

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

January 3rd, 2016

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Kathy Rempel

Call to Worship

Joachim Dau

Worship in Song

Will Friesen, Jon Bradnam, Austin Penner & Rachael Peters

“Praise the one who breaks the darkness” STS #1

“Beautiful star of Bethlehem” STS #32

“Will you come and follow me” STS #39

Congregational Life & Announcements

Joachim Dau

Welcome New Member- Edeltraud Wiens

Pastor Rudy Dirks

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

“Blessings”

Proclamation

Children’s Moment

Katrina Metsa

“Amazing Grace” HWB #143

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:11, pew Bible p. #649

Lamentations 3:25-26, pew Bible p. #800

II Peter 3:8, pew Bible p. #1182

Willi Pankratz

“It’s About Time...”

Pastor Rudy Dirks

Sending

“Praise God from whom” HWB #118

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Andrew & Kristina Nickel

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“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community” expresses our desire to share our faith and love of Jesus Christ with all we meet. We welcome you and hope that your time with us will be enjoyable and enlightening. Families with children are invited to worship together with us in the service. For children 5 yrs old or younger who are not able to sit through the church service, there is a nursery downstairs, or a glassed-in room behind the sanctuary where you may sit with your baby and still follow the service. If you feel a sense of belonging, you are most welcome to be with us. Talk to us about how you can participate.  
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Live Streaming Privacy Notice – Our church services are live streamed over the internet, capturing the stage and up to the front half of the church in the picture that is transmitted. We encourage all ages to sit towards the front of the church to showcase our lively and active congregation! Thanks for your support.

JOYS & CONCERNS:

We warmly welcome Edeltraud Wiens into our congregation once again! On December 17th, her membership was transferred back with us from Bethany Mennonite Church. We praise God for leading her back into community with us and pray for his blessing on her as she joins our on-going fellowship in Christ!

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Parents of Sunday School Children: Please note there will be *NO Sunday School on January 3rd*.

Interactive sermons will resume on **January 10th**.

The German Worship Calendar for 2016 is available at the Welcome Centre. Please feel free to pick yourself up a copy.

All ladies are invited to join together for breakfast on **Thursday, January 7th** at Lawrenceille Restaurant at **9 am**. To sign-up for email reminders, contact Emily Fieguth at emily@lawyersniagara.com.

Have you been baptized? Beginning **January 10th**, baptism classes will be held on Sunday mornings at **10:00 am** in the boardroom. These classes will focus on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, and to prepare for baptism. The class is open to anyone who has made a commitment to follow Jesus, or who wishes to do so, and who wants to take the next step of obedience to Christ in baptism. If you are interested please call the office at 905-468-3313 or email office@redbrickchurch.ca

Annual Report Deadline: Monday, January 11th! All councils, committees, groups, and various ministries are invited to submit a report to be included in our church Annual Report. Please kindly prepare and submit this to the office no later than **Jan. 11th**. If you have questions or require further information, please contact April.

Attention Seniors! The next Seniors' Tea will be held on **January 15th at 10:30 am** at Pleasant Manor. This is open to all seniors- hope you can join!

Upcoming Junior Youth: Fallsview Indoor Waterpark!

Sunday, January 17th, 2pm - 6pm. Drop off and pick up at Fallsview.
\$25 per child. Hope to see you there!

Update # 10 from the Sponsorship & Settlement Committee: nothing new to report because we are still waiting for news about the family we have applied to sponsor. Please pray for them, and for peace in the Middle East.

Our 100 Huntley Street Interview is now available for viewing on their website: <http://www.100huntley.com/watch?videoID=327425>. Take a look under the Dec. 22nd broadcast to find our interview.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (January 4th – January 10th)

Tuesday: **9:00 am** Women in Service
 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday: **6:30 pm** Pioneer Club
 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting

Thursday: **8:00 pm** Choir Practice

Friday: **7:30 pm** Youth

Next Sunday, January 10th

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice

9:30 am Primary & Junior Singing

10:00 am German Worship Service

10:00 am Interactive Sermon

11:00 am Worship Service– Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks

Next week's Nursery Helpers: Eugene & Anna Kradko

For a complete listing of church events, please see our online calendar on our church website.

Offering of December 20th: \$21,806.15			
Budget	\$17,614.00	MCC General	\$590.00
Capital Fund	\$530.00	MCC Food	\$200.00
NUMC Refugee Sponsorship	\$990.00	MCC Christmas Gifts	\$320.00
Christian Witness	\$365.00	MCC Syrian Relief	\$100.00
Choir (Candle Light Service)	\$1,097.15		
Offering of December 25th: \$14,367.00			
Budget	\$9,537.00	Christian Witness	\$700.00
NUMC Refugee Sponsorship	\$520.00	MCC General	\$3,000.00
Deacon's Fund	\$500.00	MCC Christmas Gifts	\$110.00
Attendance December 25th: Joint Worship Service – 196			
Offering of December 27th: \$17,469.00			
Budget	\$15,853.50	MCC General	\$380.00
NUMC Refugee Sponsorship	\$590.00	MCC Food	\$100.00
Choir	\$100.00	MCC Christmas Gifts	\$120.00
Christian Witness	\$105.50	MCC Syrian Relief	\$100.00
		Menn. Cntr Ukraine	\$120.00
Attendance December 27th: German Worship – 75 ; Worship Service – 154			

