

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

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.**

**Gathering** Will Friesen

**Call to Worship** Erv Willms

**Worship in Song**

“Brethren we have met to worship” HWB #8

“When Jesus the healer” STS #44

“I will come to you in the silence” STS #49

**Congregational Life & Announcements** Erv Willms

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

“Out of Hiding” Austin Penner & Rachael Peters

**Proclamation**

Children’s Moment Jon Bradnam

“Open my eyes, Lord” STS #65

Scripture: John 9:1-41, pew Bible p. 1038-1040 Lani Gade

“Open your Eyes” Pastor Rudy Dirks

**Sending**

“Open my eyes, that I may see” HWB #517

\*Today’s Ensemble is comprised of: Jon Bradnam, Julieanne Enns, Will Friesen, Lolita Hale, Austin Penner, and Rachael Peters.

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Matt & Melanie Scott

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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:**

**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.

**Pray for David Kopeschny** who is undergoing chemotherapy again and is being taken care of by Hedy at home. **Jake Goerz** is still experiencing weakness and issues related to his heart. Both the Kopeschnys and Jake and Marg Goerz have expressed gratitude for this praying community and feel the strength of God’s presence and our prayers. Continue to pray for them to be surrounded and filled by the peace and healing of Christ.

## WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

**Sunday School and Children's Singing are not running today** due to March Break. Classes and singing will resume next week, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Pioneer Club Announcement:** There will be Club this Wednesday, during March Break! See you then!

**Campbell Soup Labels for Education** - Boxed soups and broths are becoming increasingly popular. Please submit only the UPC bar codes, as you would for Pepperidge Farms Goldfish crackers. Entire labels are still required for other registered Campbell soup labels such as: Habitant, Chunky Soups, V-8 juices, Franco-American Gravy, condensed soups and other Campbell soups.

**Church Council and the Nominations Committee** are seeking to have complete job descriptions of all volunteer roles within the church. Please look out for correspondence related to this project and please kindly submit your responses to George Pauls, Nominations Chair, at [georgepauls68@gmail.com](mailto:georgepauls68@gmail.com).

**Sponsorship update** – Please see the thank you message from Mohammad and Mukhtar that follows. Last Sunday it was delivered in their words, now it is available for us through the aid of a translator, with the original Arabic following the English translation.

In the name of God, my brother Mukhtar and I would like to express our deep thanks to the Canadian government for all their support. We extend our most sincere appreciation and gratitude to your honorable Church and the members of the settlement committee for all the assistance you offered to us. We never felt we are in a strange country. Your generous help made us feel like home and living with a new family. Really no words can describe our happiness and appreciation. May God bless all of you and bless Canada and always keep it safe.

كنيسه تكم بالشكر ونخص لنا مساعدتها على الكنديه لحكومته نشكر مختار خو وباسم باسمي الله بسم  
الجديده عائلتي بين شعرت فقد غريب وطن فيني شعرت لم لمساعدته على الكفيله لجنه وعضاء ترملة لمج  
أمننا لبلد هت وبقى الله رعايه في دتمم بالسعاده شعوري وصفه لكلمات تس تطيع لن

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (March 14<sup>th</sup> - March 20<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday:** 7:00 am Ladies Baking for Pleasant Manor  
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study  
7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice

**Tuesday:** 9:00 am Women in Service

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

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

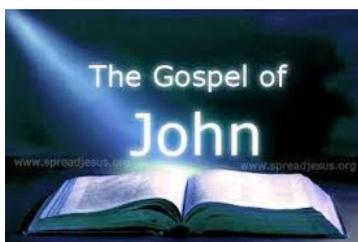
### Next Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice  
9:30 am Primary & Junior Singing  
9:30 am German Choir Practice  
10:00 am German Worship Service- message by Udo Woelke  
10:00 am Interactive Sermon- to be confirmed  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service– Message by John Tiessen

Next week's Nursery Helpers: Sue Fast, Erica Ferguson

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

<b>Offering of March 6<sup>th</sup>: \$10,722.50</b>			
Budget	\$8,667.50	MCC General	\$720.00
Christian Witness	\$1,000.00	MCC Food	\$20.00
Junior Youth	\$20.00	Friends of the Mennonite Centre in	
Refugee Sponsorship	\$25.00	Ukraine	\$270.00
<b>Attendance March 6<sup>th</sup> : Worship Service – 212</b>			



***“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	<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
Feb. 28	<b><i>“Don’t Judge by Outward Appearances”</i></b>	John 7:53-8:11
Mar. 6	<b><i>“The Apple Doesn’t Fall Far From the Tree”</i></b>	John 8:31-59
Mar. 13	<b><i>“Open Your Eyes”</i></b>	John 9:1-41
Mar. 20	<b><i>“The answer to the question”</i></b>	John 12:20-36

\*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 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 & to register, 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 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:**

**Follow MC Canada Future Directions Task Force** conversations at each Area Church gathering by visiting [home.mennonitechurch.ca/FutureDirections](http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/FutureDirections).

**MC Canada Assembly 2016 registration is now open!** 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 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](http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/ShortTerm/UrbanMinistry)

## **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:**

**Last call for SALT applications!** If you've been thinking of applying for a year of learning and adventure (or you know a young person who might be) check out our open placements.

**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. Send stories, memories and special moments from Relief Sales past to [reliefsalestories@gmail.com](mailto:reliefsalestories@gmail.com). This is a great way of sharing stories before they are lost. They can be short or long, funny or serious. Stories are shared at [nhmrs.com](http://nhmrs.com). 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:**

**On Friday, March 25 at 7:00 pm** the Niagara Community Male Chorus will present its annual Good Friday/Easter concert at the St. Catharines United Mennonite Church.

#### **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.