

"Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community"

Niagara United Mennonite Church

March 20th, 2016

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Rachael Peters

Call to Worship

Erv Willms

Worship in Song

"Sing Hosanna"

Junior Sunday School

Primary Sunday School Songs

Congregational Life & Announcements

Erv Willms

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

"Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

Proclamation

"All in All"

Scripture: John 12:20-36, pew Bible p. 1043

Hans H. Dau

"The Answer to the Question"

John Tiessen

Sending

"Hosanna Loud Hosanna" HWB #238

Today's Nursery Helpers: Sue Fast, Erica Ferguson

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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: Gunnar Doerwald - Grusswort: 1. Johannes 4:9

Orgelspiel: Giesela Doerwald

Chorlied

Opfergaben Fokus: Christian Witness

Lied: GB #86 "Schau ich zu jenem Kreuze hin"

Chorlied

Schriftwort: Johannes 12:12-16; 14:1-7, 21; 15:9-17; 17:1-26

Botschaft: "Als die Zeit erfüllt war" - Udo Woelke

Lied: GB #88 "O du Liebe meiner Liebe"

JOYS & CONCERNS:

May the healing love of Jesus be present to each one of us today. Those of us who are walking in health and strength can carry those around us who are experiencing more difficult days.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Women in Service will not be quilting this week. It resumes next week.

Easter Weekend Services: Our Good Friday Worship Service will be held this **Friday at 10:45 am**. The nursery is available for self-serve use. Our Easter Sunday Service begins at **10:45 am**. Hope to see you then!

A warm thank you to our congregation from the Jr Youth. Your generosity and kindness at the spaghetti lunch was amazing. We hope you enjoyed your meal and fellowship with one another. We had a lot of fun serving, and are looking forward to the MCEC retreat in May. Thanks for helping us get there!

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.

Sponsorship update – We remain committed to the Syrian family we agreed to sponsor, even though their status has been changed from privately-sponsored to government-assisted and they are not yet here. The uncertainty around their eventual arrival is a burden for their nephews and for us, since we expected that they would all be settled in Canada together. These two young men are grateful for the loving support they have received from our congregation and have reported back to their friends and relatives about their positive experience with us. Meanwhile, members of the Sponsorship & Settlement Committee are exploring ways to extend our reach towards other newcomers who have arrived without a network of support. Your interest and involvement in this process would be an encouragement to us.

Peach Salsa Fund Raiser - Looking for your input and support. The Missions committee is reviewing our Peach Salsa Fund raising program. This program has been running for the last 5 years. Proceeds have supported a variety of Witness (Nate & Taryn), Refugee and other charities. The Peach Salsa program involves Salsa production (usually one Saturday in April or May) plus effort on the day of the Peach Festival (this year it will be Saturday August 13th). We would appreciate hearing your thoughts on the program, as well as, would you be available to assist with either Production or at the Peach Festival. Please contact Bill Devolin @ 905-468-4452 or any member of the Committee.

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.

Offering of March 13th: \$3,474.00			
Budget	\$2,300.00	MCC General	\$105.00
Christian Witness	\$455.00	MCC Food	\$289.00
Junior Youth	\$265.00	Friends of the Mennonite Centre in	
Refugee Sponsorship	\$10.00	Ukraine	\$50.00
Attendance March 13th : Worship Service – 147			

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (March 21st - March 27th)

Monday: 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study
Tuesday: 7:00 pm Young Adult Leaders Meeting
Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 8:00 pm Choir Practice

Friday, March 25th - GOOD FRIDAY

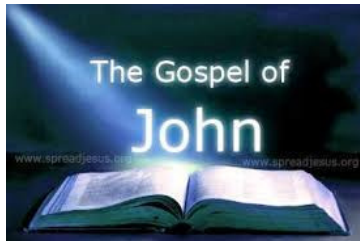
10:45 am Joint Worship & Communion Service
– Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks

Next Sunday, March 27th - EASTER SUNDAY

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice
9:30 am Primary & Junior Singing
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Interactive Sermon
10:00 am Baptism Class
10:45 am Worship Service– Message by Stephen Cox

Next week's Nursery Helpers: Laurene Nickel & helpers

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.

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	<i>"Open Your Eyes"</i>	John 9:1-41
Mar. 20	<i>"The answer to the question"</i>	John 12:20-36
Mar. 25	<i>"An Extreme Measure for An Extreme Problem"</i>	
	John 18 & 19	
Mar. 27	<i>"Hope Rising"</i>	John 20:1-18

*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>

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.

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 CHURCH CANADA:

Follow MC Canada Future Directions Task Force conversations at each Area Church gathering by visiting 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

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

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. Send stories, memories and special moments from Relief Sales past to 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. 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!

Wanted: Quilts for display – In celebration of the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale's 50th anniversary, we are displaying quilts that were bough in the sale over the past 50 years. Our display, "Quilts for the World" fundraiser for MCC Relief, is a venue of the St. Jacobs Quilt Shows – the last week of May (24th-27th) – held at the St. Jacobs Mennonite Church. If you have one of these beautiful quilts we can display, please contact Ella Brubacher at 519-664-3419 or lbrubacher1942@rogers.com

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.

Looking for a volunteer driver to transport a patient from Fort Erie to Hotel Dieu Shaver Rehab in St. Catharines. Due to communication and cognitive limitations, Nancy is unable to use public transit as she had prior to her stroke. For more details in how you can assist her recovery in this way, please contact Austin Penner at 905-468-4582.

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.