

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

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.**

**Gathering**

Kathy Rempel

**Call to Worship**

John Tiessen

**Worship in Song**

Special Music\*

“Joys are flowing like a river” HWB #301

“Take my life that I may be”

“God of the Bible” STJ #27

**Congregational Life & Announcements**

John Tiessen

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

“Lord, I am fondly, earnestly longing” HWB #514

Special Music\*

**Proclamation**

Children’s Moment

Linda Pankratz

“Open my eyes, Lord” STS #65

Special Music\*

Scripture: John 4:1-10, pew Bible p.1030

Chris Friesen

“Going back to the well”

Stephen Cox

**Sending**

“We will follow” STS #40

Special Music\*

*\*Today’s Special Music is comprised of the following vocalists & musicians: Kaitlin Hinz, Julieanne Enns, Markus Hale, Jon Bradnam, Katrina Metsa, Lolita Hale, Kelly Wohlgemut, Will Friesen and Rachael Peters. Thanks for sharing your gifts with us today!*

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Daniel & Sarah Froese

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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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**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:**

**God bless and comfort those who are sick among us.** Although their names are not published weekly, there are those who need to be lifted up to God, We are encouraged to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who have experienced joy. How blessed we are to be in God’s family!

**WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

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

**Ladies breakfast at Lawrenceville- Thursday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am** - all ladies welcome! To sign-up for email reminders, contact Emily Fieguth.

**Calling all Jr Youth and friends!** Join us on **Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm** here at NUMC for fun and games.

**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.

**Newcomer update 14:** Please pray for the Syrian family we are sponsoring and for us as a church community. Sponsorship is a road we walk together, although we're not necessarily always looking at the same view. How we evaluate the experience later will also vary from one person to another. Today, a reminder of who your Sponsorship & Settlement Committee members are, in case you have any questions: Sigrid, Jocelyn, Esther T, Hans & Ingrid, Kent, Don, Brian P, Peter & Wendy, Kathe W, and Greta.

**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.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (February 1<sup>st</sup> – February 7<sup>th</sup>)**

**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 Annual Membership Meeting

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

**Thursday:** 9:00 am Ladies Breakfast  
8:00 pm Choir Practice

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

**Next Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice  
9:30 am Primary & Junior Singing  
9:30 am German Choir Practice  
10:00 am German Worship Service  
10:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Baptism Class  
11:00 am Worship Service— Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks

Next week's Nursery Helpers: Jay & Elysia Vis

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

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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday February 2, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

LIVE LIFE WITH US

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### **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

<b>Offering of January 24<sup>th</sup>: details will be available in next week's bulletin</b>	
<b>Attendance January 24<sup>th</sup>:</b> German Worship Service- 83 Worship Service – 184	

### **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.

Jan. 10	<i>“When God Moves In”</i>	John 1:1-18
Jan. 17	<i>“Wine for Weddings”</i>	John 2:1-11
Jan. 24	<i>“For God so LOVES the World”</i>	John 3:1-21
Jan. 31	<i>“Going back to the well”</i>	John 4:1-30
Feb. 7	<i>“When Religion Keeps Us From God”</i>	John 5:1-15

### **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, Jan. 28, Feb. 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](http://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 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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!

### **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 you can find the information, as well as other associated resources, posted on their website: <https://mcec.ca/sacred-trust-0>

**MCEC Annual Church Gathering: Finding God in My Neighbourhood** with Stuart Murray, author of The Naked Anabaptist. Mark Your Calendars: **April 29 & 30**, UMEI Christian High School, Leamington. Watch for More Information!

**Finding God in My Neighbourhood Photo Showcase** Dust off your camera or cell phones! You are invited to submit photos for the MCEC Finding God in My Neighbourhood Photo Showcase. Sometimes we are asked to find Waldo; we ask you to focus on finding God in your neighbourhoods in ordinary and surprising ways. What does that look like? Where do you discover God? This showcase will be part of the MCEC Annual Church Gathering with Stuart Murray on **April 29 & 30** at UMEI Christian High School in Leamington, ON. Send your jpgs to [photos@mcec.ca](mailto:photos@mcec.ca). Pass this information along to shutterbugs and non-shutterbugs alike! Questions: Contact Lisa Williams, Director of Communications [lwilliams@mcec.ca](mailto:lwilliams@mcec.ca).

### **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).

**Save the date!** The 2016 MC Canada Assembly, on the theme of God~Faith~People, will take place in Saskatoon from **Jul. 6-10**. Registration opens in February. See website for more details.

### **OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:**

**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 1<sup>st</sup>**. 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. 6<sup>th</sup>**. Further details can be found on the poster on our Community Bulletin Board.

**Bethany Mennonite Church Men's Group** is hosting a Pancake and Sausage Supper on **Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Come and join us for an evening of delicious food and great fellowship. Your generous contribution will go towards the **Syrian Refugee Fund at Niagara U.M. Church**. Help us to support this very worthwhile cause! *See our Community board for further details.*

**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.