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December 2016

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# Melrose Muse

86 Homewood Avenue, Hamilton

[www.melroseunited.ca](http://www.melroseunited.ca) [www.facebook.com/melroseunited](http://www.facebook.com/melroseunited)

905.522.1323 [melrose@melroseunited.ca](mailto:melrose@melroseunited.ca)

Instagram: @melroseuc Twitter: @melroseunited

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For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - [Isaiah 9:6](#) (ESV)

Please refer to [www.melroseunited.ca](http://www.melroseunited.ca)  
for this month's activity calendar.

## Upcoming Special Services at Melrose:

December 4 @ 7:30 pm – Melrose Candlelight  
Service

*A service led by our choir with readings, carols, and anthems.*

December 15 @ 7:30 pm – A light in the Dark  
Service

*A quiet service of hope for those who are grieving, sad, lonely or weary. This service is held in the Chapel.*

December 24 @ 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Family  
Service

*An all ages service to honour the impending birth of Christ*

December 24 @ 10:30 pm – Christmas Eve  
Communion

*A joyous but calm service to honour the impending birth of Christ including a full communion liturgy.*

## Christmas Day and New Year's Day:

Please note there will be no Sunday School December 25 or January 1. Activities for the children to play alone will be made available.

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## TGIF Updates:

There will be no TGIF in December. A note will be sent out early in the new year with the new schedule.



## Santa's Breakfast

Santa is coming!  
December 3 @ 9am  
\$10 per adult, \$7 per child 5-10 and \$3 per child under 5. All children attending will receive a gift from Santa. All people attending will enjoy a fabulous breakfast.

For tickets please talk to Michelle or Gwyn or call the church office.

## More Important News

### Thursday's are for fun!

Every Thursday evening plan to join us for an hour of fun play and music. We will have organized open gym time followed by music with our church's choir director. A snack will be provided at the start of the hour. All ages welcome however if under the age of 6 parental accompaniment is required. Please note that there is no club on Dec 1, Dec 29 or Jan 5.

### Preparing for Advent – What was it like for Mary and Joseph?

Each week throughout Advent we will be looking at the difficult journey Mary and Joseph went on to get to Bethlehem and to the birth of Jesus. We will be thinking about what it means to prepare for Christ's birth in our hearts and lives today.

#### *A devotional for your day:*

**Read: Luke 2: 6-18**

Christmas has taken on so many other things over the years. We have the story of Santa. We have the gift giving. These things aren't bad in themselves, as the gift giving started with the Wise Men. But it can take away from the real meaning of Christmas.

**What is Christmas all about? What happened that first Christmas? Why do we celebrate it?**

As we read here, Jesus, the Saviour of the world, was born. He came as a baby, then grew to be a man that gave His life for you and me, so we could live with Him forever when we die. We celebrate His birth because of our faith in Him, and His birth was the beginning of a life-changing event - the cross.

So let us celebrate Jesus birthday together, and remember why He came.

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The meaning of Christmas has always been Jesus,  
No other story will do,  
His birth is what we all celebrate,  
God's gift for me and you.

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## Upcoming Sunday School Lessons:

December 4 – Superheroes of the Bible – Esther

December 11 – Superheroes of the Bible – A boy with his lunch

December 18 – Superheroes of the Bible – Jesus

December 25 – No Sunday School

January 1 – No Sunday School

## Youth Connexion:

Dates for 2017:

Dates have not yet been set for 2017. An email will be sent in early January with all information.

Youth Connexion is a fun interdenominational youth group formed through a partnership of West Hamilton Churches and McMaster University. Open to youth in grades 5-8. Group runs from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

## Melrose Nursery:

**Please note that while there is not always regular coverage in the nursery caregivers are always welcome to access it during church programs.**