



Grace Mennonite Church

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Pastors Mel Letkeman & Kyle Penner
www.gracesteinbach.ca
204-326-3707

Summer Worship

Speak O Lord

Welcome & Life of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Great is the Lord HWB# 87

Holy Holy Holy Lord

Summer Prayer

Time with Children

Help us to help each other HWB# 362

Congregational Prayer & Offering

Hebrews 12:4-12

Broccoli, Participation Trophies, & One Big Asterisk

Let it be said of us

Benediction

Participants in today's Worship Service:

Worship Speaker	Kyle Penner
Worship Leader:	Andrea Dick
Song Leaders:	Cindy Blatz, David Graham, Wendi Friesen
Accompanist:	Karen Pries
Children's Time:	Kyle Penner
Ushers:	Monica Klassen, Brenda Enns, Bill Sawatsky
Sound Tec:	Tim Schmitt
Computer Tec:	Lloyd Funk

Summer Worship at Grace

Looking ahead to Sunday, August 25

Please read Hebrews 11:1-12:3

Who are the people that inspire you and your faith journey?

With Guest Speaker Selenna Wolfe

Selenna Wolfe is currently living in Winnipeg with her spouse, Jessie, and their cat, Moses. She works at the Mennonite Heritage Archives and Gallery at CMU as an Administrative Assistant.



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Sunday September 1

Worship & Communion, Speaker: Kyle Penner

Children's Church will resume September 8.

Please see the table located at the back of the sanctuary for quiet bags for you children to use during the worship service.

We Gather and Pray



Prayer this Week

Help us be present to each other, and to love one another deeply.

Our Congregation

Pray that **Martha Plett**, now living alone at Cedarwood will not be lonely, finding friendship among those with which she lives.

We pray for those with ongoing medical concerns:

Matt Rogalsky, Regon Barkman, Helen Goerzen, Shirley & Elmer Joy, John Neufeld.

Our Community

Pray for that there will be enough donations to serve those who come to **Southeast Helping Hands** for food.

Our World

We pray for all the summer camp staff and campers. May their last week be one filled with laughter, joy, and unity.

Summer Daily Prayer Practice

Praise

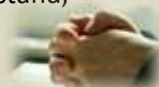
Lord, when I consider all that is beautiful in our world,
I cannot help but throw out my arms in praise.

Thanks

Lord, when I consider all who are part of my world,
I cannot help but cover my heart in gratitude.

Awe

Lord, when I consider all in my world that I do not understand,
that which is wonderful and that which is not,
I cannot help but put my hands together in awe.



Our condolences go out to **Troy & Allison, Andrew and Lauren Warkentin** on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Corrine **Warkentin**, August 12, 2019. The funeral service was held Friday, August 16 in Steinbach.

Children's church has an opportunity for several teachers, to accommodate the growing population of our children at Grace. If you're interested, please contact Ange at angeneufeld@hotmail.com or 204-791-7442. Teaching commitment is approximately once a month and dates are flexible.

This week at Grace:

Sunday: ^{Aug 18} Worship at Resthaven, 2:30 pm
Monday: Red River English Summer Classes and Childcare (Mon.-Thur.)
Tuesday: Soup's On, 5:00 pm
Grace Garden Group, 7:00 pm
Friday: Soup's On, 5:00 pm
Saturday: ^{Aug. 24} Church rental, 9 am – 10 pm
Sunday: ^{Aug. 25} Church Rental noon – 9 pm

Please see the bulletin board for conference and community events.

Grace contacts:

Pastor:	Mel Letkeman	mel@gracesteinbach.ca
Mel is on vacation August 8 – August 28		
Associate Pastor:	Kyle Penner	kyle@gracesteinbach.ca
Administrative Office: (hours: 9:30 – 1:30)		office@gracesteinbach.ca
Administrative Assistant: <i>Tuesday & Wednesday</i>	Cathy Barkman	cathy@gracesteinbach.ca
Administrative Assistant: <i>Thursday & Friday</i>	Audrey Frey	audrey@gracesteinbach.ca

You are welcome to join us for a cup of coffee throughout the week, this summer

Absolutely never say this to people experiencing terrible times: a short list

**EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON,
And Other Lies I've Loved,** Kate Bowler

Available in our church library.



