

*“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”*

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.**

**Gathering**

Esther Tiedtke

**Call to Worship**

Erv Willms

**Worship in Song**

Praise & Worship

“Holy Is Our God”

“New Hallelujah”

“10,000 Reasons”

**Congregational Life & Announcements**

Erv Willms

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

MCC Video Clip

**Proclamation**

Children’s Moment

Jon Bradnam

“Faithful One”

Praise & Worship

Scripture: John 1:1-18, pew Bible p. 1027

Debbie Fast

“When God Moves In”

Pastor Rudy Dirks

**Sending**

“Praise, I will praise you Lord” HWB #76

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Eugene & Anna Kradko

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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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**German Worship Service – 10:00 am**

**Andachtsleiter: Wilhelm Harder – Grusswort: Markus 1:1-3**

Orgelspiel: Marlene Borzychowski

Chorlied

Opfergaben Fokus: Christian Witness

Lied: GB #68 " Jesu, grosser Wunderstern"

Chorlied

**Schriftwort: Mat 2:13-23**

**Botschaft: “Ein Neuer Anfang” – Joachim Dau**

Lied: GB #20 " Wenn ich, o Schöpfer deineMacht" (vs 1 & 4)

**JOYS & CONCERNS:**

**Heartfelt congratulations are extended to Kevin & Dawn Schmidt** on their recent nuptials. They were married here in our church last Sunday afternoon. May God continue to lead you both through many joyous years together!

**The roses at the front of the church** have been placed in loving memory of Eleonore Suckau, who was called to meet with her Lord and Saviour on January 8, 2015. Eleonore is lovingly remembered and dearly missed by Ruth, Dietrich, Mark & Julia Bartel as well as her dear friends with whom she shared her life.

**Please pray for Anneliese Fieguth** and her family as they adjust to her new living arrangements. This is a difficult time for them and they appreciate the prayer support of their church family through this transition.

**WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

**Have you been baptized?** Beginning **today, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto:office@redbrickchurch.ca)

**Annual Report Deadline: Tomorrow- Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>!** 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. 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you have questions or require further information, please contact April.

**Attention Seniors!** The next Seniors' Tea will be held on **Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 2pm - 6pm.** Drop off and pick up at Fallsview.  
 \$25 per child. Hope to see you there!

**FOB Recall:** If anyone has a church FOB who no longer needs it, please kindly consider returning it to the church office. We have handed out all of the ones that we have and would like to be able to have some to make available to individuals in church roles that would benefit from this. A reminder to everyone- if you do require access to the church outside of regular operating hours, you may contact the church office one business day prior to when you require access and arrangements will be made to unlock the doors for you.

**Our 100 Huntley Street Interview** is available for viewing on their website: <http://www.100huntley.com/watch?videoID=327425>. Look for the Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> broadcast. Copies can also be purchased through the church office.

**Sponsorship update 11:** The Syrian family we offered to sponsor through MCC has now been interviewed and is undergoing criminality and security checks. With the delay in the government resettlement program some of the excitement around it may have faded away, but we will need fresh enthusiasm and energy when this particular family arrives in our community. In terms of volunteers, we will be looking for drivers and English tutors, so please talk to me or email [numcsponsors@gmail.com](mailto:numcsponsors@gmail.com) if we can count on you. There will be some insurance paperwork and background checks involved. Thanks, Greta

**Our dedicated Church Librarians are performing inventory**, so please take this opportunity to check your bookshelves at home for any books that need to be returned to us! We are so blessed by the committed work of the library committee in maintaining such a wonderfully organized and well-stocked resource for our church family! Thank-you!!

**We give thanks for all the givings this year.** Approx. \$ 534,000 was received with \$ 413,400 to the budget, \$17,265 to the capital fund, \$18,575 to the Refugee Sponsorship Fund and \$ 84,800 to other areas such as Christian Witness, etc. This means that our budget of \$422,600 was not met in 2015, but the shortfall will be met through our budget reserve.

