



# Grace Mennonite Church

February 26, 2023

Shaped by Jesus ...  
to be forgiving

**Welcome**

***Come Away from Rush and Hurry*** VT 9

Call to Worship

***To God Be the Glory*** VT 84

[Psalm 139](#)

Selected verses

***Kyrie eleison*** VT 147

Prayer of Confession

***Kyrie eleison*** VT 147

Time with the Children & Coins Count

*Children ages 3 to Grade 8 may leave for Children's Church.*

Life of the Congregation

Congregational Prayer and Offertory

Faith Stories

***Fill Us with Your Feast*** VT309

[Matthew 18:21-35](#)

Eating Glass, Man-Buns, & Taylor Swift

***Mercy, Mercy, Lord*** VT 169

Benediction

# Sunday, February 26

Pastors Mel Letkeman & Kyle Penner  
[www.gracesteinbach.ca](http://www.gracesteinbach.ca) 204 326 3707  
Vol 62, No. 9

**10:00 am – Worship Service All are welcome!**  
**Livestream** will be available between 10 – 11 am.  
**Audio recording** can be accessed on church website after the service.

**Children’s Church for ages 3 to Grade 8** will be held during the worship service. You may pick up your children following the worship service in the upper level classrooms.

**9:00 am - Sisters of Grace** meet each Sunday before the Worship Service in the downstairs lounge. Whether you’re able to come once in a while or regularly, we hope to grow in our relationships with each other and with God.

**11:15 am - Adult Formation**  
**3-Part Book Discussion on Brian McLaren’s *Do I Stay Christian?***  
Part I: “No” - Sunday, Feb. 26, in the basement, room 26 (previously Women in Mission room) after the service



*Please join us for coffee in the foyer following the worship service.*

**Our Coins Count money will be going to MCC’s Grow Hope Campaign,** where \$350 “sponsors” one acre of farmland here in Manitoba. After harvest, the Grow Hope farmer will sell the crop and donate the proceeds to MCC’s account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which is matched 4:1 by the Canadian government. That means that every dollar we give can become up to 5 dollars to provide emergency food aid. If you’d like to give extra money besides your coins, you can designate some extra giving to church as Grow Hope and we’ll add it to the coins.

Worship Speaker	Kyle Penner
Worship Leader	Patrick Friesen
Musicians	Kayla Hiebert, Donna & Shaun Neufeldt, Kim & Rob Sidorchuk
Children’s Time	Kyle Penner
Scripture Reader	Heather Bergman
Faith Story	Gary Bergman
Technicians	Matt Boese, Joe Dueck
Ushers	Audrey & Bernie Brandt, Doug Kathler
Coffee Servers	Joy & Peter Neufeld

**Sunday, March 5**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

[Matthew 20: 1 - 16](#)

*Would you rather be first or last?*

## **We Pray Together**

### **Pray for our congregation:**

Pray for **Virginia Fast**. She is receiving palliative care at home.

We pray for those in our community who use the resources that help with their lives on a daily basis:

**Agape House, Soup's On, Southeast Helping Hands, Today House, Steinbach Community Outreach, Steinbach Family Resource Centre.**

**Prayer for the week:** Lord, when we can't forgive, or don't really want to, help us.

**Pray for our world:** We pray for an end of the war in Ukraine.

**Sandra Klassen**, sister to **Ken and Roxanne Klassen** and **Glen and Betty Klassen** passed away Feb 23 at the Resthaven after a 30 year long battle with Parkinson's. She is also the aunt to **Andrea and Darren Reimer** and **Neil and Jennifer Klassen**. We pray for these families as they remember their life with her.



### **Are you interested in creating or joining a group for the purpose of hosting and assisting a Ukrainian family in Steinbach?**

If you are intrigued by the idea of extending kindness to a Ukrainian family, please contact Curt Penner for further information. 204 371-0583 or [clpenner58@gmail.com](mailto:clpenner58@gmail.com).

**From the Library:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> shelves of the small brown shelf in the library is filled with newly donated adult fiction. The top shelf of small brown shelf is featuring our in house authors.

We are pleased to announce that **Nina Pauls** has accepted the Administrative Assistant position. She started working in the office on February 21.

