



# Millwoods Community Church Newsletter November 2021

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Dear Millwoods Community Church,

Normally in these letters I like to look ahead to what is about to happen or talk about current events and changes (I've had to do that much too often since the pandemic began). Instead of doing that, let me share a story with you.

Amy and I were just in Virginia for a friend's wedding. I had the privilege of officiating. The weather was beautiful (I think it was a bit on the warm side, but the folks from Florida and California thought it was quite cold). The sun came out, and there was a pleasant breeze. Well, it was pleasant until the bride's veil got blown onto her dad's suit jacket where it stuck thanks to static cling. Her Maid of Honor made a few quick adjustments and saved the veil.

I know some folks would become angry about this, but we just had to laugh about it. The wind was not bad. The veil was just that light. I thought that would be the good and joyous moment I would remember from the wedding. More joyous moments flowed. The ones you expect (like applause when the couple kisses), and a few more that were unexpected. When the couple was exchanging rings, they were repeating after me. The bride was looking at me when she said the words (because I was the one talking to her), but she wasn't marrying me. I gently reminded her to say these words to her fiancé, not me. We all had a great laugh, she repeated everything so far, and then we continued to the rest of the service.

There was so much laughter, goodness, and beauty in that ceremony. I'm still smiling thinking about how good that wedding was. All that goodness comes from God, and Jesus tells us to share the good news. This might not be exactly what he had in mind, but sharing good news is good for the soul. What good news do you have? Who can you share your good news with? It might be exactly what they need to get through their day.

Peace to you,  
Pastor Aaron

## **If I Had a Million Dollars Van Es Capital Reserve Fund**

The Van Es Board has created a Capital Reserve Fund to be used for capital improvements. The target is to raise \$1,000,000 to address anticipated needs in the near future. Needed projects are:

- Replacement of pool mechanicals and liner as well as modifications to comply with current regulations. Modifications will include pool contouring and renovations to the dressing rooms. Presently the pool is on "palliative care" with an anticipated life of one more season. It is essential to camp programming and provides a reservoir of water should a fire occur.
- Completion of renovations to the former caretakers house to become a small group retreat centre.
- Upgrading and replacement of cabins.

Please donate to this cause. You can specify a project or give to the overall fund.

**Dates to Remember** - Youth Retreat - November 12 to 14

**Our mailing address is:**  
VanEs Camp & Conference Centre  
PO Box 57063  
Eastgate  
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 5L7

## **F.Y.I Corner**

### **2021 Comenius Learning Series [Link](#)**

11:30 am Eastern Online Madness: American Protestant Responses to Mental Illness  
Common wisdom might assume that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the mental health of American, but studies over the past eighteen months have yielded mixed results. Though only time will tell the long-term consequences of this prolonged crisis on individual and collective well-being, mental illness will undoubtedly continue to be part of human existence, with or without global and local crises. Rev. Dr. Heather Vacek's presentation will offer a window into American Protestant responses to mental illness over two centuries, a period during which growing social stigma and the medicalization of treatments often impeded broader attention from congregations and church leaders. With exemplary historical responses in mind, Dr. Vacek will invite attendees to reflect on the implications for Christian witness in light of the suffering that both prompts and results from mental illness. ADULT FORMATION, COMENIUS LEARNING SERIES

Contacts **Heather Stevenson** @ [hstevenson@mcsp.org](mailto:hstevenson@mcsp.org)

### **Donate**

If you would like to give an offering to our church you may do so by: mailing in your offerings or go to [www.mcchurch.ca](http://www.mcchurch.ca) and click on the donate button on the top of the homepage, and choose which method of donation you wish to use.

### **Carol Sing Along - December 17th, 2021**

We will be hosting a carolling sing along at Millwoods Community Church on December 17th. There will be two times: 6:30pm - 7:30pm and 8:00pm - 9:00pm. Admission will be by donation, and all proceeds will go to WINGS. Invite your friends and family!