<b>Offering of January 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$10,029.00</b>			
Budget	\$8,5340.00	MCC General	\$265.00
Capital Fund	\$120.00	MCC Food	\$40.00
Christian Witness	\$1,070.00		
<b>Attendance January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Worship Service – 211</b>			

<b>THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (January 11<sup>th</sup> – January 17<sup>th</sup>)</b>	
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Annual Report Deadline</b> 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9:00 am Women in Service
<b>Wednesday:</b>	6:30 pm Pioneer Club 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Auditing Committee Meeting
<b>Thursday:</b>	8:00 pm Choir Practice
<b>Friday:</b>	10:30 am Seniors' Tea @ Pleasant Manor 6:00 pm Youth Band 7:00 pm Youth- Brock Swim

**Next Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

<b>8:45 am</b>	Praise & Worship Practice
<b>9:30 am</b>	Primary & Junior Singing
<b>10:00 am</b>	Interactive Sermon
<b>10:00 am</b>	Sunday School
<b>11:00 am</b>	Worship Service– Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks
	Next week's Nursery Helpers: Graham & Emma Thwaites

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

**Sermon Series on the Gospel of John:**

***“What Does it Look Like When God moves into your Neighbourhood?”***

John, known as the “beloved disciple” because of his close relationship with Jesus, wrote the last of the four gospel accounts of Jesus life. While each of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) add their own unique perspective on Jesus, John stands out from the other three. By the time John writes several decades have passed since Jesus returned to heaven, and legends and distortions about Jesus had become common (sort of like the legends that develop around famous current figures like John F. Kennedy or Elvis Presley). John, writing many years after the others, gives much more explanation and interpretation of Jesus’ life. Much of John is a record of the teachings of Jesus.

John was in a privileged position to write his gospel. He was a witness to everything that he recorded; *“This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true”* (John 21:24). Guided by the Holy Spirit, he gave generations of people the opportunity to understand the “big picture” of God’s purpose in sending Jesus into this world. As John puts it, his purpose in writing was *“that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you have life in his name”*.

Between now and Easter, we will explore the first part of this gospel in the Sunday morning messages.

I invite each one of you to read the Bible passage in the week before each message (the passages will be listed in the bulletin). Pray over the passage as you read it and ask the Spirit to show you what God wants you to see. I will do the best I can, in God’s power, to preach the passage, but the greatest work happens when you open your heart to the Spirit of God and receive what God shows you.

January 10            ***“When God Moves In”***            John 1:1-18

January 17            ***“Wine for Weddings”***            John 2:1-11

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA:**

**The concluding work of Mennonite Church Canada’s Future Directions Task Force** can be found at [www.commonword.ca/go/469](http://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](mailto: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](http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/saskatoon2016).

**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.

## **OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:**

**Ladies Time Out at Fairview MB Church** will be holding registration for the winter session on **January 12<sup>th</sup> from 9-10am** at 455 Geneva St. A variety of interest classes are available and child care is provided for a very minimal fee. Call or see our website for details and invite your friends! 905-934-3398 [www.fairviewmb.ca/ladies-time-out](http://www.fairviewmb.ca/ladies-time-out)

**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](http://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. 16<sup>th</sup>** 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!

**Coping with Anxiety** The Niagara Life Centre is introducing a new group, commencing **Thurs. Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>** that will run 8 weeks from **1:30-3pm**. It is led by a professional counsellor and will provide tools and strategies to cope with anxiety. The cost is \$10 to cover materials. Please see further information and registration details on the poster on our bulletin board, and note the registration deadline of Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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](http://TicketWindow.ca). Also available are a Lunch & Theatre package on Tuesday, January 26, and a Dinner & Theatre package on Saturday, January 30.

**After a successful first year, the Skylight Festival returns to Paris, Ontario from July 29-31<sup>st</sup>.** This year we will be joined by the most popular speaker (John Bell from Iona) and the most popular singer-writer (Martyn Joseph) from UK's huge Greenbelt Festival (John has written many songs in our Sing the Journey and Sing the Story songbooks). We have a fantastic line-up of speakers, artists and musicians, including Bryan Moyer Suderman, Matt Epp and Theatre of the Beat. Don't miss the chance to attend this amazing event. Our Early Bird price of only \$119 (including camping) is available until January 15. See our website for details: [www.skylightfestival.ca](http://www.skylightfestival.ca).

### **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.

**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.