

"Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community"

Niagara United Mennonite Church

February 7th, 2016

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Marlene Borzychowski

Call to Worship

Joachim Dau

Worship in Song

"The Scandal of Grace"

Praise & Worship

"In the Beauty of Holiness"

Praise & Worship

"Blest are they"

Choir

Congregational Life & Announcements

Joachim Dau

Offering Focus- MCC

"All hail the power of Jesus' name" HWB #106

Choir

Proclamation

Children's Moment

Sharon Dirks

"Ascribe to the Lord"

Choir

Scripture: John 5:1-15, pew Bible p. 1032

Gunnar Doerwald

"When Religion keeps us from God"

Pastor Rudy Dirks

Sending

"Move in our midst" HWB #418

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Today's Nursery Helpers: Jay & Elysia Vis  
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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: Ramona Neufeld – Grusswort: 1. Johannes 4:10**

Orgelspiel: Marlene Borzychowski

Chorlied

Opfergaben Fokus: MCC

Lied: GB #365 "Sagt es laut, dass Gott die Liebe"

Chorlied

**Schriftwort: Prediger 3:1-8; 1. Korinther 13:1-13**

**Botschaft: "Gottes Ordnung und Gottes Liebe" – Hans J. Wiens**

Lied: GB #40 "Ich singe dir mit Herz und Mund" vs. 1-3

## **JOYS & CONCERNS:**

The flowers are in memory of Eckhart Regier who entered eternity one year ago. He is dearly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife, children and grandchildren.

## **WITHIN NIAGARA UMC CHURCH:**

February calendars are available at the Welcome Centre.

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

**Pray. Fast. Give. 40 days of Giving.** During Lent this year, we are participating in a Coin Campaign for Niagara Life Centre (NLC). NLC is a vibrant, visible, Christian-based counselling ministry, providing aid for individuals experiencing life crises and caring for families and individuals by offering hope, help and healing. NLC provides education and assistance to groups or individuals in an effort to establish coping skills for those in need. The Centre does not discriminate in any way, and all services are confidential. Your support through, participation in this campaign, allows NLC to be able to provide free or low-cost counselling services to the hurting in our community. The campaign runs through the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb 10<sup>th</sup>) until Easter Sunday (March 27<sup>th</sup>). **Please pick-up your change collection container at the Welcome Centre today or next Sunday.**

**Seniors' Tea in February:** Come join us at the church on Sunday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm. Rudy and Sharon will share about their recent New Zealand trip with some stunning pictures.

## **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>

**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. \$45/person. 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 ask us 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:**

**Future Directions Task Force** After careful study and extensive consulting, the Mennonite Church Canada Future Directions Task Force has released a report that recommends significant restructuring of our national denomination. At the MCEC 2016 Annual Church Gathering being held in Leamington on **April 29 and 30**, delegates will be asked to affirm this new direction for the mission of the church. In order to provide as much information as possible prior to a vote in April, please review the advanced FDTF materials. Thank you for giving these materials your attention and participating in discerning how God is calling us to a new era of national and regional mission in Canada.

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

### **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.

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|---------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Jan. 10 | <b><i>“When God Moves In”</i></b>               | John 1:1-18 |
| Jan. 17 | <b><i>“Wine for Weddings”</i></b>               | John 2:1-11 |
| Jan. 24 | <b><i>“For God so LOVES the World”</i></b>      | John 3:1-21 |
| Jan. 31 | <b><i>“Going back to the well”</i></b>          | John 4:1-30 |
| Feb. 7  | <b><i>“When religion keeps us from God”</i></b> | John 5:1-15 |
| Feb. 14 | <b><i>“Eat.Sleep.Live”</i></b>                  | John 6:1-15 |

## **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, February 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!

## **OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:**

**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 bulletin board for further details.*

**Hannah House Luncheon Fundraiser** Please join us for our Annual Luncheon Fundraiser, **Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:15am-1:00pm** at White Oaks Resort, 253 Taylor Rd, NOTL. NEW THIS YEAR: Hannah House will be hosting a Silent Auction at the event! Remember seating is limited, so RSVP today: 905-353-8552 ext 206 or <http://2016hannahhouselunch.eventbrite.ca> Tickets are free and donations will be accepted at the event.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (February 8<sup>th</sup> – February 14<sup>th</sup>)**

**Monday: 7:00 pm** Women's Bible Study

**Tuesday: Shrove Tuesday**

**9:00 am** Women in Service

**5:00 pm** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper @ Bethany Mennonite

**7:00 pm** Church

Council Meeting

**7:00 pm** Education Committee Meeting

**7:00 pm** Care Committee Meeting

**Wednesday: Ash Wednesday**

**6:30 pm** Pioneer Club

**7:00 pm** Prayer Meeting

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

**Friday: 2:00 pm** Youth Winter Retreat

**7:00 pm** Junior Youth Games Night

**Next Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

**8:45 am** Praise & Worship Practice

**9:30 am** Primary & Junior Singing

**10:00 am** Interactive Sermon

**10:00 am** Sunday School

**10:00 am** Catechism Class

**11:00 am** Worship Service— Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks

Next week's Nursery Helpers: Anita Sawatzky & Laurene Nickel

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

**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.

**Offering breakdown of January 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> will be available next week.**

**Attendance January 31<sup>st</sup>: Worship Service – 218**