

A Blessing and Commissioning for Gathering Sunday

Leader: There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of all...

ALL: We give thanks for faith nurtured and nourished in this church.

Leader: The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers...

ALL: We give thanks for all these gifts. Today we give special thanks for our teachers and leaders. We give thanks for all who challenge and nurture our faith, all who guide us in growing and learning; all who themselves are challenged to grow and learn; and all who support the teaching and Christian Formation ministries of this faith community.

Volunteers: We commit ourselves to this calling. We invite God's Spirit to equip and energize us so we may serve faithfully and joyfully. May God embed in our hearts and minds the capacity for discernment and wisdom. We dedicate ourselves to developing relationships of shalom. We open ourselves to learn from those we teach. We will meditate on God's Word, love generously, dream passionately, persevere boldly, and share the stories of the faith.

ALL: Today, we commit to affirm, support and pray for all who teach and give leadership in all of our Christian Formation ministries.

God, today we remember our role as lifelong learners and seekers of faith. Be with all – children, youth, and adults – who will be participating this year in our Christian Formation ministries. Bless our times of study so that we may grow in faith. Bless our times of fellowship so that we may truly live as sisters and brothers in Christ. Bless our times of prayer and worship so that we may be enriched in our spirits in order to go forth to further Your mission.

Leader: May God bless all of us as we seek to grow in faith. Amen.



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WELLESLEY MENNONITE CHURCH

Sunday September 17, 2023

Gathering Sunday

On the "Reimagining Church" Road

*God is "doing a new thing; now it sprouts up;
don't you recognize it?" (Isaiah 43:19 CEB)*

Prelude

We Gather

Words of Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Announcements

Musical Interlude / Listening for God

Call to Worship:

Leader: People of God: welcome!

**People: Welcome to this place of love and grace,
this place where we grow in faith.**

Leader: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

People: God invites all of us to be part of beloved community.

Leader: God invites all of us to share in the good news;

People: We are welcome, just as we are.

We are loved, just as we are.

ALL: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Opening Song: Let us Build a House Voices Together (VT) #36

**Blessing & Commissioning Litany for all volunteers working with
children, youth, and vulnerable persons**

Pastor Kara, Lisa N, Christian Education Chair

Bible Presentations:

Grade 1:

Grade 7:

Backpack/ lunch bag / toolbelt/ book bag/ Blessing

We Listen

Scripture: Isaiah 43: 18 & 19

Song: New Earth, Heavens New - VT #377

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 9: 24-26a
Hebrews 12: 1-2

Meditation: ***Our Marathon & God's Faithfulness***

Pastor Kara

We Respond

Song of Response: Guide my Feet VT #816

Offering our Gifts

Words of Greeting:

Prayers of the People

Sent to Bless

Sending Song: We, Your People, Sing Your Praises VT #849

Sending Blessing

All are warmly invited to enjoy a time of fellowship following the worship service. A very special welcome to the Hampstead United Church community for joining us for worship and providing treats this morning.

**** All volunteers working with children, youth, and vulnerable persons are invited to sign volunteer commitment form immediately following worship today.**

Worship Leader:

Pianist:

Song Leaders:

Ushers:

AV Techs: