

## **PRAYER, PRAISE, BLESSINGS & REFLECTION**

### **WMC FAMILY... Hildebrandt, Ray & Muriel**

...Health, healing, comfort: Lisa Heide, Esther (Betty A's sister),  
George Heide, Agnes Epp, Heather Heide's Oma

...Geremeskel, Haregu & kids as they move to Kitchener, Ontario

### **World...**

...Pray for Sarah Wood, Mennonite Church Canada Witness intern, as she concludes her term of service in Thailand on March 10. Pray that these final days connecting with the school and church community in Loei will be rich, and that her transition back to life in Canada will be enriched by the experience

...Pray for Jesus followers around the world who commit to learn and walk together in faithful response to the climate crisis. Pray for open ears and hearts, and for willingness to move as the hands and feet of Christ. Newcomers to the climate conversation who wish to explore with others are invited to check out this conversation guide from "For the Love of Creation:" <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/26193>

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### **WMC's Identity Statement:**

‘With our feet firmly planted in our Anabaptist and Mennonite beginning, we work to reach out with our hands to welcome and lift up all who come here. We encourage one another with the heart of Christ to learn and to grow in spiritual maturity and to take amazing risks for God.

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We acknowledge our presence on the traditional lands of the Cree, Ojibway, Dakota and Metis nations. We recognize that we are all guests on this land and will be mindful of our impact as we critically look at colonial histories and present-day implications. We acknowledge this as a first step in fulfilling our responsibility and commitment to truth and reconciliation.

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# **Whitewater Mennonite Church**



**March 5th, 2023**

Worship Leader: Lorraine Reimer

Sermon: Pastor Wes Goertzen

### John 3:1-17 NRSV

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus<sup>a</sup> by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” **3** Jesus answered him, “**Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.**”<sup>b</sup> **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “**Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.** **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.”<sup>c</sup> **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You<sup>d</sup> must be born from above.’<sup>e</sup> **8** The wind<sup>f</sup> blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **9** Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “**Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?**

**11** “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you<sup>g</sup> do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>h</sup> **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>i</sup>

**16** “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**17** “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Supporting Texts: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

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## Announcements and Upcoming Events

**March 6-8** – Piano Festival at Whitewater

**March 7** – Piano Festival – Multigenerational Fun Night 6:30pm

**March 14** – Whitewater is leading devotions at Westview, Evergreen and Cherry Creek Place. Please contact Heather H or Laura D if you’re available to help lead.

**March 19** – Alternative Worship Service

**March 19** – Festival Awards Concert at Whitewater 3pm

**March 23** – WMC Mission Sale – 6:30 pm.

**Alternative Service – March 19th** The question is “*What does Resurrection mean to you?*”. Volunteers needed – if you are willing to share, please talk to Lorraine R.

**MDS Canada needs volunteers in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia**, from March to October for Hurricane Fiona repair work. Last year MDS volunteers did clean-up work and tarped roofs; now it needs people to help fix hurricane-related water and wind damage. Travel subsidies are available. For more information, contact Clara Flores at [cflores@mds.org](mailto:cflores@mds.org) or 1-866-261-1274.

Opportunity for Masters’ students or professional development – [Power, Ethics, Abuse and Church Leadership](#). MCC’s [Abuse Response & Prevention](#) Co-Coordinator, Jaymie Friesen and Val Hiebert are teaching a new spring course at Canadian Mennonite University, May 8-12. Register for the course through CMU to learn about healthy pastoral relationships, stewardship of power, and healing centered practices.

MCC is accepting donations to support people affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. You can share a gift online at [mcccmb.ca/earthquake](https://mcccmb.ca/earthquake), or 204-261-6381.

There’s still time to purchase tickets for MCI’s musical production of **Little Women: the Musical**. Shows are March 9th, 10th, and 11th at 7:30pm and a matinee on March 11th at 2:00pm. Buy your tickets today at <https://mciblues.net/performing-arts/musical-theatre/> or by calling the school at 204-327-5891 during school hours.

**MCM Mondays** – March 6, 8:00pm online. **Following Up on MCM Gathering 2023**. Join Executive Minister Michael Pahl for some reflections on our Gathering weekend, with opportunity for you to give feedback and your own reflections on our time together at Gathering 2023. How have we re-imagined church together? Find the Zoom link and future topics at [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays)

**MCI Day in the Life – March 17<sup>th</sup>**. Students grades 8-11 are invited to join us on campus for a “Day in the Life” on Friday March 17th. Come and experience life at MCI, from going to classes, meeting teachers, eating lunch in our dining hall, and going to chapel; all hosted by current MCI students. Call (204-327-5891) or email [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net) to register. We are excited to welcome you into our halls!