

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

February 14th, 2016

~Valentine’s Day~

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Rachael Peters

Call to Worship

Erv Willms

Worship in Song

“Here in this place” HWB #6

“Lord of the worlds above” HWB #39

“My Shepherd will supply my need” HWB #589

Congregational Life & Announcements

Erv Willms

Offering Focus- MCC

“O grant me now Thy Spirit’s presence”

Proclamation

Children’s Moment

Jon Bradnam

“Taste and See” STJ #86

Scripture: John 6:1-15, pew Bible p. 1033-1034

Al Teichroeb

“Eat.Sleep.Live”

Pastor Rudy Dirks

Sending

“Guide me O Thou great Jehovah” HWB #582

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Anita Sawatzky & 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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JOYS & CONCERNS:

Please pray for Henry Epp (son of Mary Epp) Henry was recently diagnosed with Liver Cancer. Henry is ready and willing to fight this with a positive spirit in order to be here for his wife Carrie and son Devan, 12 years old. As Carrie has some limitations with her MS, Henry has extra responsibilities for their household to run smoothly. Henry recently started his aggressive chemotherapy. Pray for Lord’s mercy to Henry and his family.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Attention Couples! We have received a Valentine’s Day themed gift to pass along to all of the couples in the congregation. Please visit the Welcome Centre to pick up your free copy of *Holy Love*, a marriage devotional for you!

2015 Year-end Tax Receipts are now in your church mailbox if you have one, and will remain there for two weeks. All receipts not picked up within two weeks will be mailed to your home address. All receipts for individuals or families who do not have a mailbox have been mailed out to you. If you do not have a mailbox, but would like one, please connect with April in the office.

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, without discriminating 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 is now underway and concludes on Easter Sunday (March 27th). **Please pick-up your change collection container at the Welcome Centre today!**

Next Sunday, our guest speaker Cheryl Pauls from CMU will be leading during our Interactive Sermon time. Please join us for this special presentation.

Sponsorship changes course, settlement goes straight ahead: We are still waiting for official news regarding the family we were expecting, but their nephews/cousins are here and we are happy to have them. Our commitment to their relatives remains strong, as their file remains open (i.e. approved) and they may still come at a later date. Meanwhile, we invite church members to assist Kathe & Kurt W with the duties of hosting and driving, at least during the next two weeks. Even just one ride, or one meal, will widen the circle of support. Thank you!

Save the Date! Mark your calendars for **February 26th/27th** for our next Leadership Retreat. Everyone who holds any kind of leadership position is invited and encouraged to attend this interactive time together. Please kindly RSVP to April in the office if you plan to attend.

Wholeness Through Christ is offering their course on **April 20-24**. The cost for the course and the accommodations is \$600. If you are interested, please speak to Rita Epp or Sharon Dirks this week to tell you how to register. They need to know ASAP if you are attending. You will be so blessed!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (February 15th – February 21st)	
Monday:	Family Day- OFFICE CLOSED
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:	6:30 pm Youth Band 7:30 pm Youth
Saturday:	9:00 am Pre-marriage Course
Next Sunday, February 21st	
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	Interactive Sermon
10:00 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Catechism Class
11:00 am	Worship Service– Message by Guest Speaker Cheryl Pauls
3:00 pm	Seniors’ Tea
Next week’s Nursery Helpers: Jen Hinz, Kaitlin & Ella	

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

Offering of January 24th: \$4,236.00			
Budget	\$3,321.00	MCC General	\$165.00
Christian Witness	\$400.00	MCC Food	\$140.00
Friends of Menn. Cntr Ukraine	\$20.00	Refugee Sponsorship	\$190.00
Offering of January 31st: \$8,728.00			

Budget	\$6,683.00	MCC General	\$105.00
Christian Witness	\$790.00	MCC Food	\$70.00
Capital Fund	\$20.00	MCC School Kits	\$100.00
Friends of Menn Cntr Ukraine	\$20.00	Refugee Sponsorship	\$940.00
Offering of February 7th: \$9,650.10			
Budget	\$7,812.10	MCC General	\$930.00
Christian Witness	\$400.00	MCC Food	\$80.00
Friends of Menn Cntr Ukraine	\$10.00	MCC Africa	\$268.00
		Refugee Sponsorship	\$150.00
Attendance February 7th: German Worship Service-98 ; Worship Service – 170			

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 our 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
Feb. 14	<i>“Eat.Sleep.Live”</i>	John 6:1-15

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, running 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. Pass this information along to shutterbugs and non-shutterbugs alike! Questions: Contact Lisa Williams, Director of Communications lwilliams@mcec.ca.

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 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!

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.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

The Canadian Bible Society will be holding a used book and stamp sale at the Fairview Mall (Chapters' end) on **Friday, Feb. 19, and Sat., Feb. 20**. All proceeds will go to further the work of the Bible Society. For more information, contact Kevin at 905-646-8062.

An interesting trip to visit the Amish communities in Ohio is being offered by CAA-Tuxedo Tours again this year. For details please see the poster on the bulletin board. Let Martha Bartel ([905-468-7029](tel:905-468-7029)) know if you are interested.

Holy Land Tour: You are invited to be part of a unique Holy Land Tour hosted by Pastor Jurgen Rausch from Scott St MB Church from Nov. 13-22 featuring the sights and sounds of where Jesus walked. An Info Luncheon is planned for **Sunday, April 3 at 12 pm** at Scott St Church with Avie Eskov from International Heritage Tours. RSVP at 905-937-6900 if you want to attend the luncheon.

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.

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.