

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

January 17th, 2016

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering	Will Friesen
Call to Worship	Linda Friesen
Worship in Song	
“Sing An Alleluia”	Choir
“ <i>We gather together</i> ” HWB #17	
“ <i>Saviour, like a shepherd lead us</i> ” HWB #355	
Congregational Life & Announcements	Linda Friesen
Offering Focus- Christian Witness	
“ <i>Just a closer walk with thee</i> ” STJ #106	
Proclamation	
Children’s Moment	Will Friesen & Rachael Peters
“ <i>Sing a New Church</i> ”	Choir
Scripture: John 2:1-11, pew Bible p. 1028-1029	Yvonne Vanderlee
“ Wine for Weddings ”	Pastor Rudy Dirks
Sending	
“Prayers”	Choir

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Graham & Emma Thwaites

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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 years 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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JOYS & CONCERNS:

Flowers have been placed at the front of the church today in remembrance of Helmut Boldt, who passed away 10 years ago today. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Marlies Boldt, as well as family and friends. May the Lord embrace those remembering him today, offering peace and comfort as they reflect on many joyful memories shared together.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Have you been baptized? Baptism classes are being held on Sunday mornings at **10:00 am** in the boardroom. These classes 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 contact the office or join us on Sundays at 10:00 am!

Junior Youth- TODAY: Fallsview Indoor Waterpark!

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

We have names for the Syrian family we are sponsoring and our committee is excited about getting a home ready for them! Furniture donations have come along nicely and we are now turning our attention to other everyday needs. Newcomers are no different from Canadians in that they like to keep in touch with family and friends by cellphone and over the Internet, so if you are replacing your cellphone or laptop, please let us have the old one if it still works. We are also thinking ahead to spring, and the need for bicycles for children and adults! You may contact Peter & Wendy J about donating these items, or email numcsponsors@gmail.com.

Sharing a meal is a great way to connect with newcomers even if you don't speak the same language. There's a sign-up sheet in the mailbox area for people willing to try this. We especially encourage families with children to foster intercultural awareness this way. Ideas for after-dinner activities that don't require a lot of words include: building jigsaw puzzles, Lego, playing Sorry! (or Mensch aergere dich nicht in German), making snow angels, playing tag. A couple of families getting together to host the newcomers would work, too!

Newark Neighbours is currently very low on shampoos and conditioners. Please consider donating some of these products to our pantry to be passed along to them. Thanks for your generosity!

Mark your calendar! Our Annual Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:00 pm**. Look for the agenda in next week's bulletin.

The Jan-Feb issue of Life With Us is now available. Pick up your copy at the Welcome Centre, by the mailboxes or access it electronically on our website.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (January 18th – January 24th)

- Monday: 7:00 pm** Women's Bible Study
- Tuesday: 9:00 am** Women in Service
7:00 pm Spiritual Council Meeting
- Wednesday: 6:30 pm** Pioneer Club
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting
- Thursday: 8:00 pm** Choir Practice
- Friday: 6:00 pm** Youth Band
7:00 pm Youth - Pirates Cove Gaming Night @ Clifton Hill

Next Sunday, January 24th

- 8:45 am** Praise & Worship Practice
- 9:30 am** Primary & Junior Singing
- 9:30 am** German Choir Practice
- 10:00 am** German Worship Service- Message by Hans H. Dau
- 10:00 am** Interactive Sermon
- 10:00 am** Sunday School
- 10:00 am** Baptism Class
- 11:00 am** Worship Service– Message by John Tiessen

Next week's Nursery Helpers: Janice Janzen & Laurene Nickel

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

Offering of January 10th: details will be available in next week's bulletin	
Budget	MCC General
Christian Witness	
Attendance January 10th: German Worship Service - 74 Worship Service – no attendance taken	

YOUTH:

Make a Difference Day Resources Whether your junior youth attended MCEC's Make a Difference Day last year or not, everyone can make use of the following resources to help their junior youth explore their gifts. Download the Bible Study and Activity resources at: <https://mcec.ca/make-difference-day-2015-resources>.

**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	<i>“When God Moves In”</i>	John 1:1-18
January 17	<i>“Wine for Weddings”</i>	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. 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.

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.

The Power of Partnership: An evening with Stephen Lewis Enjoy an evening highlighting MCC's partnerships in humanitarian work in the Middle East and refugee resettlement in Ontario with internationally renowned speaker Stephen Lewis. Tickets \$150 each. More info at powerofpartnership2016.ca. Punch Reception 6 pm, Dinner and Program at **7 pm, Wednesday, March 30**, St. George Banquet Hall, 65 King Street North, Waterloo.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

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!

Coping with Anxiety The Niagara Life Centre is introducing a new group, commencing **Thurs. Jan. 21st** 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. 18th**.

"Pro-Life Coffee House - Dessert Social" hosted by St. Catharines Right to Life, **Monday January 25 at 7:00 p.m.** at The Heritage Christian Bookstore Cafe, 400 Scott Street, Grantham Plaza, St. Catharines. Everyone welcome, there is no fee. Be inspired as guest speaker Anastasia Pearse of the National Campus Life Network shares stories about pro-life work being done on post-secondary campuses across Canada. For more info, call 905-684-7505 or email info@chooselife.ca.

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.

Seasons of Marriage Workshop Scott Street Church invites all married couples to a fun, interactive workshop designed to bring meaning to the various seasons of marriage in life. Brad & Sylvia Thompson from Family Life will share their experiences and give practical advice we can all use. Mark your calendars for **Sat. Feb. 6th**. Further details can be found on the poster on our Community Bulletin Board.

After a successful first year, the Skylight Festival returns to Paris, Ontario from **July 29-31st**. 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.

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.