

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

January 24th, 2016

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering	Marlene Borzychowski
Call to Worship	Steve Cox
Worship in Song	
“One Day”	Praise & Worship
“Wonderful”	Praise & Worship
“Praise to the Lord”	Choir
Congregational Life & Announcements	Steve Cox
Offering Focus- Christian Witness	
“”	Logan Friesen
Proclamation	
Children’s Moment	Laury Willms
“We can share his love”	Choir
Scripture: John 3:1-21, pew Bible p. #####	Marion Griese
“Because God so LOVES the World”	John Tiessen
Sending	
“God sent his Son” HWB #345	Choir

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Janice Janzen & Laurene 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 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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German Worship Service – 10:00 am

Andachtsleiter: Gunnar Doerwald – Grusswort: Psalm 96:2-3

Orgelspiel: Giesela Doerwald

Chorlied

Opfergaben Fokus: Christian Witness

Lied: GB #320 " Die Sach' ist dein Herr Jesu Christ" vs. 1-2

Chorlied

Schriftwort: Joh. 8:4-15

Botschaft: “Saat, Saemann, Acker” – Hans H. Dau

Lied: GB #355 " O Meister lass mich gehn mit dir"

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Elfrieda Braun is thankful to have a room at Heritage Place! Please pray for Vic & Frieda in this new transition.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Missing Donor Info! If you made an offering by way of the debit machine on either Dec. 25th or Dec. 27th and did not submit a copy of your receipt in the offering, we do not know who you are. We would like to be able to receipt you accordingly, however, in order to do so, we need you to please kindly be in contact with the church office and identify yourself.

Mark your calendar! Our Annual Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:00 pm**. Please join us. Minutes from the October 27, 2015 Meeting are now available at the Welcome Centre for you to review prior to the upcoming meeting.

Volunteers Needed! In preparing the Annual Report for our Annual Membership Meeting, we have a need for volunteers to help fold and staple. Please kindly be in contact with April ASAP to offer your help in this capacity.

Lenten Guided Prayer - Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada are once again providing a resource that integrates prayer and scripture into daily life during Lent. This year's theme "Living Ink" encourages participants to see ourselves and God as co-authors of our ongoing story, and to find ourselves within the larger story of God's relationship with humanity. Those who meet in weekly small groups listen as others share their experience of prayer throughout the week, and discern what they would like to share in turn. With Lent beginning in mid-February, please talk to April or Sharon to register ASAP.

Sponsorship update # 13: Please pray for the Syrian family we are waiting for. It's easy to get caught up in planning for their physical needs once they arrive, but that's not all there is to resettlement. They may be unaware of the expectations and challenges that await them here, while we know nothing yet about the circumstances of their lives so far. God alone knows what the result of this sponsorship effort will be, and we, too, need His guidance as we move forward.

Stocking the cupboards: please take a look in the mailbox area for an updated list of items still needed, or contact Greta (numcsponsors@gmail.com) for shopping ideas.

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!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (January 25th – January 31st)

Monday: 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study
7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice

Tuesday: 9:00 am Women in Service
7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting
7:00 pm Visitation Meeting

Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting
7:00 pm Young Adult Leaders Study

Thursday: 8:00 pm Choir Practice

Friday: 6:30 pm Youth Band
7:30 pm Youth

Saturday: 9:00 am Marriage Preparation Course

Next Sunday, January 31st

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice
9:30 am Primary & Junior Singing
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Baptism Class
11:00 am Worship Service— Message by Stephen Cox

Next week's Nursery Helpers: Daniel & Sarah Froese

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	<i>“When God Moves In”</i>	John 1:1-18
January 17	<i>“Wine for Weddings”</i>	John 2:1-11
January 24	<i>“For God so LOVES the World”</i>	John 3:1-21
January 31	<i>“Going back to the well”</i>	John 4

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday February 2, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

LIVE LIFE WITH US

Membership Meeting Agenda:

Welcome

1. Opening/Devotional
2. Agenda
3. Appointment of Tellers Committee
4. Acceptance of Membership Minutes October 27, 2015
5. Committee Reports & Financial Statements
6. Audited Financial Statements & Treasurers Report
7. Budget 2016
8. Election of Committee Members
9. Refugee Update
10. MC Canada Future Direction Task Force
11. Election of Delegates – MCEC Gathering, April 29th & 30th, Leamington
12. Spiritual Council Update
13. Being a Faithful Church
14. Other Business
15. Closing

Offering of January 10th: \$7,709.25			
Budget	\$5,932.25	MCC General	\$665.00
Christian Witness	\$605.00	MCC Food	\$387.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	MCC Syrian Refugee	\$20.00
Offering of January 17th: \$7,786.45			
Budget	\$6,871.45	MCC General	\$45.00
Christian Witness	\$810.00	MCC Food	\$20.00
Capital Fund	\$20.00	Refugee Sponsorship	\$20.00
Attendance January 17th: Worship Service – 215			

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>.

MENNONITE CHURCH EASTERN CANADA:

MCEC has recently released an Educational Series on Sexual Misconduct in the Church. You are invited to subscribe to this weekly email newsletter that will run for 12 weeks, or find the information, as well as other associated resources posted on their website. <https://mcec.ca/sacred-trust-0>

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.

MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE:

Today is World Fellowship Sunday! Each year, Anabaptist-related churches around the world are encouraged to worship around a common theme on a Sunday close to 21 January, usually the fourth Sunday in January. On that date in 1525, the first Anabaptist baptism took place in Zurich, Switzerland. World Fellowship Sunday provides an opportunity to remember our common roots and celebrate our worldwide koinonia. To learn more about this, please visit the following link to view the video clip of *MWC Year in Review: 2015*: <https://www.mwc-cmm.org/video/1618>.

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

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale- In honour of the 50th Annual Mennonite Relief Sale in May of 2016, we would like to hear from you about memories and stories from Relief Sales past. reliefsalestories@gmail.com is an email address we have created for people to send stories, memories and special moments from Relief Sales past that they wish to share. We will compile these stories and post them on the Relief Sale Website (www.nhmrs.com) starting in February. This is a great way of sharing stories before they are lost. They can be short or long, funny or serious. Our hope is we remind ourselves and others why the Sale has continued on for 50 years and why it should continue on for another 50!

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

"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.

The Niagara Branch of the Canadian Bible Society will be holding its annual meeting at Grace Mennonite Church, 677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines, at **6 p.m., Monday, February 1st**. A light supper will be provided, followed by a presentation on current CBS programs. RSVP to Kevin McCabe at 905-646-8062.

commUNITY of Worship Feb. 5th, 7pm at Cornerstone Community Church, 1570 Niagara Stone Rd. Our focus is to bring the Niagara Community together. People of all ages, to celebrate our Lord together! There is much history in the area but, we worship ONE God and we want to celebrate He who unites us and not that which divides us. Please join us for this evening.

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.