

*"Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community"*

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

~ Easter Sunday ~

**Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.**

**Gathering**

Will Friesen

**Call to Worship**

Pastor Rudy Dirks

**Worship in Song**

"Pieta"

Choir

"Man of Sorrows"

Praise & Worship

Responsive Reading

"Low in the Grave He Lay" HWB #273

"On Resurrection Morning"

Choir

**Congregational Life & Announcements**

Pastor Rudy Dirks

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

"Praise the One who breaks the darkness"

Will Friesen & Rachael Peters

**Proclamation**

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" HWB #280

Children's Moment

Will Friesen & Rachael Peters

"Because He Lives"

"Behold the Empty Tomb"

Choir

Scripture: John 20:11-16, pew Bible p. 1052

Jason Sebeslav

**"Hope Rising"**

Pastor Stephen Cox

**Sending**

"Forever"

Choir + Praise & Worship

Today's Nursery Helpers: Laurene Nickel & helpers

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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:**

Audrey and Orlin Epp would like to thank the church for their loving support and prayers since her diagnosis of Lou Gehrig's disease. As difficult as this is for Audrey and her family, she carries the beautiful presence of Christ. Please continue to pray for them as well as Bill and Beverley as they all manage this difficult time in their lives.

## **WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

**Change is Good:** Our coin collecting fundraiser campaign for Niagara Life Centre is now over. Please kindly return your coin containers to the Welcome Centre or church office. Thank-you to all who participated in supporting this very worthwhile ministry. Deadline for handing in donations is Tues. April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**The April church calendar** is available to be picked up at the Welcome Centre.

**Congratulations to Mohamad and Mukhtar,** who have moved into a place of their own in the Grantham-Facer area of St. Catharines. The address is 38 Cosby, main floor/front door. For now, please continue to call Kathe W to arrange for visits and rides. Also, Jocelyn T checks the meal sign-up sheet in the mailbox area, and she will contact anyone who would like to participate.

**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 or any member of the Committee.

### **Anabaptist Learning Workshop: Praying and Cultivating Spiritual Practices**

There are many kinds of prayer, many approaches to spiritual formation, and many different traditions that Christians follow for drawing close to God. In this workshop we will put some of these different traditions into practice – from the quiet to the loud, from sitting to walking, from words to images – and we will look at the meaning of spiritual growth both for individuals and for congregations. To register for this event, please do so online at: <https://secure.grebel.ca/alw/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=248>  
The workshop is being held here at Niagara UM on **Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**. Fee is \$40.00.

**The Canadian Mennonite Subscription update:** If you currently subscribe to the Canadian Mennonite and wish to make any changes to your subscription, please contact April in our church office. As a current subscriber, you may opt to receive the latest complete issue of the magazine by e-mail. This is a good option if you change your mailing address regularly, if you want to save paper, if you're moving overseas, or if you prefer to read your magazines online. Send your e-mail address to [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org) to subscribe to the digital version. If you do not currently subscribe, but would like to receive this twice-monthly print publication, please let April know and she will be happy to arrange this for you at no charge. The mission of this publication is to educate, inspire, inform, and foster dialogue on issues facing Mennonites in Canada as it shares the good news of Jesus Christ from an Anabaptist perspective.

<b>Offering of March 20<sup>th</sup>: \$7,233.00</b>			
Budget	\$5,493.00	MCC General	\$390.00
Christian Witness	\$850.00	MCC Food	\$120.00
Deacon's Fund	\$100.00	Friends of the Mennonite Centre in	
Refugee Sponsorship	\$60.00	Ukraine	\$220.00
<b>Attendance March 20<sup>th</sup>: Worship Service – 233 ; German Worship Service – 88</b>			

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

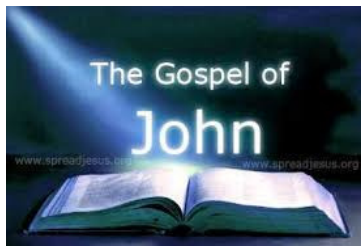
**Tuesday:** 9:00 am Women in Service  
7:30 pm German Worship Leaders Meeting  
**Wednesday:** 6:30 pm Pioneer Club  
6:30 pm Grow Life With Us Committee Meeting  
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting  
**Thursday:** 8:00 pm Choir Practice  
**Friday:** 7:00 pm Youth

**Next Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice  
9:30 am Primary & Junior Singing  
9:30 am German Choir Practice  
10:00 am German Worship Service  
10:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Interactive Sermon  
10:00 am Baptism Class  
11:00 am Worship Service– Message by Pastor Rudy Dirks

Next week's Nursery Helpers: Eugene & Anna Kradko

*\*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”*.

Leading up to 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](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 [williams@mcec.ca](mailto:williams@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:**

**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!

**Wanted: Quilts for display** – In celebration of the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale's 50<sup>th</sup> 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 (24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>) – 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](mailto:lbrubacher1942@rogers.com)

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

**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.

**Thank You!** Thank you to everyone who baked, helped and attended the Pleasant Manor Auxiliary Spring Bake Sale and to the Auxiliary for all their work and volunteered time. The sale was a huge success, \$3,942.05 was raised.

**Frauds & Scams!** The Ladies of St. Mark's Anglican Church are hosting the Niagara Regional Police on **Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup>** for a presentation on how best to protect yourself or loved ones from the danger of fraud and scams. Please call their church office to register as space is limited: 905-468-3123. (Office hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9am-3pm & Friday 9am-12noon)

**Walk & Run for Niagara Life Centre:** You choose how you want to participate in this fundraiser: 5K Walkathon or 1K or 5K timed Fun Runs! Post-event celebration at Grantham Lions Club with lunch and refreshments. Activities for children of all ages, including crafts, bouncy castle from Niagara Inflatables and more. **Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** along the Welland Canal Parkway. More info on the community bulletin board or online at: <http://niagaralifecentre.ca/walkrun>. Prizes award to top male and female runners PLUS prizes awarded for top pledges collected from all participants in the following categories: 10 years old and under, 11-18 year olds, 19-49 year olds, 50 plus, top team.

**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.