



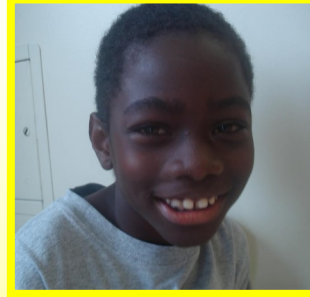
# CONNECTING . . .

A newsletter by and for EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH

June 2019

Vol. 16

Issue 3



## SUMMER

An interview with (clockwise from bottom left)  
Asher, Lorelei, Anna, Callahan, Neven, and Naomi  
from Worship Connect. Submitted by Sonya McNeil.

## TIME!

### What is the best thing about being outdoors in the summer-time?

*Lorelei:* Picking flowers, playing on my swing, my slide, and on the monkey bars

*Callahan:* Running in the Track Meet (1 km is my favorite event)

*Naomi:* Having fun by going bike riding

*Asher:* Playing basketball

*Neven:* Playing in the sun with water guns, swimming lessons, playing in the grass, playing tag, basketball

### What's your best summer-time memory?

*Lorelei:* I remember being outside with my mom and both of us swinging on the swings.

*Callahan:* I loved going to our house in Kelowna and celebrating my birthday there, going tubing with our boat.

*Naomi:* When I went camping! And when my cousins came from Scotland and we went to Bridal Falls Waterpark

*Asher:* Playing basketball

*Neven:* Playing basketball, swimming lessons

*Anna:* Camp Squeah with my class and Grandma and Granddad coming to Canada



### What would you like to be when you grow up?

*Callahan:* Video game designer

*Naomi:* Preschool Teacher

*Asher:* NBA All Star or a Businessman or a Magician

*Neven:* Fighter Pilot

*Anna:* Geologist or a Vet

### What's your favorite thing about coming to church?

*Lorelei:* Singing with my mom

*Callahan:* Worship Connect

*Naomi:* Worship Connect

*Asher:* I like listening to people sing

*Neven:* Eating at the gym, people talking, Worship Connect

### Do you have a favorite church song?

*Naomi:* They're all good!

*Asher:* My lighthouse

*Neven:* Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul & My Light-house

*Anna:* Beautiful Things

### What story or verse do you like the best from the Bible?

*Lorelei:* Adam & Eve

*Naomi:* I like the story when a girl was dead and Jesus said 'no, she's not' and said 'wake up' and took her by the hand and she got up.

*Asher:* I can do all things through him who gives me strength. Phillipians 4:13

### What do you think will be the best thing in your summer this year?

*Naomi:* I'm don't know, but I'm sure we'll have lots of fun

*Asher:* Playing basketball

*Neven:* Going camping, basketball, swimming

*Anna:* Having fun with family

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# SPRING CLEANING!

On May 5, in memory of Stan Olson, we hosted a "Spring Cleaning" event where we went out and cleaned up garbage in the church's immediate neighbourhood. Thanks to everyone who came out! *Photos by Joel Brandt, Emmanuel Denguessi, Sam Dueckman, Amanda McCrimmon.*





## Palestine Reflections by Marlene Friesen

You're going *WHERE*? You're doing *WHAT*? These were the first questions we usually got when we first started telling people that we were going to hike a 330 km trail, over a 3 week period, in the West Bank, Palestine. Starting in Rummana at the northern Israeli/Palestine border and ending in Beit Mirsim southwest of Hebron, the trail would take us over rocky hills and mountains, through green and fertile canyons, along olive groves and flowering pastures, across vast and dry deserts, each of these landscapes stunning and unique.

The next comment we often heard was one of fear....will you be safe? Aren't you afraid to go there? Now, having been there, that's almost laughable. In a country, which the words violence and terrorism are often associated to, we experienced a warmth and hospitality that was like nothing we had ever experienced before. We were welcomed like royalty in places that rarely see tourists, and where you would think there would be suspicion and hostility. "Welcome to Palestine! Please enjoy our country! Can you come and sit and have coffee? If you wait a few minutes, we will bring you tea." These were comments we heard continually and we were perfect strangers.