1. **'Well, at least . . .'**

Whoa. Hold up there. Were you about to make a comparison? At least it's not . . . what? Stage V cancer? Don't minimize.

2. **'In my long life, I've learned that . . .'**

Geez. Do you want a medal? I get it! You lived forever. Well, some people are worried that they won't, or that things are so hard they won't want to. So ease up on the life lessons. Life is a privilege, not a reward.

3. **'It's going to get better. I promise.'**

Well, fairy godmother, that's going to be a tough row to hoe when things go badly.

4. **'God needed an angel.'**

This one takes the cake because (a) it makes God look sadistic and needy and (b) angels are, according to Christian tradition, created from scratch. Not dead people looking for a cameo in *Ghost*. You see how confusing it is when we just pretend that the deceased return to help you find your car keys or make pottery?

5. **'Everything happens for a reason.'**

The only thing worse than saying this is pretending that you know the reason. I've had hundreds of people tell me the reason for my cancer. Because of my sin. Because of my unfaithfulness. Because God is fair. Because God is unfair. Because of my aversion to Brussels sprouts. I mean, no one is short of reasons. So if people tell you this, make sure you are there when they go through the cruelest moments of their lives, and start offering your own. When someone is drowning, the only thing worse than failing to throw them a life preserver is handing them a reason.

6. **'I've done some research and...'**

I thought I should listen to my oncologist and my nutritionist and my team of specialists, but it turns out that I should be listening to you. Yes, please, tell me more about the medical secrets that only one flaxseed provider in Orlando knows. Wait, let me get a pen.

7. **'When my aunt had cancer...'**

My darling dear, I know you are trying to relate to me. Now you see me and you are reminded that terrible things have happened in the world. But guess what? That is where I live, in the valley of the shadow of death. But now I'm on vacation because I'm not in the hospital or dealing with my mess. Do I have to take my sunglasses off and join you in the saddest journey down memory lane, or do you mind if I finish my mojito?

8. **'So how are the treatments going? How are you really?'**

This is the toughest one of all. I can hear you trying to understand my world and be on my side. But picture the worst thing that has ever happened to you. Got it? Now try to put it in a sentence. Now say it aloud 50 times a day. Does your head hurt? Do you feel sad? Me too. So let's just see if I want to talk about it today because sometimes I do and sometimes I want a hug and a recap of American Ninja Warrior.

Try These Instead

1. **"I'd love to bring you a meal this week. Can I email you about it?"**

Oh, thank goodness. I am starving, but mostly I can never figure out something to tell people that I need, even if I need it. But really, bring me anything. Chocolate. A potted plant. A set of weird erasers. I remember the first gift I got that wasn't about cancer, and I was so happy I cried. Send me funny emails filled with YouTube clips to watch during chemotherapy. Do something that suits your talents. But most important, *bring me presents!*

2. **"You are a beautiful person."**

Unless you are used to speaking in a creepy windowless-van kind of voice, comments like these go a long way. Tell your friend something about his or her life that you admire without making it feel like a eulogy.

3. **"I am so grateful to hear about how you're doing. Just know that I'm on your team."**

You mean I don't have to give you an update? You asked someone else for all the gory details? *Whew.* Great! Now, I get to feel like you are both informed and concerned. So, don't gild the lily. What you have said is amazing, so don't screw it up now by being a nosy Nellie. Ask a question about any other aspect of my life.

4. **"Can I give you a hug?"**

Some of my best moments with people have come with a hug or a hand on the arm. People who are suffering often—not always—feel isolated and want to be touched. Hospitals and big institutions in general tend to treat people like cyborgs or throwaways. So, ask whether your friend feels up for a hug and give her some sugar.

5. **"Oh, my friend, that sounds so hard."**

Perhaps the weirdest thing about having something awful happen is the fact that no one wants to hear about it. People tend to want to hear the summary, but they don't usually want to hear it from you. And that it was awful. So, simmer down and let your friend talk for a bit. Be willing to stare down the ugliness and sadness. Life is absurdly hard, and pretending it isn't is exhausting.

6. *******Silence*******

The truth is that no one knows what to say. It's awkward. Pain is awkward. Tragedy is awkward. People's weird, suffering bodies are awkward. But take the advice of one man who wrote to me with his policy: Show up and shut up.