

## POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org)

January 27, 2019

<b>Worship Leader:</b>	<b>Annika Krause</b> - Fellowship is Like Oil on the Head	<b>Music Worship:</b>	Curtis Funk
<b>Accompanist:</b>	Andre Pekovich	<b>Usher:</b>	Diane Ehling
	Ruth Enns		

**Last Sunday** On World Fellowship Sunday, Annika Krause gave the first of a two-part sermon series on being open to fellowship with Christians having a variety of gifts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit. As a demonstration of one culture's unique form of expressing deep theological truths, she played the gospel song Spirit in the Dark (2002, The Blind Boys of Alabama). The World Council of Churches shared 12 Faces of Hope as part of a campaign seeking justice and peace in the Holy Land. Our traditions and stories as Mennonites are only one part of the Body of Christ. Will we make space for the voices of other believers, including Palestinian and First Nations Christians? [KH]

The message can be heard in your favourite browser at <https://pgimf.org/service/fellowship-by-one-and-the-same-spirit/>

### PGIMF News - Upcoming Services

February 3	Andrea Perrett	Caring for God's Created World (Pt 1)
February 10	Andrea Perrett	Caring for God's Created World (Pt 2)
February 17	J. Evan Kreider	TBA
February 24	Thomas Bergen	Mark

**Snow days announcement** You are reminded to check your e-mail by 8:30 on Sunday mornings when snow is expected or has fallen, to find out if the service has been cancelled. The worship leader for each Sunday will be responsible for checking the conditions (walks shovelled, road conditions, etc.) in the area of the church with an appropriate person (residence coordinators or other church members in West Point Grey) and will "call off" the service as decided in their sole discretion.

**Charity request** Our strong and generous congregation contributes widely to Mennonite Church-related charities in BC, Canada, and beyond and now chooses to support charities locally and beyond the Mennonite umbrella. At the 2018 congregational meeting, the group agreed to consider funding a local charity or charitable opportunity for \$1,000 on a rotating basis (to select a different charity each year). Charitable organizations should be well managed with goals that can be supported by the PGIMF membership. You are also welcome to bring forth a charitable opportunity that PGIMF would feel comfortable supporting with our contributions such as supporting a Group of 5 (a group of 5 people coming together to support refugee sponsorship. If you would like to contribute an idea please let Travis know by email (or in his mailslot at the back). Please give the charity name, website if possible and 50 words on why PGIMF should consider supporting this group. All ideas to be submitted by Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. The Church board will review the proposals and narrow it down to a total of five options to be voted on by the church through an online survey. At the AGM in April a choice will be confirmed through consensus. - Travis

**In memoriam** We think of our brother Isaac who attended PGIMF with his wife Hilda some years ago. Ike passed away January 16<sup>th</sup> in the presence of his family in Trail.

### Wider Church

**MCBC AGM and LEAD Conference 2019** This year it's held at Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond and delegates are sought for the business meeting at which the budget and revised bylaws will be approved. We are entitled to 3 delegates - those wishing/willing to attend, please contact Veronica or Janice. Theme of the LEAD conference: God's Mission; Our Mission from 1 Peter 3:15, in a presentation from Jared Siebert of New Leaf Network. Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 8:30 am. Conference cost: \$30 (reimbursed by PGIMF) includes lunch and runs 9 am-4:30 pm. AGM takes place Saturday February 23 with registration beginning at 8:30 am: both events include lunch. The report book will be available electronically February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will not be recorded.

Moderator—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); Worship—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);  
Congregational Care—Lois Funk (604-992-8213); Recording Secretary--- Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007);  
Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); **At Large**—Travis Martin (604-603-7843); Chan Yang (778-681-1475);  
Finance — Doug Medley (604-328-2980); Congregational Co-ordinator — Janice Kreider (604-228-1217)

**Vancouver Cantata Singers** invites you to their next concert of 19<sup>th</sup> C and contemporary choral works exploring the poetry and music of the planets and the heavenly spheres by Ešenvalds, Gjeilo, Schumann, and Canadian composers Stephen Chatman, Craig Galbraith, and Larry Nickel, at the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre (818 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Vancouver). Tickets \$10-35 at the website [www.vancouvercantatasingers.com](http://www.vancouvercantatasingers.com)