The name of the trail...Masar Ibrahim or the Abraham Path. Presently routed through Palestine and Jordan, the vision for the path is for it to eventually travel the entire path where Abraham would have walked, through these countries as well as Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. The story of Abraham is a common identity that is shared by Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Its history dates back 4000 years to a man and his family who walked across the Middle East with a message of unity and connectedness, and whose values were kindness and respect for all people... *Continued on page 4*

THANK  
YOU

Dear friends!

On behalf of our Free Dental Clinic, I would like to thank you for your donation. Your financial support helps us continue in our mission and makes the community a great place to live.

Lala Hennessy, Free Dental Clinic Coordinator.



604-859-7681 | 2420 Montrose Avenue | AbbotsfordCommunityServices.com

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2017, Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia started paying "climate change reparations" for the fossil fuels that their building requires. For every ton of carbon used to power lights and heat/cool the building, they put \$116 into a fund that is used for various climate-reparation projects such as reforestation in drought-prone countries or helping relocate refugees who had to leave due to climate issues. Read the full article at

<https://mennocreationcare.org/virginia-church-pays-climate-change-reparations/>.

Creation  
Corner



For our September newsletter, our theme will be:

### "SCHOOL MEMORIES"



Some of us may be going back to school in September, and others may not be for the first time in forever, but I'm guessing most of us have memories of at least some kind of intentional learning environment, whether that be at home or abroad, 50 years ago or as we speak! What are your "school" memories? We want to hear from you! *As always, all newsletter themes function mostly just as prompts to get your brain going, so if you've got something to submit that's not related to the theme, go for it!*

## A Note from the Editor:

The Emmanuel Mennonite Newsletter would love to receive submissions from the church community! We are looking for stories, articles, poetry, art, prayers and recipes under 800 words that are encouraging and promote community. Submissions may be edited and will be published depending on space.

The newsletter is published five times per year in the months of **February, April, June, September and November**. Thank you for reading and participating!

If you have something you would like to share please e-mail [waltlude@shaw.ca](mailto:waltlude@shaw.ca) or send it to the church office at [office@emmanuelmennonite.com](mailto:office@emmanuelmennonite.com).

**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
MONDAY, AUGUST 19**

## Palestine Reflections *(continued from page 3)*

by Marlene Friesen

*Continued from page 3...* and showing hospitality to strangers. By walking side by side and shoulder to shoulder with others, the goal of the trail, the dream of its founders, is to bring people of all nations and backgrounds together.

The Masar Ibrahim that we experienced in Palestine did not fail to make this dream a reality. At every organized homestay and guesthouse, or in rustic Bedouin camps, we were welcomed as family. We laughed, we talked, we played games, we heard stories about occupation and injustice, and we heard the pleas and prayers for peace. Over tea and coffee and fabulous food we were asked to go back to our homes and share their stories. By offering their delicious food, and heaps of it, they showed how much they appreciated our company, our presence and our willingness to engage. Even under many restrictions and the pressure of the occupation, the Palestinian people are resilient, pursuing higher education and trying to find ways of nonviolent resistance. They will not give up hope for change. It may not happen in this generation, but then, hopefully, in the next one. They will continue to plan and work, to love and marry and have children, to build homes and friendships; and they will continue to vision for peace and equality.

William Ury who developed the vision of the path talks about it helping to change the world view of Palestine from one of hostility to hospitality, and from turning terrorism to tourism. "The opposite of terrorism is to take in innocent strangers and treat them as friends, to welcome them into your home and to show and create an understanding of respect and love." That is exactly what we experienced. Palestine is a country that needs to be seen not only as a place of conflict, but as a land of great beauty with a deep richness to its people and culture, a country that is resilient and hopeful even in the midst of great oppression. It is a country that must be experienced on the ground, among its families and its traditions, not from biased media stories and false impressions. Go...go and see and hear and experience. You will never regret it.

