

- **BMC Reopening Update** – Please wear face masks, maintain distancing when seated or in the foyer, limit visiting in the foyer, spaces to visit following worship include the foyer, gym, library, sanctuary, and outside. BMC Covid-19 Safety Protocols <https://www.breslaumc.ca/about-us/covid-19-safety-protocols>
- **Please remember** when coming to BMC during the week, sign the sheet on the table in the foyer for Covid contact tracing and lock the doors when leaving. Volunteers are needed to open and close the Church
- **BMC Advent Christmas songs** recorded in 2020 for worship are available to hear (and see) on our church web site Login Page. If you have questions about the Login page, contact the church office.
- **BMC past worship services online** are up-to-date and available in the Login section of the BMC website - BMC Worship Video Archives [www.breslaumc.ca](http://www.breslaumc.ca)

### Beyond the Congregation

**Mennonite Central Committee 2021 Christmas giving guide** available – a few copies at BMC and also <https://mcccanada.ca/christmas#!>

- **Conrad Grebel University College: What would it be like to live in a museum?** Check out “Life Upstairs” a digital exhibit (Chris Steingart’s great web project!) of the **Brubacher House museum**. [www.lifeupstairs.ca](http://www.lifeupstairs.ca) Jillian Burkhardt and Chris Steingart lived at Brubacher House from 2004-2006.

- **The Inter-Mennonite Children’s Choir** is blessed to be having in-person rehearsals once again while following Covid guidelines. We are inviting grade one to High School students to join for the January-May 2022 season.

Registration deadline is December 20 <https://forms.gle/B9KrQUT6rJEMBHjGA>

- **Menno Singers is back!** Join artistic director Brandon Leis and choir for an online watch party on Sunday, December 19 at 3:00 pm as we share ‘Christmas Lessons and Carols’, go to [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com)

- The **Coldest Night of the Year Elmira** walk is taking place on Sat Feb 26 We will be offering an in-person (full outdoor) walk this year with the option to walk virtually. For more information or to sign up, visit:

<https://cnoy.org/location/elmira>

### Stewardship & Finance

As of December 12, our offering / income total stands at \$225,148, and our revised expense forecast is \$275,057.

Between now and Dec 31, we will require \$ 49,909 in offering donations to cover our congregation-approved expenses for the year.

Thank you for your generous contributions, as we strive to reach our year end goal.

Donations can be mailed/delivered to the church office, delivered electronically using E-transfer (to [donations@breslaumc.ca](mailto:donations@breslaumc.ca) ) or via monthly AFT donation. To set up monthly AFT, please contact Sharon Brown at 519-239-7741 or [sharondbrown@rogers.com](mailto:sharondbrown@rogers.com)

Offering plates, for use with Sunday worship, are in the foyer.



## BRESLAU MENNONITE CHURCH

**FOURTH ADVENT Sunday December 19, 2021**  
**Dare to imagine God’s face!**

### GATHERING AND PRAISING GOD

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

**Gathering Prayer**

**Hymns**

Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child #19 STS

My Soul Proclaims with Wonder #222 VT

**Advent Candle Lighting**

Madeline, Jackson, Amy & Daryl Good

**Advent Candle Lighting Hymn**

He Came Down #239 VT

### HEARING GOD’S WORD

**Talking About Service**

Share the Warmth

**Hymn**

Angels We Have Heard on High #249 VT

**Children’s Story**

Alex Charette

**Advent Theme Hymn**

Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets #276 VT

**Scripture**

Luke 1:39-55

**Sermon**

Dare to Imagine God’s Love

Eleanor Epp-Stobbe

**Hymn**

The virgin Mary had a baby boy #202 HWB

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

**Praying Together**

**Hymn**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing #247 VT

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*VT - Voices Together*

*HWB - Hymnal: A Worship Book*

*STS - Sing the Story*

We acknowledge with gratitude the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishnawbe, and Neutral peoples upon our church stands. We seek a new relationship with Indigenous peoples, one based in honour and deep respect.

Worship Leader Sharla Braun  
 Accompanists Lynette Gossen, Janet Auger, Randy Brown,  
 Linden Gossen, Carolyn Strathdee, Chanel Cressman,  
 Allison Dyjach, Chris Derstine, Janice Klassen, Jeremy Roth,  
 Eric Hiebert Rempel, Karl Braun, Neil Snyder, Stacey VanderMeer,  
 Jillian Burkhardt, Chris Steingart, Justin Martin, Matt Rappolt  
 Scripture Reader Ella Strathdee  
 Usher Sharon Nichols  
 Greeter Fern Balzer  
 Sound & Tech Support Matt & Owen VanderMeer, Doris Gingerich

