

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

March 6th, 2016

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Kathy Rempel

Call to Worship

John Tiessen

Worship in Song

“We want to see Jesus lifted high”

Praise & Worship

“Give us clean hands”

Praise & Worship

“Praise Him” HWB #100

Congregational Life & Announcements

John Tiessen

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

“Take My Life” HWB #389

Proclamation

Children’s Moment

Katrina Metsa

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Choir

Scripture: John 8:31-59, pew Bible p. 1038

Peter Wiens

“The Apple Doesn’t Fall Far From the Tree”

Pastor Rudy Dirks

Sending

“We’re a Fellowship of Believers”

Choir

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Andrew & Kristina 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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German Worship Service – 10:00 am

Andachtsleiter: Lani Gade – Grusswort: Psalm 97:11-12, Psalm 73:28

Orgelspiel: Kathy Rempel

Chorlied

Opfergaben Fokus: Christian Witness

Lied: GB #13 “Sei Lob und Ehr dem höchsten Gut, dem Vater aller Güte” Verse 1,2,4

Chorlied

Schriftwort: 2.Korinther 1,3-11

Botschaft: “Gottes Trost” – Ramona Neufeld

Lied: GB# 395 “Hindurch, hindurch mit Freuden” Verse 1-4

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Praise God for Gerry Froese’s good recovery from open heart surgery a week ago. He is recuperating at home under the great care of Donna. Pray for a complete restoration of health.

Let us continue to pray for Erna Delesky who is being cared for at home by her children. May God’s loving and healing presence be with her.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

For anyone who was not in service last week to hear Rudy & Sharon’s announcement, a typed version has been delivered to you in your church mailbox. For those who do not have church mailboxes, extra copies are available at the Welcome Centre in the foyer.

The March-April issue of Life With Us is now available. Please pick your copy up by the mailboxes, at the Welcome Centre, or access it electronically on our church website later this week.

Due to Friday's extended power outage, there will be no announcements available on Power Point today prior to the Worship Service.

Today- Church Family Lunch! Please make your way to the gym immediately following the Worship service today for a spaghetti lunch that the Junior Youth are putting on for the congregation. Please come with your family and friends to enjoy fellowship with one another, to enjoy the great food, and to support the Junior Youth Ministry!

Sunday School and Children's Singing has been cancelled for next week due to March Break. Classes and singing will run the following week, March 20th.

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

A thank you note has been sent to Bethany Mennonite Church for their donation of \$4,650 to our refugee sponsorship fund. They held a pancake dinner last month and had decided in advance to contribute the proceeds as way of partnering with us in supporting Syrian refugees. The event was attended by the two young men who are already here, and was an interesting experience for them. We hope that the rest of their family can soon join them.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (March 7th - March 13th)

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 Spiritual Council Meeting

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

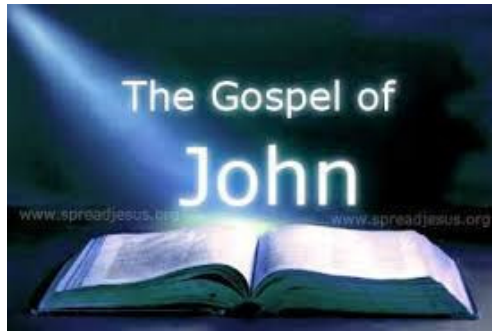
Thursday: 8:00 pm Choir Practice

Friday: 7:30 pm Youth

Next Sunday, March 13th
8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice
11:00 am Worship Service— Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks
Next week's Nursery Helpers: Matt & Melanie Scott

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

Offering of February 21st: \$6,175.00			
Budget	\$4,845.00	MCC General	\$660.00
Christian Witness	\$320.00	MCC Food	\$100.00
Library	\$50.00	MCC Africa	\$20.00
Refugee Sponsorship	\$160.00	Friends of Menn. Cntr Ukraine	\$20.00
Offering of February 28th: \$6,264.00			
Budget	\$5,394.00	MCC General	\$170.00
Christian Witness	\$270.00	MCC Food	\$80.00
MCC Syrian Refugee Relief	\$100.00	MCC Relief Aid	\$250.00
Attendance Feb. 28th: Worship Service – 181			



“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
Mar. 13		John 9

*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:

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. 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 23rd. 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.

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 williams@mcec.ca.

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.

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.

New short term ministry opportunity in Germany! Support the Urban Ministry program led by long-term Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers Gregory Rabus and Jennifer Otto. Basic German required. More information at home.mennonitechurch.ca/ShortTerm/UrbanMinistry

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. 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:

Family & Children's Services has approached our church hopeful that we may be able to help them out with a practical need they are facing. They have a family in desperate need of dressers and a washer and dryer. If anyone is interested in donating these items, please kindly phone Sylvia at 905-937-7731 x3485.

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: **Mon. Mar. 7th, from 7 am - 7 pm** at Morgan's Point United Church in Wainfleet; **Tues. Mar. 8th** 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 13th 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) or George Dyck at gtodyck@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 know if you are interested.

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.