## Engaging Each Other Workshop—A Quick Overview

by Pastor Bob Boehr

On April 27, we held a workshop at Emmanuel around why we continue to find ways to disagree with each other in the church. Many tensions, disagreements, and conflicts arise when our core values are ignored, diminished or rejected by others elevating their own.

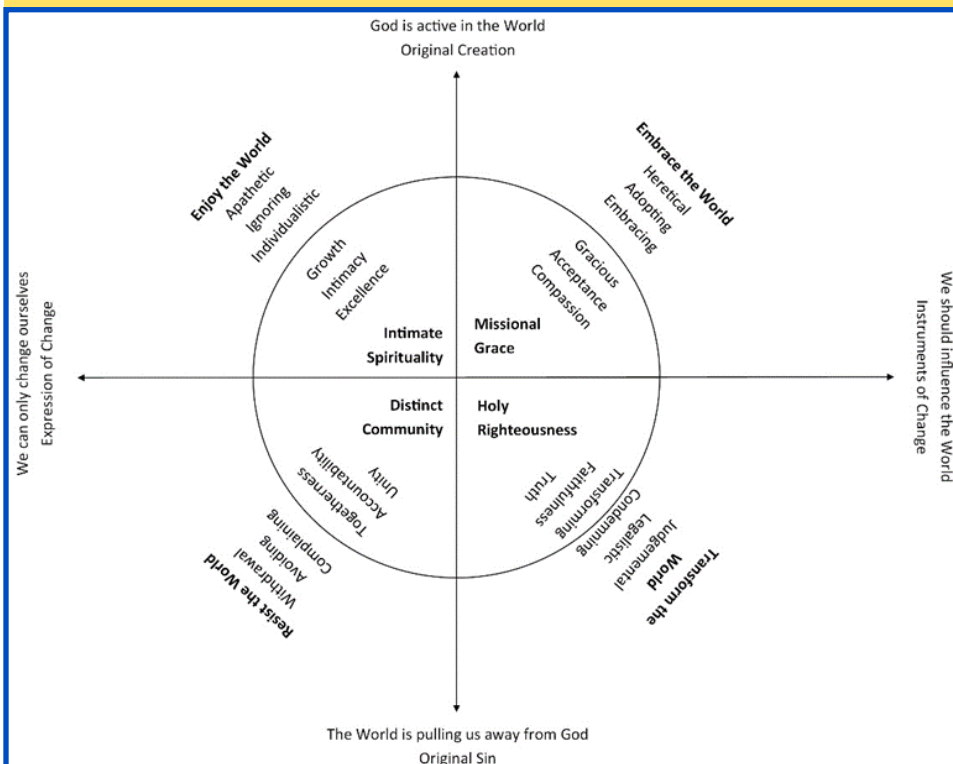
Some of the greatest conflicts in the church today are centered around our view of the world outside the church and our role in interacting with it. Do we see the world primarily as opposed to God or do we see God even in a world who does not believe in Him? Do we see our part to play in this world to be the instruments of change or are we never going to change the world and need to lead by example as the expression of change the world needs to become?

These polarities create quadrants where different sets of values are found. These values can be segmented into categories of righteousness, grace, spirituality or community. Each category has several positive values associated with them, but also has detriments if taken to extremes.

(This can be viewed in model included here). When these values become core to our understanding of God but are not valued equally with others in the congregation, tensions can arise, and conflict seems inevitable. This is only a part of the complexity within the church as we interact with each other.

As we enter some very intentional times of transition within the coming months, we are seeking to recognize where Emmanuel is currently and where we want to be. This identity will help define our purpose, our mission and our vision moving forward.

We are looking to put together a transition workgroup to listen well to every individual in each quadrant, hoping to follow Jesus as the center of our faith, honoring Him in all the positive values and avoiding the things that draw us away from Him. If you are interested in being part of the Transition Workgroup, email Bob at [pastor@emmanuelmennonite.com](mailto:pastor@emmanuelmennonite.com).



