

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

April 10th, 2016

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Will Friesen

Call to Worship

John Tiessen

Worship in Song

“Come Into His Holy Place”

Choir

“A Wonderful Saviour” HWB #598

“Step by Step”

Choir

Congregational Life & Announcements

John Tiessen

Offering Focus- MCC

“He leadeth me” HWB #599

Proclamation

Children’s Moment

Jon Bradnam

“God is my Shepherd”

Choir

Scripture: John 10:1-18, pew Bible p. 1040

Elysia Vis

Video Clip

“Feeling sheepish?”

Pastor Rudy Dirks

Sending

“My Jesus, I love thee” HWB #522

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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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:

Thank-you! This week is National Volunteer Week in Canada. We as the staff of NUMC would like to take this time to thank the army of volunteers which make this a vibrant and wonderful place to worship God together. May you be filled up with the power of the Spirit of Christ as you continue to serve in love. “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10

The family of Erna Delesky would like to express their sincere thanks to the church, Pastor Rudy and Sharon Dirks, the choir and the wonderful women who helped with the lunch. We are still overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from so many people and know our Mother would have been overjoyed with the service. We are thankful she is no longer in pain and finally resting peacefully in heaven. Thank you again!

Please pray for Lorenz Gutzeit who has been hospitalized with pneumonia. May God's healing presence be with him.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Vacation Notice: April will be on vacation from April 13th-22nd. Jolien Koole will be working in the church office during April’s absence.

If there are any families wishing to **request a child dedication** in an upcoming service, please kindly contact the church office.

We are currently in need of growing our sound & AV operator teams. Please consider if your skills and interest may match this need. We have two teams of dedicated volunteers (Sunday morning team & funeral team), but need to bring in some new people on each team to help share the workload and replace volunteers who have completed their serving teams. Please do not shy away for simply not possessing the technical expertise required, as full training will be offered. Please prayerfully consider this request and contact April in the church office to volunteer or for answers to any questions you may have. Please note that inclusion on one team does not mandate inclusion on the other.

My Coins Count! Please save up your coins and bring them in so that together we can make them count for MCC. All funds raised will be passed along at the Relief Sale in May, so please bring your coins before then!

Volunteer(s) Needed! Our custodians have two separate weeks of vacation scheduled this summer and we are hoping to fill these vacancies with the help of volunteers from our congregation. If you are interested in offering some of your time (even a few hours) to help out around the church in July (4-8) and/or August (6-14), please kindly contact the church office for further details.

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 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 at Niagara UM on **Sat. Apr 16th 9am – 5pm**. Fee is \$40.00.

Sponsorship & Settlement Committee update: Many of you are wondering what is happening with our refugee sponsorship, when other local churches are hosting newcomer families already. What we have learned is this: the family we were expecting last January has six children, not just three. Two daughters are married and living in Lebanon, while the eldest son is still in Syria. When it was their turn to board a flight for Canada, they decided, for the sake of their son, to say, “Not yet.”

Hearing about the warm welcome they could expect from our congregation didn’t make the decision any easier, although it encouraged them to look forward to coming here. Weeks passed, and the government program that would have brought them to Toronto free of charge came to an end.

Because of their difficult situation, this family remains approved for future resettlement in Canada. In addition, they will now be government-assisted rather than privately-sponsored. They will receive 12 rather than 6 months of income support from the Canadian government, and we will not be notified of their arrival. Our only link to them now is through their nephews.

Neither MCC nor our committee has been informed of the reason for, or purpose of, this switch in status. Mohamad and Mukhtar are left in limbo, too. They expected their relatives to join them; instead, they are on their own. The brief notification we received indicated that the family will be sent to Hamilton for their initial orientation.

Sponsorship & Settlement remains committed to this family for the time being, irrespective of their immigration status. We have also been considering other options for participation in the important task of resettling newcomers already here as well as those still abroad. MCC continues to send us updates on government and citizen-led initiatives and is ready to assist us, as a congregation, in any way.

Meanwhile, the two young newcomers in our midst still require our prayerful support as they struggle with a new language, culture, climate, and expectations around education and employment. Please contact Jocelyn Thwaites if you would like to get to know them better.