YOUTH:

Come for a Campus Visit Day at Redeemer. Tour the campus, sit in on classes, and experience our community. You'll also learn about our academic programs, the application process, and financing your education. The next scheduled days are February 3 and 26, but you are welcome to drop by at any time. For more information, contact our Campus Visit Coordinators by email (campusvisit@redeemer.ca) or by phone at 905-648-2139 x4417.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

Christian Benefit Thrift Shop – Special Household Goods Pickup Service

For a limited time, we are offering pick up of household goods and clothing (within St. Catharines) in addition to our regular furniture pickups. Items must be boxed or bagged and ready for pickup. Please call 905-682-8944 to schedule a time. Service available Thursdays, January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA:

The concluding work of Mennonite Church Canada's Future Directions Task Force can be found at www.commonword.ca/go/469. Please review these important documents about the future of our national and area church system prior to your respective Area Church Annual Gatherings in 2016, and our national church Assembly 2016 in July. Group and individual responses can also be sent to wmetzger@mennonitechurch.ca.

Invitation to Visual Artists for a Juried Art Exhibition at Assembly 2016 on the theme of God~Faith~People. For more information, please see home.mennonitechurch.ca/saskatoon2016.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

MENNONITE BURIAL SOCIETY The Annual General Meeting of the Mennonite Burial Society will be held on **Saturday, January 9 at 2 pm** in the Pleasant Manor Oakview Chapel in Virgil. Board and committee positions are available. For further information, please contact Barry Boese at 905-228-1850 or email info@mennoniteburialsociety.com.

Fathers & Kids Retreat: January 15-17 at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp: Skating on the lake, building snowmen and igloos in the field, following animal tracks through the woods, roasting smores over the campfire, playing board games by the fire in the dining hall and just being at camp is loads of fun, but the best part is doing it with dad! For more information and to register visit www.slmc.ca/retreats or call 519-422-3200. Please note "father" can be defined as any male role model or mentor.

The First Mennonite Church invites you to join us **Jan. 16th** for a musical event and fundraiser for Syrian refugees starring the Deacons of Jazz. People are looking for a chance to help with the Syrian crisis, so bring a friend to enjoy some great desserts and coffee, and an opportunity to support a sponsored family. Event begins at 7:00pm at 3557 Rittenhouse Rd in Vineland, ON. Admission is free!

The author of several poetry collections, Poet Robyn Sarah will do a reading of her work at Redeemer University College (Room 210) on **January 21** from 4:30 p.m-5:30 p.m. In addition to a reading, Sarah will sign books and interact in a question-and-answer session.

EVANA Network is a ministry community of pastors and churches with a heart to see lives transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Its common ground is in Anabaptist and Mennonite theology and its common vision is to live out Jesus' Great Commission to make and grow disciples. To find out more about EVANA, you can visit evananetwork.org. They are inviting interested individuals to attend Maple View Mennonite Church (Wellesley, Ontario) on **January 22-23** to learn about the Evangelical Anabaptist (EVANA) Network. To register for the weekend, please phone [519-656-2326](tel:519-656-2326) or visit <https://evana.wildapricot.org/event-2117926>. The cost is about \$15.00.

The Redeemer University College Theatre Arts Department presents Cotton Patch Gospel January 26-30. Using the Gospels of Matthew and John, Cotton Patch Gospel re-imagines the story of Christ's life in a small town in Georgia. For tickets, call Redeemer's Box Office at 905-648-2139 ext. 4211, or visit TicketWindow.ca. Also available are a Lunch & Theatre package on Tuesday, January 26, and a Dinner & Theatre package on Saturday, January 30.

Dr. Janneken Smucker is the 2016 speaker for the Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist Mennonite Studies at Conrad Grebel University College. On **Thursday, February 4 at 6:30pm**, she will speak at a special fundraising dinner to support the Mennonite Archives of Ontario and Mennonite Studies at Grebel. Exploring the diverse output of Amish quilt makers, she will focus on the topic of "Abstract Art or Country Craft: The Quilts of the Amish." Tickets are \$75 (\$45 Charitable receipt). Contact Alison Enns (519) 885-0220 x 24217 or aenns@uwaterloo.ca

On Friday, February 5 at 7:00pm, in the Grebel Great Hall, Smucker will give the Bechtel Lecture on the topic of "Unexpected Intersections: Amish, Mennonite, and Hmong Textiles and the Question of Authenticity" In this free public lecture, Smucker will discuss how the distinct needlework traditions of Amish/Mennonite and Hmong needleworkers entered the consumer marketplace and how they unexpectedly intersected, resulting in both cultural tensions and expressive adaptations. grebel.ca/bechtel

Registration is now open for the Canadian School of Peacebuilding, June 13-17 & 20-24. Go to csop.cmu.ca or e-mail csop@cmu.ca for more information and to apply for your choice of five-day courses on topics such as indigenous peacebuilding, peace skills, arts and peacebuilding, trauma healing, community development, peacemaking circles, and biblical hope and healing.

NUMC Services & Sermons are available online.

Individual Sermons or Sermon Series are available for purchase, formatted on CD or DVD. Please place your order through the church office.

If you have missed a sermon and wish to go back and review it, all of these are available to you on our church website. If you require assistance with this, please contact April in the office.