# Living With Parkinson's Disease: Adaptations that Mark our Journey

By David and Betty Giesbrecht

*David and Betty were both secondary school teachers here in Abbotsford. They did numerous terms with Mennonite Central Committee, and David is also a former librarian for Columbia Bible College. The following is an edited version of the presentation they gave On March 17, 2019 in our Adult Sunday School class that they were kind enough to share for publication in the newsletter. It details their journey dealing with Betty's Parkinson's disease and the adaptations they had to make:*

## Personal, Every Day Adaptations:

Since our journey with Parkinsonism coincided with traveling on the aging express, we soon began negotiating every-day adaptations, never quite certain what the source of these changes might be. One very consequential change has meant finding our comfort in a much smaller living space, and discovering the liberty of living more with less. In 2013 we sold the memory-filled house we had lived in for 25 years and settled into a condominium half the size. We left the garden we loved, a large sewing room and garage, in exchange for closer neighbours and new hobbies.

Living with Parkinsonism has taught us to calibrate new meaning to old words. For instance, going out for date at 79 has a completely different buzz about it than it did at 29. Encroaching limitations notwithstanding, we choose to continue sharing the intrinsic joy of company and conversation, often with our children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and others that have become like family.

Non-negotiable is the embrace of new schedules that call for more afternoon naps and a cell phone alarm which regularly reminds me when Betty's next dose of Sinemet is due. To which, recently, our neurologist added a "patch," that must be changed every 24 hours. My daily schedule now significantly revolves about managing Betty's medications. We are learning that shorter days and longer nights quite match our present needs for work and rest. Now our frequent schedule of news at 8:00 easily morphs to snooze by 9:00. Evening activities we used to enjoy have been rescheduled into daytime outings.

As all persons living with Parkinsonism become aware of, there is an important link between PD and diet. Granular foods like rice and stringy meats have become compromising for Betty's swallowing. Increasingly meal preparation now involves foods moist in content and nutrient-dense. Despite these changes, we still enjoy discovering new dishes from the variety of international restaurants in our neighbourhood, in addition to enjoying jars of soup and fresh baking from neighbours who have become an important part of the support network.

## Adaptations That Reach Deep into our Way of doing things:

As we have discovered, it is not uncommon for Parkinsonians to experience weakening voice muscles. For us the consequence is that as Betty's words become less audible, my hearing must become more acute. Another major adaptation, especially for Betty has been loss of mobility, confining her to a wheelchair. I have observed at close range that it takes a sturdy, mature disposition to ensure that mobility reduction does not imperil personal confidence. Mobility reduction --- such an obtuse turn of phrase that so easily masks its consequences. We certainly travel less, and have allowed our passports to lapse, a major decision in our journey. We simply choose not to risk crossing international borders, health insurance policies notwithstanding. In legal parlance, the term "pre-existing conditions" is quite sufficient for us to redefine the meaning of adventure. Far-reaching have been the adaptations in the way we manage necessary domestic duties in our home. Over time as Betty's hand-eye coordination has deteriorated and her energy diminished, duties we happily shared in our marriage such as shopping, food preparation and laundry, have now become the responsibility of her caregivers. Her favourite hobbies like sewing and trying new recipes has been replaced with learning what she can about current PD research, and increased energy devoted to basic activities of daily living.

Operatic performances thrive on solo work. By contrast, living with Parkinsonism prizes networking. Betty and I feel indebted to Parkinson Society BC for emphasizing the importance of team building, which for us includes not only medical specialists but also therapists, a nutritionist, several ladies who assist Betty with her daily routines, a once-a-week day visit to an adult daycare center which rewards Betty with new companions, exercise routines and hobbies. And importantly, our team includes a most appreciated group of family and friends whose ongoing encouragement is sustaining for us.

## Social Adaptations:

While Betty and I thoroughly enjoyed community volunteering with several local history groups, our faith community, supporting newcomers to Canada, our children's sports and music interest, the word "Committee" is no longer in our working vocabulary. Now we are discovering joy in letting go of responsibilities, while encouraging the next generation to pick up the baton. Not unwelcomed at this stage is the shrinking circle of our social contacts, commensurate with our diminishing energies. Large group events, concerts or community lectures which have been central to our interests, we have quite contentedly replaced with more intimate times, often over a supper with a few friends at our home, or in a local restaurant.