**Bible Society reopens** Those who've lived in Vancouver a long time remember the Bible Society building at the corner of Fraser and Kingsway that was closed a year or so ago for redevelopment. The Bible Society store has continued the work, reopening 5 blocks further east at 1207 Kingsway (at Inverness) and enhanced by coffee with Café Logos in the front and the bookshelves in the back. Highly rated by coffee blogger [Vancouver Coffee Snob](http://VancouverCoffeeSnob), the BS invites you in for a look and a cup. Read the article at Church for Vancouver's website at <https://churchforvancouver.ca/canadian-bible-society-is-back-on-kingsway-now-fronted-by-cafe-logos/>

**Multiply Conference** You are invited to participate in church building at the Multiply Conference (formerly C2C) next weekend February 6-7 at Westside Church (777 Homer St.) with dozens of speakers and breakout sessions as well as public worship. Tickets and info at <https://www.multiplyconference.net/vancouver>

## Call to Worship Psalm 19

Leader <sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.  
**Men** <sup>3</sup> **There is no speech, nor are there words;**  
Women <sup>4</sup> yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

Leader In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.  
**Men** <sup>6</sup> **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,**  
**and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

Leader	<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, <u>Women</u> <u>reviving the soul;</u>	<u>Women</u> <u>even much fine gold;</u>
Leader	the decrees of the Lord are sure, <b>Men</b> <b>making wise the simple;</b>	Leader sweeter also than honey, <b>Men</b> <b>and drippings of the honeycomb.</b>
Leader	<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the Lord are right, <u>Women</u> <u>rejoicing the heart;</u>	Leader <sup>11</sup> Moreover by them is your servant warned;
Leader	the commandment of the Lord is clear, <b>Men</b> <b>enlightening the eyes;</b>	in keeping them there is great reward.
Leader	<sup>9</sup> the fear of the Lord is pure, <u>Women</u> <u>enduring for ever;</u>	<u>Women</u> <sup>12</sup> <u>But who can detect their errors?</u> <u>Clear me from hidden faults.</u>
Leader	the ordinances of the Lord are true <b>Men</b> <b>and righteous altogether.</b>	<b>Men</b> <b>Then I shall be blameless,</b> <b>and innocent of great transgression.</b>
Leader	<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,	

All <sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. [NRSV]

## Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

<sup>1</sup>all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

<sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people

answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' [NRSV]

## Luke 4:14-21

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' [NRSV]

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those

members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. [NRSV]

## **Psalm 133** **The Blessedness of Unity**

A Song of Ascents.

<sup>1</sup> How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.

<sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life for evermore. [NRSV]

### **With thanks**

Dear Veronica and Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship,

Thank you so much for your lovely card and words of blessing as I completed my pastoral ministry last November. I was surprised by the special delivery of your card and appreciate your remembering me.

This month I'm starting a new role as Resident Author with Valley CrossWay Church, which is a liturgical worship community in Abbotsford. This will include some preaching, perhaps leading a small group, and other involvements that we're still discerning. At the same time, I'll continue to work on my own writing projects, do supply preaching for churches and other speaking on a freelance basis. This is a unique combination of ministry and self-employment, and I'm looking forward to how this will unfold.

When I went to your website for your email address, I also watched your video--what a great way to tell your story, and so well done! I also see that you're discerning some next steps in terms of location. May God light the way ahead for you and grant you deep joy and peace,

\*April\*

### **Wisdom Corner**

In the January 2019 issue of THE MENNONITE, David Augsburg writes: Thirty years ago, I asked Illinois bishop A.C. Good what he had learned from 50 years of shepherding churches. He said, Two things: one, when it is a choice between doctrine or relationship, you should always choose relationship, because doctrine is self-correcting through the Spirit's work, and two, within a few decades you discover it wasn't doctrine at all but personalities.

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We come into existence with a certain operating system already installed. We can make the choice to upgrade.... you can upgrade your operating system, and life is going to look a whole lot different when you do it.

- Cynthia Bourgeault.