### Joys and Concerns

- Pray for **John Bullock** and **Nancy Dickieson**, as **John** begins treatment for cancer of the esophagus.
- Pray for **Lynne Hoffman**, as **Lynne** rests at home with a broken elbow/arm. Lynne's arm is in a cast, restricting movement in her dominant arm.
- **Luanna Martin** wishes to express her appreciation and thanks to those who made donations to the BMC Memorial Fund in recognition of her late husband Albert Martin.
- **A prayer for Christmas:** *Far from home and close to home, we welcome the birth of the Christ child. Hope, peace, joy, and love are found in a manger and throughout the world. Amen.*

### Calendar of Coming Events

- Sun Dec 19 9:45am** ADVENT 4 Dare to imagine God's face!  
 Micah 5:2-5; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55  
 Pastor Eleanor preaching
- Tues Dec 21 1-3pm** Creative Hands meeting at Eleanor Snyder McKees home for a Christmas Tea is cancelled
- Fri Dec 24 7:00pm** Christmas Eve Service,  
 in person with registration and online. See bulletin announcement  
 Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 98; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20
- Sun Dec 26 9:45am** Dare to imagine God's robe!  
 I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52  
 Amanda Snyder preaching

### Birthdays

Dec 19 Fern Balzer Dec 19 Eleanor Epp-Stobbe Dec 19 Floyd Gingerich  
 Dec 23 Philip Martin Dec 25 Carol Nussli

### Announcements

- On behalf of Church Council, I am pleased to announce that **Doris Gingerich** is the successful candidate for the **BMC Administrative Assistant** position. Please join me in wishing Doris well and offering your support as she takes on this role. I'd also like to thank Lily Hiebert-Rempel and Mike Strathdee for their collaboration in the hiring process. -- Mark Epp, Chair
- **BMC Christmas Eve Dec 24** Worship is at 7:00pm in person, with registration beginning Dec 20, and capacity of 75. This will be a reflective service of hearing carols and scripture readings, BMC Christmas Eve offering supports the House

of Friendship. BMC Christmas Eve worship will also be online Dec 24 at approximately 7:00pm.

- At the congregational meeting on October 27 a decision was made to approve the Special Discernment Committees recommendation for the distribution of land funds. As a result of this decision a **Short-term Missions Harvest Fund** with an amount of \$225,000 will be disbursed as soon as decision process is completed. Proposals are to be submitted to the Special Discernment Committee by January 31st, 2022. All BMCers are invited to submit proposals using the application form available in the Land Use Funds area of the BMC website. [www.breslaumc.ca](http://www.breslaumc.ca) For more information, please contact any member of the Special Discernment Committee: Byron Good (chair), Scott Bruinsma, Ted Rowe, Brent Schmidt, Carolyn Snider.
- BRRRRR! IT'S COLD OUT! **Share the Warmth fundraiser** is occurring during December and January. The **BMC Missions Committee** is accepting donations of touques, mittens, gloves and socks for children, youth and adults. These items need to be new. Gently used children's snow pants can be donated. If you would like to donate cash that is appreciated too. These items will be donated to oneROOF (youth outreach program), House of Friendship, and Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region. Items can be placed on the display in the foyer or under the Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary.
- **Thank you to all those who completed the BMC Reopening Working Group survey in November.** The survey results were presented and discussed at Church Council. Please read a summary of the survey results and next steps on the BMC website in the login section at: [www.breslaumc.ca](http://www.breslaumc.ca)
- **Children's Ministry Team** would like to thank all the families for participating in virtual Sunday School during Advent. It was so much fun being able to reconnect and see each other's faces again. Don't forget to open your final package and send pictures to Amanda. Watch your email for a quick survey to let us know what you enjoyed and what could be improved.
- **A procedure for initiating a church closure in case of inclement weather:** a representative from church council and pastor will decide by 7:30 am; an email to BMCers will be sent no later than 8 am; the message on the church answering machine and church website will mention the closure.
- **Pastor Eleanor** will take vacation Dec 26-31. In case of a care need, please contact a BMC Elder.

### Ministers: All Persons in the Congregation

226 Woolwich Street South, Breslau ON N0B 1M0  
 519-648-2501 [www.breslaumc.ca](http://www.breslaumc.ca)

Pastor Eleanor Epp-Stobbe [eleanor@breslaumc.ca](mailto:eleanor@breslaumc.ca)

Children, Youth & Young Adult Coordinator Amanda Snyder

[amanda@breslaumc.ca](mailto:amanda@breslaumc.ca)

Administrative Assistant Doris Gingerich [office@breslaumc.ca](mailto:office@breslaumc.ca)

BMC phone & email are regularly checked.

Elders	Janet Auger	Nick Betik	Pauline Gingrich
	Pat Klassen	Heather McGill	Jeremy Roth