

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

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.**

**Gathering**

Will Friesen

**Call to Worship**

Steve Cox

**Worship in Song**

Choir

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“”

“”

**Congregational Life & Announcements**

Steve Cox

Offering Focus- MCC

Video Clip – Niagara Life Centre Coin Campaign

**Proclamation**

Children’s Moment

Kathy Rempel

“”

Choir

Scripture: John 7:53-8:11, pew Bible p. 1037

Melissa Teichgraf

**“Don’t Judge by Outward Appearances”**

Pastor Rudy Dirks

**Sending**

“”

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Wendy Janzen, Kathe Wiens

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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:**

**There are always people in our community who need your prayers** and the touch of God in their lives. Please lift up each other in prayer and in love, and when possible or potentially helpful, make a visit or a telephone call to cheer someone up. May we be the hands and feet of Christ to each other.

**WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

**March calendars** are now available at the Welcome Centre.

**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**.

**Next Sunday- Church Family Lunch!** Please mark your calendars and plan to share in a spaghetti lunch together after the Worship service next **Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**. This meal will be put on for the whole congregation by the Junior Youth Group. There is no set cost to participate, however freewill donations to our Junior Youth Ministry will gladly be accepted!

**Pioneer Club Announcement:** There will be Club on the Wednesday of March Break! See you then!

**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 27<sup>th</sup>). Please pick-up your change collection container at the Welcome Centre today!

**The Upper Room** March-April issues have arrived and are in your mailboxes.

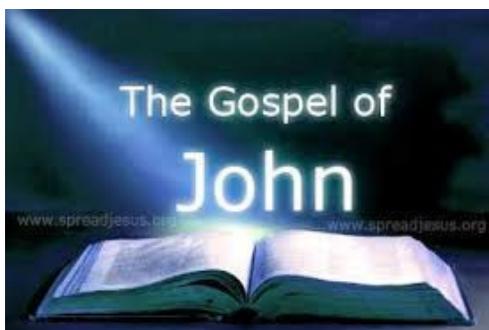
**Newcomers have a lot to learn when they arrive here**, but interacting with them is a learning experience for 'oldtimers', too. I'm guessing that, by now, most of the extended families in our church community have been touched by involvement in our latest sponsorship and settlement effort in some way. We are truly blessed to have this opportunity! Yesterday some members of our committee attended an MCC conference on Syrian culture, trauma issues, and local settlement services. We are preparing for the work that lies ahead. Continued prayerful support is very much appreciated.

**Please check your mailboxes** A few weeks back, Matt Riediger enthusiastically shared with us some information about his upcoming missions adventure. He prepared a letter outlining what lays ahead for him and the preparations that he needs to do in order to move forward in this opportunity. We have copied his letter and placed it in your mailbox. We also continue to have extra copies available at the Welcome Centre for anyone who does not have a mailbox. Through this time of preparation, we want to bless him in his initiatives and we invite the congregation to support him in any way that you may feel led.

<b>Offering of February 21<sup>st</sup>: *Totals/breakdown will be available next week</b>			
Budget	\$0.00	MCC General	\$0.00
Christian Witness	\$0.00	MCC Food	\$0.00
Library	\$0.00	Friends of Menn. Cntr Ukraine	\$0.00
<b>Attendance Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>: German Worship Service- 93 ; Worship Service – 179</b>			

<b>THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (February 29<sup>th</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup>)</b>	
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b> Women’s Bible Study <b>7:30 pm</b> Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> Women in Service <b>7:00 pm</b> Church Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b> Pioneer Club <b>7:00 pm</b> Prayer Meeting <b>7:00 pm</b> Worship Committee Meeting
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b> Choir Practice
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b> Youth
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> Niagara Community Male Chorus Workshop
<b>Next Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>8:45 am</b>	Praise & Worship Practice
<b>9:30 am</b>	Primary & Junior Singing
<b>9:30 am</b>	German Choir Practice
<b>10:00 am</b>	German Worship Service
<b>10:00 am</b>	Interactive Sermon
<b>10:00 am</b>	Sunday School
<b>10:00 am</b>	Catechism Class
<b>11:00 am</b>	Worship Service– Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks
<b>12:00 pm</b>	Church family Spaghetti Lunch
Next week’s Nursery Helpers: Andrew & Kristina Nickel	

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



***“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
Mar. 6	<i>"The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree"</i>	John 8:31-59

\*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 CENTRAL COMMITTEE:**

**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:**

**The Exchange-** We are looking to build our library of worship banners. Does your congregation have a few banners that you would be willing to loan out to other congregations? All you need to do is take a photo and post it on [theexchange](http://theexchange). Contact the office for further details.

