua, Conquest, god and Jesus Christ

The stories of Canaanite conquest (*Joshua*) are hard for many Mennonite (and maybe most people.) The single-minded conquest by violence is extreme, what today we'd call *extremist*. With 3500 years of hindsight, we've weathered (and our forbearers have perpetrated) too many of these conflicts for many of us to view claims of righteous conquest with anything other than skepticism or horror. And rightly so. These stories can be explained (away) in all sorts of ways (history, metaphor, Divine accommodation or justice or predestination, etc.--a paragraph can't do these justice), but we'd best not forget them or the questions they raise. They are perplexingly and frighteningly violent towards outsider gentiles--us.

1) We were not Israel, not God's chosen people. That is important. In this Sunday's scripture, Peter references Hos 1:9 & 2:23 to the gentile churches of Asia: "Once you were not a people, now you are God's people." We are invited in by the grace of God through the work of Jesus dying on the cross.

2) The ordering of the canon itself critiques/modifies/comments on the conquest of Canaan. *Judges* and *Ruth* point to an idealism present in Joshua. If Joshua and the people were as thorough as the book claims, where do all the oppressors and foreigners come from in Judges? If outsiders are so unreservedly unclean and deserving of death in comparison with Israel, how do Rahab and Ruth--a Moabite who gets a whole book named after her--get prominent places in Israelite history? In King David's own lineage? The root question is: how do we worship the god of Joshua, the god of the Canaanite conquest? Is that god, God?

Here's what I cling to: the Father "has transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have redemption . . . He (the beloved Son) is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation." (Col 1:3-20) Somehow, our conception of God, our faith in God has, ultimately, to square not with the conquest of Canaan but with Jesus of Nazareth, the fullest (the exact) representation of God who died at the hands of conquerors and rose to new life on Easter morning. Actually, that's not quite right either, we aren't called to square, to solve, to resolve, to figure out it all out. We're invited into trust, into love, into life. And, Jesus is the Way. (Now, we go back, again and again, to build upon our understanding.)

Stewardship: *New way to give!* Send E-transfer to wmcstewardship@gmail.com

Offering envelopes may be dropped in **Peter Neufeld's** mailbox or mailed to Box 715.

Thank you for your gifts!

PRAYER, PRAISE, BLESSINGS & REFLECTION

- Health, healing, comfort: **Mel & Lynn**, brother & sis in law - **Catherine Heide**, **Sheldon Dyck**
- Communicate with residents @ **Evergreen & Westview** via I-Pad.
To make arrangements and connect: **Westview** - 204 534 2455, **Evergreen** - 204 534 3337
- Local government, businesses, recreation facilities & individuals are all concerned with the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. May wisdom, patience and understanding be prominent in the coming daze.



- ✚ **TODAY!~ Mother's Day!**
- ✚ May 15~ International Day of Families
- ✚ 21 ~ Ascension Day
- ✚ 31 ~ Pentecost
- ✚ June 7 ~ Trinity Sunday
- ✚ 25 ~ MCC 56th AGM via Zoom, notice of meeting, details coming soon
- ✚ Return to normal church scheduling is directly related to government guidelines.

COMMUNITY AND MORE:

- Ω For Services, Sermons & other, visit: YouTube – **P Wes** will send YouTube link prior to Sunday's **WMC service**
Whitewater M C Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/whitewatermc/>
MCCan <https://www.hmc.on.ca/mc-canada> service begins 9:45 EDT
MCM - <https://mennochurch.mb.ca/>
- [Hope Unleashed page](#) collection of singing, children's story, sermonette
Sunday School Resources <https://shinecurriculum.com/shineathome/free-resources/>
CommonWord Resources www.commonword.ca
MWC www.mwc-cmm.org/courier
MCC - 100 stories <https://mcc.org/centennial/100-stories/through-lens-mcc-100>
- Centennial Colouring Book mcccanada.ca/media/resources/10546
- Abuse response & Prevention www.abuseresponseandprevention.ca
MDS (activities suspended) <https://mds.mennonite.net/>
- Ω **Boissevain Food Pantry:** Donations graciously & gratefully accepted.
Cereal, canned veggies, rice, pasta, tomato sauce, canned fruit, \$\$\$, etc
- Ω **Camp Koinonia Inc.** is very pleased to announce that **Evan Laramee** and **Meara Sparling** have recently moved to Camp Koinonia. Once Camp is reopened, currently closed due to Covid 19, Evan and Meara will be employed by the camp as *Onsite Caretakers*. We are very excited to have Evan and Meara on our Camp Koinonia Team.
- Ω **MCMb Board:** Praying for wisdom as the process of reviewing applications for Executive Minister begins.
- Ω **MCM** Info re Pandemic Responses; www.mennochurch.mb.ca/virusresponse
- Ω **MCC:** - **Brandon Thrift Store** is again accepting donations, Covid-19 conditions will be applied re delivery and prepping for in store display. Please contact the store prior to delivery. If you are wishing to volunteer, contact Amy Loewen regarding necessary precautions.
- Ω Counseling for a broad range of mental health challenges is available from:
a. Recovery of Hope. 204-325-5355 or ehcs@edenhealthcare.ca
b. The Counseling Centre 204-726-8706 or info@counsellingcentre.ca
c. Eden Health Care <https://edenhealthcare.ca/the-wellness-support-line/> 204-325-6585
WMC is willing to help lower the financial barriers preventing someone's access to this benefit by covering 50% of the cost of the first 3 sessions to either of the counseling services listed. Contact Pastor Wes or Leadership.
"We want to go to God for answers, but sometimes what we get is God's presence." — Nadia Bolz-Weber