*Personnel Commission*

**See the church foyer bulletin board** for additional information.

## This Week at Grace ❖ February 27 – March 3

English Classes (middle level, lower level classrooms) and Childcare (nursery & overflow) are in session various mornings and evenings Monday - Thursday.	
<b>Monday</b>	Soup's On - Lunch Program, 9:00 am
<b>Tuesday</b>	Soup's On - Dine in lower auditorium, 5:00 – 6:15 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Little Bits of Grace</b> , 10 am – 12 noon in the foyer. See announcement below.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Foyer is reserved</b> , 9:00 – 11:00 am
<b>Friday</b>	Soup's On - Dine in lower auditorium, 5:00 – 6:15 pm

**Little Bits of Grace** - If you are a caregiver of young children, we'd love to hang out with you. Join us from 10 am – 12 noon, the first Wednesday of each month at church for coffee, snacks and a time of encouraging each other. Dates: March 1, April 5, May 3.

*Tamara and Mark Rempel, Elsie Kroeker, Elsie Kathler*

**High School Youth Retreat** – March 3-5. RSVP with Kyle.

**Men's Breakfast group** - We are having our next Men's Breakfast meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am in the basement of the church. Cost will be approx. \$5.00 to cover the cost of groceries. There is a sign-up sheet on the coffee bar counter. Any questions, contact Kurt Barz.

**Church Camp - March 10 – 12 at Camp Assiniboia** ❖ All are invited! There is an info sheet in your church mailbox. Please RSVP with Tamara Rempel [p\\_tamara@hotmail.com](mailto:p_tamara@hotmail.com) 204 371 9872 **Deadline is Feb 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**Save the Date for Ladies Retreat at Grace** ❖ **April 14-15**, details to follow

**Pauinagissi Family Camp – Save the date! July 24 – 29.** More info coming, but if you're interested or want more info, talk to Kyle.

**Mennonite Church Manitoba Gathering** is being held March 3 – 4, 2023 in Winnipeg. It will be attended by Mel Letkeman, Ed Neufeld and Brenda Penner.

Pastor: **Mel Letkeman**

[mel@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:mel@gracesteinbach.ca)

Associate Pastor: **Kyle Penner**

[kyle@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:kyle@gracesteinbach.ca)

Administrative Office

[office@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:office@gracesteinbach.ca)

Administrative Assistant: **Nina Pauls**

[nina@gracesteinbach.ca](mailto:nina@gracesteinbach.ca)

[www.gracesteinbach.ca](http://www.gracesteinbach.ca) 204 326 3707

**Office Hours:** Tuesday - Friday ❖ 9:00 am – 1:00 pm



## **Encountering God during Lent**

Lent is the period of 40 days leading to Good Friday and Easter. It began as we imposed Ashes on our foreheads at the Ash Wednesday service this past week. It is a time to reflect on the pain of Christ's Sufferings and our own, leading to the hope of new life found in Easter Resurrection. We can facilitate this reflection through self denial, repentance, prayer, works of love and meditating on Scripture.

## **A Goal for Lent**

Remove from or add to your life something which you have been hoping to change, asking God to change in you, even if it is difficult. Lent can be a time when, practically, needed transformation can begin or continue. A time when, symbolically, we can enter the suffering of Jesus and learn that the beauty of the Kingdom of God, and change in our own lives as it takes hold, includes suffering in some form.

## **A Fast that leads to a Feast**

One discipline that could help you in this is Centering Prayer. A brief introduction and a suggestion on how to begin practicing it are found on the other side of this insert.

## Centering Prayer

I'll admit it: Prayer can be hard. And confusing.  
And what does it do? And how does it work?

The prayer practice that has impacted my life the most is one I learned from the nuns at St. Benedict's Monastery: Centering Prayer. Centering prayer deepens our relationship with God. It's a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.

*"Centering prayer is simply sitting in silence, open to God's love and your love for God. This prayer is beyond thoughts, emotions, or sensations. Like being with a very close friend or lover, where words are not required, centering prayer brings your relationship with God to a level deeper than conversation, to pure communion." – Richard Rohr*

So, if you'd like to join me in practicing Centering Prayer for Lent, I'd recommend downloading the app called Centering Prayer (created by Contemplative Outreach). And once, or twice, a day, on your own schedule, practice Centering Prayer simply by following the instructions on the app.

If you're interested, let me know that you're attempting this so that we can connect with others to share our experiences.

*Kyle*