## Some Continuities, adaptations notwithstanding:

While changes inexorably continue to shape our journey, some aspirations remain unaltered. We continue to work at maintaining vitality in our marriage, now 55 years in the making. What a rich journey this has been.

It is our continuing desire to remain mentally alert and spiritually alive. Shakespeare certainly had it right that valiant souls die only once. For us a core of close friends is a safe place to vent our pains and consolidate our gains. Having lived and worked internationally for many years, we value cross-cultural friendships, and seek to allow space for new relationships, presently including a recently arrived Syrian family. Getting to know this family has helped us understand the calamity of distant international conflict, just as living with PD has helped us understand more of the complex character of this disease and those who journey with it.

The bottom line for us is that we strive to remain alive to that and those who inspire healthy perspectives. These friends include the members of our local Parkinson's Support Group, from whom we continue to draw inspiration by the heroic examples they set before us.



## NOW OPEN at the KARITON ART GALLERY:

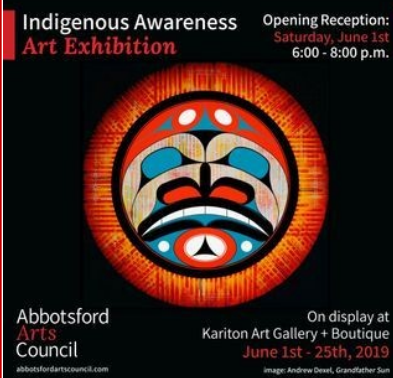
**JUNE 1-25: Indigenous Awareness Art Exhibition.** The Abbotsford Arts Council is honored to present the Indigenous Awareness Art Exhibition, an opportunity for the community to learn about Indigenous Arts, Culture, History, and

Traditions. This exhibition was curated in collaboration with Cedar, Sage & Sweetgrass: Indigenous Arts Group.

Opening reception: Saturday, June 1, 6-8pm.

Kariton Art Gallery is located at 2387 Ware St., Abbotsford, BC.

Image: *Grandfather Sun* - Andrew Drexel



## THEATRE CORNER

### THE CAKE

*Where?* Pacific Theatre  
*When?* May 17-June 8. Wed-Sat. @ 8pm with 2pm Sat. matinees.

*Synopsis:* Della believes that the secret to a good cake and a good life is simple: just follow the rules. When her best friend's daughter asks her to make her wedding cake, she is overjoyed... until she learns that there will be not one bride, but two. Suddenly, Della is working without a recipe as her previously-unquestioned beliefs and emotions come into sharp conflict.



### MATILDA: THE MUSICAL

*Where?* Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, 2750 Granville St.  
*When?* May 16-July 14. Tues-Sun. 7:30/8pm with 1:30/2pm matinees on Wed. & Sat.

*Synopsis:* Armed with an outsize wit and a vivid imagination, precocious Matilda takes a stand to change her destiny. Even cruel parents and a hardened headmistress can't get in her way. From the wonderfully subversive imagination of Roald Dahl, this fun family musical will bring out the child in everyone.



### BARD ON THE BEACH 2019

*Where?* Vanier Park, Vancouver  
*When?* June 5-Sept. 21. See [bar-donthebeach.org](http://bar-donthebeach.org) for times.

*Featuring:*

- **THE TAMING OF THE SHREW** and **SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE** throughout the summer on the BMO Mainstage; **ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL** from June 26-Aug. 11 and **CORIOLANUS** from Aug. 21-Sept. 15 on the Howard Family Stage.