– Submitted by Greta Wiens

Offering of April 3rd: \$7,249.75			
Budget	\$5009.75	MCC General	\$965.00
Christian Witness	\$1045.00	MCC Food	\$70.00
Friends of Menn Cntr Ukraine	\$60.00	MCC Africa	\$100.00
Attendance April 3rd: Worship Service – 185 ; German Worship Service - 66			

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (April 11th – April 17th)

Monday: 7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice
Tuesday: 9:00 am Women in Service
7:00 pm Sunday School Teachers Meeting
Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Friday: 6:30 pm Youth Band
7:30 pm Youth
Saturday: 9:00 am Anabaptist Learning Workshop

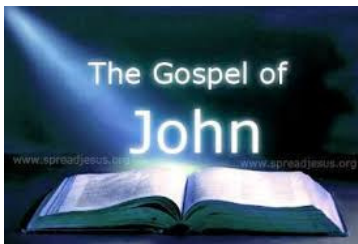
Next Sunday, April 17th

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 Joachim Dau
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: Dan & Sarah Froese

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

Sermon Series Part II on the Gospel of John:



“What Does it Look Like When Jesus is Really at the Core of Your Life?”

From January to Easter we explored the gospel of John as it traced Jesus' life through his ministry to the cross and resurrection. As John describes it in the opening verses, Jesus is the very presence of his Heavenly Father moving into our neighbourhood – the Incarnation of God.

From Easter to the end of June we will explore the teachings of Jesus in the gospel of John, where Jesus shows us what it looks like when WE welcome God to incarnate the presence of Christ in US. We do this not on our own, but by the work of Jesus in us by his Spirit.

Through images and careful instructions, Jesus shares with his disciples his dreams for what it looks like when we live with Jesus at the core of our lives.

You will get the most out of these messages if you read the chapter of John in the days leading up to that Sunday. May God bring Jesus' vision for us to a reality among us in this congregation.

April 3	“Unfinished Business”	John 21
April 10	“Feeling sheepish?”	John 10
April 17		John 14

MENNONITE CHURCH EASTERN CANADA:

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.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA:

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.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale: Calendar Dates for New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale! Sale dates: our 50th Sale is **May 27th & 28th**. Promotion Dinner: **April 25th** at Bingemans (the Peter Etril Snyder print #1 of Going Once... Giving Twice... will be auctioned at the dinner). Martin Family Singers: concert **May 15th** at Steinmann's Mennonite Church. See our website for more details (nhmrs.com/news) or contact info@nhmrs.com.

Wanted: Quilts for display – In celebration of the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale's 50th anniversary, we are displaying quilts that were bought 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:

Experience the Labyrinth Join Labyrinth facilitator, Patricia Wagler (MCEC), for a labyrinth workshop/ retreat at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library on **Friday April 15, at 7pm**. Learn about the history and tradition of the labyrinth and discover a powerful meditation tool to relax, reflect and pray. On **Saturday April 16th** there will be multiple information sessions at **11am** (family fun & children-friendly session), **1pm and 3pm**; with an open invite to all to come and walk the labyrinth at any time throughout the day from **10am to 4pm**. Complimentary. Please call the library to pre-register for scheduled sessions, 905-468-2023.

CommUNITY of Worship There is much history in the area but, we worship ONE God and we want to celebrate He who unites us and not that which divides us. Join with your Niagara Community, including all churches and people of all ages, to celebrate our Lord together! This evening of Worship is being held on **Apr. 16th at 7pm @ Cornerstone Church**.

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Choir and Band from Winnipeg, Manitoba will be offering an evening of music at Vineland United Mennonite Church, 3327 Menno St., on **Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.** The Eden High School Choir and Band will be performing some pieces. Admission is free. Everyone is welcome to attend. Wheelchair accessibility to the sanctuary is available by ramp through east entrance at the back of the building.

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 23rd** along the Welland Canal Parkway. More info on the community bulletin board or online at: <http://niagaralifecentre.ca/walkrun>.

Prizes awarded 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.

Tabor Manor will be holding a memorial service on Thursday April 28 @ 7:00 PM. We will be remembering the lives of residents and tenants who died between September 6, 2015 and April 15, 2016. Please feel free to join us for this service in the Tabor Manor "Great Room", which is in the new long term care facility at 7 Tabor Drive.

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.