



# WELLESLEY MENNONITE CHURCH

## INFORMATION SHEET - December 20, 2020



**Advent Four- On Sunday morning we will have the option of worshipping in-person at WMC or worshipping from the safety of our homes. RSVP is required for in-person worship.**

For those who are unable to attend in-person worship, you are welcome to join the live service through ZOOM. Please log in through the link at 9:15 a.m. and mute your microphone.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81580691379>

As we move back into in-person worship the recorded service will continue to be sent to the congregation. However, the link will not be available until later Sunday.

**THIS WEEK** See WMC calendar go to: <http://www.wellesleymennonite.ca/calendar/>

**Friday 11:30 a.m.–** Friday Prayer (Zoom link will be sent on Wednesday)

**Birthday Celebrations:**

**Households of Faith:**

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Blue Christmas virtual service - Sunday December 20 at 6:30 p.m.** During the holidays when lights and tinsel sparkle, many suffer for all kinds of reasons. The magnitude of our weary world weighs on our hearts and minds. We wrestle with chronic pain, broken relationships, grief, shattered dreams, fragile faith, and many unexpected losses due to pandemic. Our grief and sorrow feel particularly acute in light of the season's celebrations. For this reason we are hosting a virtual Blue Christmas service including prayers, song, and candle lighting. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89847307419>

Covid has made many changes in our lives. We sit in a red zone and as numbers increase there is a strong possibility of moving into grey. This has made planning future services challenging. After much prayerful deliberation the Worship Committee made the decision to close the church on Christmas Eve and pre record our **Christmas Eve Service** so that we may all worship together in the safety of our own homes. In the past Christmas Eve attendees have been very generous with their offerings which support the Christmas Sharing Programme. It is our prayer that you give as you are able as many have been experiencing financial worries because of Covid. May you have the joy, the Hope, the love and the peace the Advent season brings and may you have a safe and a blessed Christmas.

We invite you to give to WMC's **Congregation Christmas Sharing Fund**. Money donated to this fund will be distributed by the Care Team. If you are aware of a need we could respond to, please bring your concern to [Pastor Kara](#) or a Care Team member. Please designate your cheque or e transfer 'Christmas Sharing Fund'.

In the spirit of Christmas, Missions Committee invites the congregation to participate in a **special Christmas Giving Project**. Due to Covid19 we are unable to collect tangible items. Instead we are asking for monetary donations only which will be donated to the House of Friendship. Your donations may be made in the same manner as your regular church offering, that is, e-transfer, cheque, or in person at Sunday service. **Please be sure to designate the donation as being for the House of Friendship.** May you be richly blessed as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

## MCEC IN PRAYER:

Each week MCEC staff pray for the faith communities within our MCEC community of congregations. We invite you to pray with us for [Zion Mennonite Fellowship](#).

Pray also for Warden Underground, one of the newest congregations who were welcomed into the MCEC family this past year. We invite you to read [Leaders With A Vision](#) to learn more. You can reach them to welcome them at Warden Underground – Connect City, Pastor Jordan Thoms, [jordan@connectministries.org](mailto:jordan@connectministries.org).

The MCEC staff are honoured to serve the MCEC community of congregations. We wish you all a most blessed

Christmas season as you find ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Hope of the world.

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## CALL TO PRAYER by Elders of WMC

In this season of Joy, we acknowledge there are those in our hearts and in our community for which this season brings intensity to emotions. The lonely feel more lonely, estrangement more strange, grief more grievous that runs deep and the poor more poor and have not.

We are reminded that a young Mary became the mother of Jesus. Being young, unwed, and seemingly poor made her extremely vulnerable. Mary seems able to hear God's call to her and she puts trusting faith in God that all would be well. What an example to us as we face uncertain futures, or problems that seem bigger than our ability to cope.

And so we Pray: Jesus we await your coming. Thank you for bright lights in the darkness, lighting up our town and the nativity stable on the church front lawn. Come into our waiting hearts that we might celebrate the miraculous day of your birth and give space for God's voice to be heard in our own lives. Amen

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## Offering Report for December 13, 2020:

Total Offering: \$4827.00

Regular Offering: \$1575.00

PAO Offering: \$1502.00

Food Cupboard: \$100.00

Christmas Sharing Fund: \$850.00

House of Friendship: \$550.00

MCC: \$250.00

As you finalize your givings to WMC for 2020, please remember to make your donation by December 31st at 12 noon to be eligible for a tax receipt. Thank you for your support in 2020!

## BROADER AREA NEWS AND EVENTS

**My View From Here** - An MCEC VLOG from Leah Reesor-Keller. View it [here](#).

**Wellesley Lions Club Tree of Lights.** Light a bulb in memory or appreciation of someone special. Funds raised support meals on Wheels and The Wellesley Family Resource. To donate e-transfer to [welionstreeoflight@gmail.com](mailto:welionstreeoflight@gmail.com) or mail cheques payable to Tree of Lights to Wellesley Lions Club, PO Box 281, Wellesley, ON N0B 2T0 or at CIBC, Pyms, Ezzo, Schmidtsville and Home Hardware. Email [welionstreeoflight@gmail.com](mailto:welionstreeoflight@gmail.com) to request tax receipt for \$10 or more.

