



Mennonite Church Canada Witness: Sunju Moon, director of the Korean Anabaptist Centre (KAC), gives leadership to this resource centre. Besides helping the newly formed Mennonite Church South Korea she spends much of her time connecting people from other churches and denominations with the resources they are looking for as they incorporate Anabaptist teaching into their churches. KAC now has more than 150 published titles of Anabaptist books as well as many online resources

Crimes against First Nations children. In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled the Government of Canada is guilty of racial discrimination against First Nations children by “willfully and recklessly” underfunding child welfare and medical services, resulting in family separations and contributing to child deaths. The Government was ordered to immediately stop such practices and to compensate victims. Yet despite eight non-compliance orders (most recently, September 2019), the government has failed to respond. According to federal government stats, over 50 per cent of children in foster care nationwide are Indigenous. Prayer: Pray that Canada complies with all the Tribunal’s rulings. Let us pray for all children in foster care (according to federal government stats, over 50 per cent are Indigenous nationwide) and their grieving families. For more info, see www.fncaringociety.com.

Charleswood Mennonite Church Affirmation Statement (Approved June 9, 2019)

Charleswood Mennonite Church is rooted in the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition as a community of faith committed to becoming the body of Christ.

We welcome all persons to worship and participate with us. We acknowledge the image of God in every person including those of every gender identity and sexual orientation. We invite all to participate in our congregation’s practices such as baptism, church membership, church leadership, and marriage. We lament the prejudice and discrimination found in society and in the church, and we commit to holding each other accountable to the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate and affirm all persons worshipping with us. Together we seek to be a pilgrim community of mission, service, hospitality, grace, healing, justice, peace, and love.

Jeff’s Office Hours: Tue-Fri 9:00 am-2:00 pm Please submit announcements/order of worship to the office by 9:00 am **Thursday** morning at cwoodmc@mymts.net or 204-837-7982
 Anita’s Office Hours: Thur & Fri mornings

Church Office office@charleswoodmennonite.ca; 204-837-7982
 Church Website www.charleswoodmennonite.ca
 Jeff Friesen – Associate Pastor (jeff.friesen@charleswoodmennonite.ca) 204-996-0398
 Anita Epp – Office Administrative Assistant..... 204-837-7982

Deacons:
 Julie Derksen (Chair) 204-452-9313 Ruth Friesen..... 204-488-0916
 Diana Epp-Fransen 204-996-7574 Sheila Klassen-Wiebe 204-488-4029
 Kim Fast 204-775-6107 Henry Kliewer 204-451-2694
 Rudy Friesen 204-488-0916 Hwang Lee..... 204-261-5029

CHARLESWOOD MENNONITE CHURCH

December 22, 2019

Worship Service 10:45 am

Worship Leader: Laura Thiessen

Story Teller: Julia Thiessen

Ushers: Julie Derksen & Kenton Lobe & Family

Speaker: Jeff Friesen

Song Leader: Alisa Wiebe

Pianist: Caroline Klassen

Advent 4: Love

What are we waiting for? When we call out to God, God hears us and restores our souls. We are beloved children of God, called to belong and to be redeemed by grace.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Introductions

Call to Worship

One: Oh God, our God, in Advent anticipation, we come to you.

Many: **Our souls thirst for you; our flesh faints for you because your steadfast love is better than life.**

One: You imagine only love for us and our world, and it is bursting to be let loose. Will we no longer be afraid, but restored to embrace it fully?

All: *God, what are we waiting for?*

Prayer

HWB 184

Hark! the glad sound

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATHS

Responsive Reading (from Psalm 80)

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel.
 Stir up your might, and come and save us!

People: **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: Let your hand be upon us and make us strong.

People: **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: Give us life and love, and we will call on your name.

All: *Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Song

O Long-Awaited (Phil Campbell-Enns)

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25

Story

HWB 167

Gott ist die Liebe

Scripture: Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; Psalm 63:1-3; Romans 1:1-7
Sermon

RESPONDING

HWB 208 *Love came down at Christmas*
Offering our Financial Resources
Offering our Prayers

GOING OUT TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

Announcements
Hymn
Benediction

~ Please return hymnbooks to the shelves at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you. ~

Psalm 63

A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of Judah.

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you. ♦

CHURCH FAMILY NOTES

Jeff Friesen & Adelaide Fransen will be leading the services at Lindenwood Manor and Terrace this afternoon.

Mitten Tree: You are invited to bring warm mittens, toques and neck-warmers for Sister MacNamara Elementary School, nursery-grade 6 (where Vern K-W works).

Game Night: Are you between the ages of 3 and 103? Do you enjoy socializing with fellow church members? Do you enjoy (or at least tolerate) board games? If so, this announcement is for you! Join us at church twice a month on Friday evenings to play board games. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite board game, arrive when you can and bring snacks, if you like. Friday evenings will include Jan. 17 & 31, Feb. 14 & 28, March 13 & 27, April 10 & 24. Hope to see you there!

~ Janice Dueck & Milton Friesen

THIS WEEK

- **Mon, 7:30-9:00 pm - Christmas Eve Choir practice**
- **Tue, 6:30 pm – Christmas Eve Service.**

COMING EVENTS

- **Dec 29, 10:45 am – Worship Service**
- **Jan 12, 9:30 am – Sunday School resumes (ages 3-grade 12)**

CHURCH BUDGET UPDATE

Donations budgeted to end of December	\$357,884
Actual donations to date	\$313,552
Needed by the end of December	\$44,332

- Ways to donate:**
1. Cheque or Cash
 2. Account transfer at Crosstown Credit Union
 3. Canada Helps website: canadahelps.org
 4. E-transfer. Talk to Keith or Milton for details

MENNONITE CHURCH MANITOBA/CANADA & COMMUNITY

The offices of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church Manitoba will be closed from Dec. 24 at noon to Jan. 2, 8:30 am.

MCC - MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MANITOBA/CANADA

- * Give a life-changing gift this year from the **Christmas Giving Catalogue**. Call 204-261-6381 or visit <https://mcccanada.ca/christmas#>.
- * **Give a kit this year for Christmas!** Why not gather the family together and pack a school kit as a gift to other families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster? Find more information: mcccanada.ca/kits.
- * **An MCC Story: 100 years of comfort** - <https://mcccanada.ca/centennial/100-stories/100-years-comfort>
- * **Get involved! Come tie comforters with MCC:** In celebration of MCC's 100th anniversary, we're attempting to collect 6,500 comforters from across Canada and the U.S. You can help! Find out more at mccmb.ca/GreatWinterWarmup.
Attend: Come to the *Great Winter Warm-up* comforter-tying event on Jan. 18 at North Kildonan MB Church. Don't know how to sew or tie? No problem! All level of skills are welcome. Stay for food, kid's activities and a photobooth.
Volunteer: Join us for a day of service and teaching others about comforter-tying. A variety of volunteer shifts are available. Invite your youth group, bible study or coffee friends and sign up together! Contact Jessica Williams (204-261-6381, JessicaWilliams@mccmb.ca) for details.

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY (www.cmu.ca)

CMU will be closed Dec. 24, 2019 to Jan. 1, 2020, re-opening January 2, with Winter Semester classes beginning on Jan. 6.