We are currently looking for volunteers to serve hot chocolate and greet people at the door. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Katie at [tilbury@uablerta.ca](mailto:tilbury@uablerta.ca)

## **Moravian Disaster Response**

The Moravian Disaster Response has been very busy since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Since then, Moravians from around North America have donated \$458,785 to the fund, and the Board of World Mission has distributed \$435,195. This is an amazing amount of money and represents overwhelming generosity, as well as incredible need. A significant chunk of this funding supported relief efforts in Nicaragua and Honduras after twin hurricanes struck in November of 2020. We have also sent aid to many of our global partners as needs arose from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Most recently, we sent \$24,500 to Haiti following the August 14, 2021, 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Our Haitian Moravian Church leaders are now using this money to support food distribution, assemble emergency shelters for those who lost their homes, and assist the two Moravian congregations most directly impacted by the earthquake. We thank the Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation for their generous gift to this relief effort.

In the past month, we also sent \$13,600 to the Moravian Institute in Rajpur, India, to help with various needs resulting from Covid-19. These funds are being used to mitigate the spread of the virus by ensuring that students and staff can receive Covid vaccines.

The Moravian Disaster Response Fund is the most effective tool to respond quickly to natural disasters that strike around our Moravian world. Give online at [MoravianMission.org/Give](https://MoravianMission.org/Give) or mail a gift in the enclosed envelope.

To make a donation you can do so by making a note on your offering for Haiti relief, at our website [www.mcchurch.ca](http://www.mcchurch.ca), or make a memo on your offering envelope for Haiti.

## **MWCC Digital Campus!**



The primary goal of Millwoods Community Church Online is to make Christ's love and community more accessible to everyone by providing a place to develop relationships, learn, and engage in ministry.

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera and you'll be taken directly to the group. Click Join, accept the group rules, answer the membership questions, and then wait for an Administrator to let you in. The rules and the questions are to help ensure that MWCC Online is a safe space for its members to share and grow! Only members of the group will see what is in the group

## **Community Care & Connection**

### **Millwoods Prayer List**

Tony and Janet Turner, Jim and Sherry Jenkins, Larry Goodwin, Bill and Gladys Bartz, Velma & Lawrence Seutter, Elizabeth & Audie Schotte, Carol & Irene Martin, Kendell & Cheryl Davy-Thomas, those who are affected by Covid-19, our Digital Campus Initiative, and MWCC Joint Board.

### **Visitations**

During this time of Covid-19 and Alberta Health regulations visitation rules have changed. Please know that Pastor Aaron is still available to talk with you. If you or someone you care about would appreciate a pastoral call or visit please give Pastor Aaron a call at 780-862-9453 any time!

# Worship

## **Join us for Sunday Worship Service**

Join us Sundays at 10:30am for in person services. **Masks are mandatory at this time, as is physical distancing and reduced capacity to 50 people.**

## **Musicians for Sunday Worship**

Are you interested in joining us by using your talents and skills in music for our Sunday morning services? If you are interested in doing this please contact Katie with a few Sundays you are free to participate in.

## **Sunday Worship Service STREAM WITH US:**

Sunday services will be streamed on Millwoods Community Church website . We are looking for more volunteers to help behind the scenes with our streaming service. If you are interested in helping email [office@mcchurch.ca](mailto:office@mcchurch.ca). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Aaron.

## **MWCC's Choir**

Due to COVID 19's rising numbers in Alberta, the Millwoods Community Church Choir is currently working together on video projects, and hoping to be able to perform together in person for the Christmas Season. Please let Katie know if you are interested in joining us in the future by emailing her at [tilbury.katie@gmail.com](mailto:tilbury.katie@gmail.com).

## **Special Music for Advent**

We are currently working on providing special music for the season of Advent. If you would like to be a part of special music by either doing a solo, or a small group offering please let Katie know at [tilbury.katie@gmail.com](mailto:tilbury.katie@gmail.com).

# November 2021 Event Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Nov 1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 Pet Worship Sunday 10:30 am 	8	9	10	11 Remembrance Day 	12	13
14 Worship Sunday 10:30 am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Worship Sunday 10:30 am	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Advent 1 Worship Sunday 10:30 am Hope 	29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4
5 Advent 2 Worship Sunday 10:30 am Peace 	6	7	8	9	10	11