## FOTO Photo by Peter Bergen FEATURE



A FILM BY DEBRA KELLNER AND FRANK GIUSTRA



WORLD REFUGEE DAY

JUNE 20, 2019

## INSIDE MY HEART

*Intimately powerful, heartbreaking... a masterful documentary*

MATSQUI CENTENNIAL AUDITORIUM, ABBOTSFORD  
7:00PM THURSDAY JUNE 20, 2019

TICKETS \$5.50 VIA EVENTBRITE



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[www.inasmuch.ca](http://www.inasmuch.ca)

## YOUTH UNLIMITED UPDATE — with Greg Sawatzky



This week, on May 29th, our sweet little **Maximilian turns 4**. Max is an amazing kid, with a strong personality. He loves people and is more outgoing than Karmen and I put together. Everyone in our apartment building knows Max! It's funny when someone Karmen and I don't recognize comes up and says "Hi, Max." Max has an amazing vocabulary, just the other day, he used the words 'apparently' and 'currently' in conversation. Max loves reading, singing and drumming and might just be destined to be a performer. We are so proud of our son! When I started with Youth Unlimited in November of 2014, Karmen was about a third of the way through her pregnancy with Max. **I have been on this journey with this amazing organization for about 4 and a half years.** It is crazy to think about how fast time flies!

**Thank you for the role that each of you plays in this ministry.** I could not do what I do without the faithful prayers, encouragement and financial support of so many of you! Sometimes people ask how the fundraising side of ministry is going. I can honestly say I have been so blessed over and over again by the generosity of family and friends. Fundraising for our salary is an ongoing process and people start and stop giving for a variety of reasons. The fundraising work is never done, but God is faithful. My goal this year is to find 10 more people who could give \$50 a month towards my work with South Asian youth in Abbotsford. **I would be honored and humbled if you would consider praying and discerning if you might be able to begin or increase in partnering with me in this ministry.** Just last week one of the teachers at Eugene Reimer Middle School said to me, "You are such a part of this school!" I love being able to support and care for youth, families and schools in our community just by showing up and being present with the young people!

There has been a lot going on this past month. I went out to Boston Pizza with a group of high school boys and enjoyed their exciting conversations around the new Avengers movie and getting their learner's license this year (a little scary). I brought youth to each of the first 2 CEBL (Canada Elite Basketball League) home games in Abbotsford to cheer on the Fraser Valley Bandits. There is a lot of hype around this new league and the chance for Abbotsford to have a professional basketball team. I hiked the Abby Grind along with a large group of Eugene Reimer youth during a special Friday outing with the school. It is always fun connecting with youth out in nature! There are some grade 6 kids that we have started a club with on Mondays. Our intention was to connect with this group because we know the older siblings of several of the youth and saw it as a way to connect with their families more. The youth are very enthusiastic and competitive which makes for some fun basketball games after school.



*Fraser Valley Bandits Home Opener*

### Prayer Requests

-Praise God for a great Burger Bash event on May 4th!

The 3 youth that shared did an amazing job!

-Pray for our West Abby team that it would continue to grow, both in numbers and in passion for the youth and families we serve.

-Pray for a strong finish to the school year! This is a busy month. Some things I will be doing include chaperoning a school dance, helping with school play days, attending a coaches banquet, going to Playland with a class, having an after school club ice-cream wind up, running a gym night and participating in our Abbotsford staff retreat, our annual YU Golf tournament and a full Greater Vancouver staff team day of prayer.

-Pray for plans and preparations for a meaningful summer with the youth we serve. June is an important month as we promote summer events and connect with youth and families who might be interested in participating.