**The December edition of *On the Level*** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue, we offer a timely prayer for 2020, A Prayer Amidst Disaster, written by an MDS staff member; read how volunteers are improving the space for homeless in Idaho; and be sure to save the date for our virtual MDS Annual Celebration. [Click on this link to read more: https://conta.cc/37n9EGS](https://conta.cc/37n9EGS)

Greetings in this very unusual advent season from your friends at **Pastors in Exile (PiE)**. The staff and board at PiE have created a resource to share called "[Meaningful Celebration with COVID and the Planet in Mind.](#)" Creating this resource is PiE's good deed for [Kindred Credit Union's 12days4good program](#).

**New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale:** Each year, because of the incredible support of our community, funds from food and craft sales, the quilt auction and sponsorships, the NHMRS is able to donate approximately \$300,000 to support the relief, development and peacebuilding programs of MCC. This year we find ourselves significantly short of that goal, at a time when needs are even greater around the world. We need your help to bridge the gap. If you would have attended the Relief Sale and purchased tea balls, pies or meals from our amazing volunteer vendors, or wonderful treasures from the various craft tents, would you consider donating what you would have spent that day? Any amount you would feel led to give will help recover what has been lost due to the global pandemic. Donations can be made online at [nhmrs.com/donate](https://nhmrs.com/donate). Thank you for your ongoing support of the NHMRS and our partnership with MCC Ontario.

**Prioritize UN Declaration Legislation-** You're invited to join MCC in supporting the Government of Canada's legislation around the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), being tabled in Parliament this December. MCC believes that passing a legislative framework to implement UNDRIP is an excellent step toward ensuring the human rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected and honoured in Canada. If you agree, we invite you to contact Minister of Justice David Lametti and your MP to urge them to fulfill the government's commitment to reconciliation by making every effort to bring this legislation to Royal Assent. Visit [mcccanada.ca/take-action](https://mcccanada.ca/take-action) to use MCC's convenient letter-writing tool to amplify the calls of Indigenous neighbours.

**MCC Christmas Giving-** This year, choose Christmas gifts that share comfort and joy with our neighbours around the world using MCC's Christmas Giving options. Look online for more giving options: [mcco.ca/Christmas](https://mcco.ca/Christmas).

**December Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada newsletter** is [here!](#) There are several opportunities to consider this winter, including: outdoor worship, a women's retreat and a dream workshop. Take the time to explore what is being offered. May God's love and peace be with through the journey of Advent.

**Did you miss the virtual Peace Conference and Centennial Celebration on Nov 20 and 21?** Watch the recordings at [mcco.ca/peace-conference-recordings](https://mcco.ca/peace-conference-recordings).

**An open call for Parents or Guardian with children ages 6-13-** An interactive workbook for families focusing on developing peaceful relationships in the home is being developed. Restorative Justice Intern, Claire Smith, is conducting short 15-20 minute interviews to gain an understanding of the current needs of young families to help develop healthy family relationships. If you would like to participate, contact Claire at [clairesmith@mcco.ca](mailto:clairesmith@mcco.ca).

**MCEC Annual Leadership Formation Event - Pastors, Chaplains, Congregational Leaders** - January 16, 2021. Join us online as we gather with Safwat Marzouk, from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He offers a biblical vision for what it means to be an intercultural church, one that fosters just diversity, integrates different cultural articulations of faith and worship, and embodies an alternative to the politics of assimilation and segregation. Registration is open at <https://mcec.ca/events>.

**A Short Workshop for Lifelong Learning Journey** - Jan 28th, 2021 - MCEC invites pastors and other church leaders to join a one-time workshop for brainstorming, strategizing and dreaming together about what the MCEC Learning Commons will focus on for the coming year. Help to shape our planning for MCEC events during the 2021-2022 year. Register at <https://mcec.ca/events>.

**Applied Peacebuilding Skills Certificate Program January-May 2021.** Learning the skills of "peace" is a lifelong adventure. This skill-building program is an MCC pilot project that seeks to teach and develop peacemaking skills, and apply these skills within today's context of home, work, and community. Participants will learn to integrate practical peacebuilding skills in everyday ways. To register or learn more, go to [mcco.ca/peace-certificate](https://mcco.ca/peace-certificate).

**It's not too late to apply for Winter Term!** CMU is still taking applications for study in January 2021. Consider enrolling, for credit or audit, in an online CMU course. In addition to many daytime course options, Winter term *evening* course offerings include: *God through the Centuries, Fundamentals of Marketing, Principles and Practices of Journalism, Economics of Social Change, Restorative Justice, Adolescent Developmental Psychology...* and more. Undergraduate course offerings here [www.cmu.ca/timetable](http://www.cmu.ca/timetable) and available Graduate courses at [www.cmu.ca/gradcourses](http://www.cmu.ca/gradcourses). Apply at [www.cmu.ca/apply](http://www.cmu.ca/apply) to become a full- or part-time student.

**Christmas at CMU Highlights!** Enjoy the music of the season and be drawn into the spirit of Advent with a curated selection from Christmas at CMU. Go to [www.cmu.ca/christmas](http://www.cmu.ca/christmas) for more.

**Through this Place** is a monthly e-newsletter 'inside, outside and all about CMU'. If you want to be inspired and connected more with stories from the CMU learning community, subscribe to Through This Place at [www.cmu.ca/newsletter](http://www.cmu.ca/newsletter).

Check out and follow WMC on [facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) !

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