

"Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community"

Niagara United Mennonite Church

February 21st, 2016

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Will Friesen

Call to Worship

Linda Friesen

Worship in Song

Praise & Worship

"Holy is our God"

"Not to us"

"The same love"

Congregational Life & Announcements

Linda Friesen

Offering Focus- MCC

"Gigue"

Cheryl Pauls

Proclamation

Children's Moment

Katrina Metsa

"What the Lord has done in me"

Praise & Worship

Scripture: Psalm 34:1-8, pew Bible p. 544

Scott Vanderlee

"Entrusted with the Ministry of Reconciliation: Taste & See" Cheryl Pauls

Sending

"Taste and See" STJ #86

Today's Nursery Helpers: Jen Hinz, Kaitlin & Ella

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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: Wilhelm Harder – Grusswort: Johannes 12:26

Orgelspiel: Giesela Doerwald

Chorlied

Opfergaben Fokus: MCC

Lied: GB #299 "Selge Gewissheit, Jesus ist mein "

Chorlied

Schriftwort: 1. Korinther 2:1-5; 2. Korinther 4:5-10

Botschaft: "Lohnt es sich, Gott zu folgen?" – Dr. Alfred Fast

Lied: GB #352 " Merk, Seele, dir dies grosse Wort"

JOYS & CONCERNS:

We extend our deepest sympathies to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Bernie McGale on the passing of their minister, Barb McGale, and Bernie's wife. Her funeral was held at St. Andrews on Friday. Flowers were sent on behalf of our congregation.

The flowers at the front of the church are placed in loving memory of Henry Esau, who passed away two years ago on February 18. He is deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his wife Kaethe, children and grandchildren.

The family of Jacob Bergen has placed flowers at the front of the church today in memory of his passing, which was 21 years ago on February 18. Therese, Henry, Phil and their family lovingly remember him today and always.

Esther Wright has been suffering the after-effects of a stroke since mid-December and for the week ending Feb 13 has been ill with pneumonia. All prayers, visits and well-wishes have been greatly appreciated by Gerald and by the rest of the family who mostly live at a distance and can't visit so often.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Today we warmly welcome Cheryl Pauls as our guest speaker! Cheryl joins us from Canadian Mennonite University in Manitoba. Thank-you for being here and sharing with us today!

All Seniors are invited to join together for the Senior's Tea this afternoon. Please come to the gym today at **3:00 pm** for an entertaining time of fellowship and learning. All seniors are welcome to participate!

Bulletin Deadline- Please note that the bulletin will be printed early this week. Any submissions or information to be included are due in to the office by **Thursday morning at 9:00 am**. Thanks.

Next weekend! Everyone in leadership is invited and encouraged to attend the upcoming Leadership Retreat that is running on **February 26th (7-9pm) and 27th (8:30 am – 12 noon)**. The invitation is extended to everyone who holds any kind of leadership position to attend this interactive time together. Please kindly RSVP to April in the office if you plan to attend so we can prepare for the correct group size.

The choir is now preparing music for Easter and encourages anyone wishing to be involved to join the choir. Practices are **Thursday evenings from 8-9pm**.

Our church library has received some new books! Come check them out under the windowsill. Also, the movie *Gospel of John*, of which we have been seeing clips throughout this sermon series, is available for borrow.

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!

Dinner, and a cellphone app for translation: this is how you can connect with the newcomers who have arrived in our community. The two guys (who do speak some English) are still at Kurt and Kathe's for the time being, so please call there if you would like the pleasure of hosting them one evening! A move to St. Catharines is planned for the 1st of March.

General sponsorship update #16: There is an ongoing need for private sponsors of refugees. While we wait for confirmation of the status of the family originally planned for, our committee is actively considering additional and alternative possibilities. We'll keep you posted!

Church Family Lunch! Please mark your calendars and plan to share in a spaghetti lunch together after the Worship service on Sunday, March 6th. This meal will be put on for the whole congregation by the Junior Youth Group. Please check the bulletin next week for further details.

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

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 22nd – February 28th)

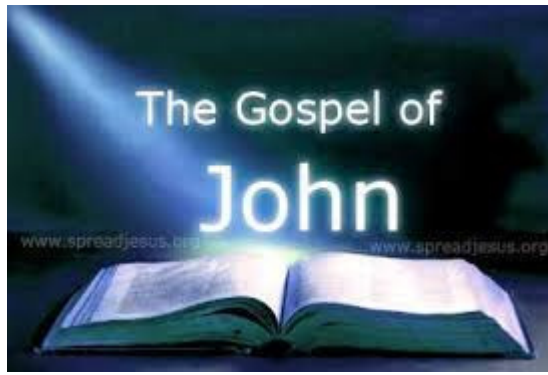
Monday: 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study
7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice
Tuesday: 5:30 pm Women in Service Valentine's Supper Social
Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting
7:00 pm Young Adult Leaders Study
Thursday: 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Friday: 6:30 pm Leadership Retreat
7:30 pm Youth
Saturday: 8:30 am Leadership Retreat

Next Sunday, February 28th

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: Wendy Janzen, Kathe Wiens

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

Offering of February 14th: \$10,275.00			
Budget	\$9,345.00	MCC General	\$240.00
Christian Witness	\$70.00	MCC Food	\$70.00
Library	\$50.00	Miscellaneous	\$500.00
Attendance February 14th: Worship Service – 174			



“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.

So far in this series:

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
Feb. 28	<i>“Don’t Judge by Outward Appearances”</i>	John 7:53-8:11

*If you have missed any of these messages, they are available for you on our church website. Please contact the office for any questions on how to access these.

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>

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada's Annual Church Gathering is **April 29 & 30** in Leamington, ON. Stuart Murray, author of *The Naked Anabaptist* will encourage us to discover God in our own neighbourhoods. For more information and to register, please visit mcec.ca/annual-church-gathering-2016.

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

Area Churches and Congregations are invited to submit advance resolutions for discernment at the Mennonite Church Canada Annual Delegate Assembly in Saskatoon this coming July 6-10. Advance resolutions help congregational discernment in preparation for the Assembly. Guidelines and a template can be found at www.commonword.ca/go/502.

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 **Thursday, February 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:

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 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.

The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster County will be performing at St. Catharines United Mennonite Church on **Sunday, June 19th**. S.C.U.M. is asking for volunteers to help by hosting the singers as overnight guests in your home, as well as church representative to help promote this event and to coordinate the hosts that are required. If interested, please contact Anne Huebert at peter.huebert083@sympatico.ca or phone the SCUM church office at (905) 935-8017.

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.