### Donations for Greg can be made by:

**Mail** Youth Unlimited - Greg Sawatzky

2760 Emerson Ave. Abbotsford, BC V2T 3J6

**Email** ([finance@youthunlimited.com](mailto:finance@youthunlimited.com))

**Online** ([www.youthunlimited.com/donate](http://www.youthunlimited.com/donate) or [click here](#))



# What's Happening...

## AT EMMANUEL

- **Monday, June 3, 7pm – Engaging Each Other Workshop** in the banquet room. In case you missed the first run-through of the workshop held here on April 27, or if you simply want to experience it again, Pastor Bob will be hosting it two more times for Emmanuel on **June 3 and June 17**. *This workshop seeks to create a framework to help understand some underlying reasons why we disagree with each other with the hope that we can use this framework to engage each other in healthy conversations around sometimes controversial issues.*
- **Tuesday, June 4, 1:30-7:45pm – Blood Donor Clinic at Emmanuel in the gym!** Book now at [www.Blood.ca](http://www.Blood.ca) or call 888-2-DONATE. Take our eligibility quiz to ensure you can donate: <https://blood.ca/en/blood/eligibility-quiz>.
- **Thursday, June 13, 7:00pm – Deacon meeting** in the library.
- **Monday, June 17, 7pm – Engaging Each Other Workshop** in the banquet room. See the June 3 entry above for more info.
- **Sunday, June 23, 11:30am – Church BBQ!** In place of the Father's Day Breakfast, MPJ and the Education Committee will be joining together to host a barbeque to celebrate the Sunday School year and fundraise for those from our church who will be heading to Camp Squeah as campers and workers! More details to come.
- **Tuesday, June 25, 7:00pm – Council meeting** in the library.
- **August 19-24, 6-8pm: Vacation Bible School** here at Emmanuel! More details to come!!

## AROUND TOWN

- **Tuesday, June 4, 11:30am – Lunch at Garden Park Tower** for all who would enjoy a time of fellowship with others from Emmanuel Mennonite. If you have any questions, contact Laura Loewen.
- **June 28 – July 1: Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2019: "Igniting the Imagination of the Church."** Taking place at the Quality Hotel and Conference Center in Abbotsford, BC:
  - Friday** – Leaders Gathering from 9am-5pm. Crokinole tournament in the evening from 6-9pm.
  - Saturday** – Annual General Meeting from 9am-12pm. Worship, workshops, and installation of Executive Minister Doug Klassen from 2-5pm. More workshops from 7:15-9pm. Fellowship, LGBTQ+, Family, Friends Gathering at 9pm.
  - Sunday** – Gathering Worship at 9am. Excursions from 1-5pm. Mennonite Women Canada Lunch and Annual Meeting at 12pm. Worship from 7:15-9pm. Coffee House hosted by Columbia Bible College at 9pm.
  - Monday** – Worship from 9am-12pm.

Check out <http://ignitegathering2019.ca/schedule/> for a more detailed schedule and a list of all the workshops and excursions being offered. **Register for what parts of the weekend you'd like to attend here:** <http://ignitegathering2019.ca/registration/>  
*\*Emmanuel will not be hosting a service on Sunday, June 30. Instead, we invite you to join us and the rest of the conference for the Gathering worship service at 9am at the Quality Hotel. Register for just the service for FREE at the link above.*



## 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

By Irmgard Thiessen

One hundred years....wow! Erwin Cornelsen (my uncle) was able to celebrate 100 years with family and friends last Sunday. He was born on May 28, 1919 in a place called "Schweingrube" West Prussia...my father's oldest brother. He emigrated to Canada in 1957 with his amazing wife, Hildur, and four young boys. The fifth was born in Canada.

On Sunday May 26, we as the Cornelsen family of approximately 90 people, celebrated 100 years of God's grace and mercy to Erwin. This celebration took place at the Mennonite Museum. Our family has always been interested in the Mennonite cultural, historical and faith ties, so this was a great place to be in community.

The song "Gott ist die Liebe" we all learned as children and still sing whenever we get together as we did now. It tells of God's love and graciousness in our lives!

A loving message presented by Ingrid Schultz helped us remember our reason for the celebration. Ingrid had also been a member at Sherbrooke Mennonite Church, of which Erwin was the first pastor. Family members from Germany, Edmonton, Toronto and Winnipeg were also present and added to the spirit of unity. Many presented poems and stories about Erwin's life, his family and his love of the church. Of course food is always a great way to create connections or catch up with family we haven't seen for awhile. A special cake with Erwin's face etched in the icing was a humorous reminder of the special person we were celebrating! Thank you!