**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>

**WMCEC Enrichment Day, Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.** There is also an option of a Two Day Bus Trip that includes transportation to and from, the Rouge Valley Mennonite Church in Rouge Valley, near Markham. Entirely separate from the Enrichment Day, there is a bus trip planned leaving on Friday, April 22, for a great day in Toronto. Lunch at the CN Tower revolving restaurant and then enjoying the wonders of the Ripley's Aquarium. We stay at the Delta Toronto East for night and then Sat. morning leave at 7:45 for Rouge Valley. Cost of entire trip is \$250. WMCEC Enrichment Day registration is \$30. See information flyer for further instructions. All ages are welcome. We encourage you to ask your mother, your daughter, your sister, your friends. Let's make this a great getaway together! Please contact Dorothy Hamm, Vineland UM 905-562-7443 for more information or registration forms for Toronto Bus Trip. Deadline is March 15 as space is limited. Only one bus going!

**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](http://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 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).

## World Day of Prayer 2016 "Receive children. Receive me."

*Written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Cuba*



World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together on the first Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer. Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm their faith in Jesus Christ and engage with the whole world, are enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures, share the burdens of other people by praying with them and for them, and use their own talents in the service of God's world. Prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world.

We will join our neighbours in celebrating World Day of Prayer at:

**St. Marks Anglican Church, 41 Byron St. NOTL**  
(location)  
**Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 pm**  
(date and time)

*More information about our community's service is available from:*

*Please join us!*

**Niagara-on-the-Lake Area Churches**  
(participating churches)

The World Day of Prayer is coordinated by the  
**Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada**  
47 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, ON M5S 2C3  
Tel: (416) 929-5184; Fax (416) 929-4064  
E-mail: [wicc@wicc.org](mailto:wicc@wicc.org); Website: [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/WICCanada](http://www.facebook.com/WICCanada)



### **MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA:**

**Future Directions Task Force** After careful study and extensive consulting, the MC 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. **Area Churches and Congregations are invited** to submit advance resolutions for discernment at the MC 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 available at [www.commonword.ca/go/502](http://www.commonword.ca/go/502).

**MC Canada Assembly 2016 registration is now open!**

Register at : <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/saskatoon2016/information> This year's theme is: God~Faith~People (Jeremiah 31:33). Keynote Speaker Safwat Marzouk, assistant professor of Old Testament at AMBS, will bring compelling insights to ancient texts. Stay tuned to your bulletin for more highlights in the coming weeks.

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

**The Canadian Bible Society** is presenting a public reading (PROCLAMATION) of the New Testament and Psalms during Lent, and we invite all Christians in Niagara to join us as readers and/or listeners. Except for Monday, the dates and locations are in north St. Catharines: **Sat. Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am - 4 pm** at the Heritage Christian Bookstore, 380 Scott; **Mon. Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, from 7 am - 7 pm** at Morgan's Point United Church in Wainfleet; **Tues. Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>** at the Salvation Army Citadel, 400 Niagara, **7 am - 7 pm**; **Wed. Mar. 9**, at Scottlea Presbyterian, 515 Scott, **7 am-2 pm**. Concluding celebration at Grace Mennonite, 677 Niagara, **Fri. Mar. 11, at 7 pm** with music and refreshments. For more information, contact Kevin at 905-646-8062.

**Friends of the Mennonite Centre Ukraine directors**, Dave and Hildie Regehr, will be speaking at Vineland United Mennonite Church on **Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.** They are currently in Ukraine, and will be making the Vineland stop on their way home to Winnipeg. Questions/info contact Linda Friesen (Henry), 905-684-2929 or George Dyck at [gtdyck@gmail.com](mailto:gtdyck@gmail.com)

**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.

**The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster County** will be performing at St. Catharines United Mennonite Church on **Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto: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.