

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

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.**

<b>Gathering</b>	Kathy Rempel
<b>Call to Worship</b>	John Tiessen
<b>Worship in Song</b>	Rachael Peters, John & Kathy Rempel
“A wonderful Saviour” HWB #598	
“My soul cries out” StS #124	
“As the eagle soars”	Pick-up Choir
<b>Congregational Life &amp; Announcements</b>	John Tiessen
Offering Focus- Christian Witness	
“Over my head” StJ #18	
Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24, pew Bible p. 1148	Peter Wiens
<b>Sharing</b>	
Jolien Koole, John & Kaethe Tiessen, Lloyd & Angela Redekopp, Udo Woelke, Stephen Cox	
<b>Reflection</b>	Rudy and Sharon Dirks
<b>Litany of Blessing and Release</b> (below)	
<b>Benediction</b>	Stephen Cox
<b>Sending</b>	
“I will serve the Lord”	

~~~~~  
*“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.  
~~~~~

**Litany of Release and Blessing**

**Leader 1:** We have laughed together, cried together, Worshipped together, prayed together. We have shared our very hearts and lives together.

**Leader 2:** We have hoped together, dreamed together, Worked together, and eaten lots of potlucks together.

**People:** Now it is time to say goodbye.

**Leader 1:** Parting is bittersweet. Memories flood our minds and hearts.

**People:** We say goodbye with gratitude and sadness mixed together in all sorts of strange ways.

**Leader 2:** In saying goodbye to Rudy, we release him from his responsibilities as Lead Pastor of Niagara United Mennonite Church. Will you join me in this release?

**People:** With God’s help, we release Rudy from his responsibilities as our Lead Pastor.

**Rudy:** As a symbol of this release, I give to you, Rick, as chair of church council, a picture of a sailboat representing an anchor, a map, and a sail. I pray that Niagara United Mennonite church will keep on being anchored in Jesus, immersing itself in the map of God’s Word, and raising its sails to be filled with the Wind of the Spirit of God, so that God’s Spirit can lead you to new places in God’s Kingdom as a congregation.

**People: With God's help, we will keep on being anchored in Christ, immersing ourselves in God's Word, and raising our sails to be filled with the Wind of the Spirit.**

**Leader 1:** In saying goodbye to Sharon, we release her from her responsibilities as Minister of Pastoral Care of Niagara United Mennonite Church. Will you join me in this release?

**People: With God's help, we release Sharon from her responsibilities as our Minister of Pastoral Care.**

**Sharon:** And I give you, Rita, as Chair of the Visitation Committee, this plant as a symbol of the congregation as a living organism which needs to be cared for, nurtured, and watered. I pray that this congregation will keep on caring for one another, in familiar ways and in ways yet to be imagined.

**People: With God's help, we will keep on caring for one another.**

**All: With God's help, we release you, Rudy and Sharon, as our pastors. As we release you from the ministry at Niagara United Mennonite Church, we also want to ask God's blessing on your future work in the Kingdom of God.**

**We offer our support and encouragement to you as your ministry unfolds in new settings. We pray God's blessings on you and on us as we begin a new relationship with each other, in which you are no longer our pastor.**

**Leader 2:** Now I ask you, Rudy and Sharon, do you release this congregation from its loyalty to you as pastors? Do you release its members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

**Sharon and Rudy:** With the help of God, we release this congregation from its loyalty and dependence on us as its pastors. We pray God's blessing on each person here in his or her spiritual journey, and we pray God's blessing on Niagara United Mennonite Church in its continued ministry.

**All: In our many interactions as a community of followers of Jesus, we have spoken many words, and shared many activities. Inevitably there have been times when we have not always understood each other fully, and where we may even have offended each other. Where this has been the case we humbly ask forgiveness from each other. And we also offer forgiveness to each other. Let there be nothing between us except for the debt of love and the mercy and presence of Christ.**

**In the course of our interactions we have also experienced the wonderful diversity of each other's personality and gifts. We give thanks to God for enriching each one of us in the community of Christ, far beyond what we could become on our own. God has indeed been among us.**

**Leader 1:** Let us join in prayer.

Eternal God, you have been our refuge and strength through the years of our life together. Give to us a strong sense of your presence as we now go our separate ways. Enlarge our faith, that we may see your purpose unfolding in the happenings of this time. Be our guide through all that is dark and doubtful. Grant us peace in doing your will. Bless and help us as we move into your future. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **JOYS & CONCERNS:**

**This "Joys & Concerns" section** of our weekly bulletin and announcements is a vital part of our church community. So many people have been blessed by the prayers of God's people during difficult times and the prayers of celebration during special times. However, sometimes things are missed. Please note that in order for something to be in the "joys and concerns" in the bulletin or announced by the worship leader, we request that family members submit this to the office as these are sometimes sensitive issues and we have to respect the confidentiality of the family. If something should be in the bulletin, please let April know about things of which the pastoral staff should be made aware. Some things come up after the bulletin has been printed. Please speak to the worship leader for that Sunday to ensure a verbal announcement, and follow up with April for the following week's bulletin and communication with the pastors.

## **WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

**The September church calendar** is now available to be picked up from the Welcome Centre. Please remember the information can always be accessed online on our church webpage as well.

**The Sept-Oct issue of Life With Us** is now available online and in print. Pick your copy up at the Welcome Centre or by the mailboxes, or access it on our church webpage.

**This is the best time of year to purchase supplies for MCC\* school kits!** Many items are on sale, but sometimes there are limits, so we welcome everyone's help to pick up what they can! Right now the biggest need is for **unsharpened #2 pencils**. **Coil** notebooks (8 1/2 x 11 size) also are always in demand. Please see the school kit display in the lobby for ideas. You may also place your contributions there in the weeks to come. If you have no time to shop, please consider donating to the cause. We have people in our congregation who are sewing and packing school bags all year round because the need for them is ongoing. (*\*Mennonite Central Committee is the peace, relief and development arm of churches like ours, and is active throughout the world.*)

**Ladies Breakfast!** Ladies, you are invited to attend the September ladies breakfast fellowship, which will take place at Anne Marie Enns' home (1769 Four Mile Creek Road) at **9:00 am on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**. All ladies are invited to this lovely time of food and fellowship.

**Sponsorship & Settlement update:** The family we are assisting is making progress with English and getting to know their new environment by bicycle. They keep in touch with other newcomers and are always open to new relationships in our community as well. It's good to see to see the adults moving forward in terms of trying to get driver's licences. We hope they can find some part-time work, too - they are experienced in yard work and construction. The children attended YMCA camps in July and would love to go swimming more often if they had a ride to the Y.

**Thank-you to all of our Scripture Readers!** We are so blessed to have so many people participate in our worship services through the rotation of Scripture readers! Thanks to everyone who read for us as a part of the 2015-2016 schedule. If you have not asked for your name to be removed, you have been included in the 2016-2017 schedule, which is now available in your mailboxes. If at any time you wish to be removed from this list, please let the office know and you will not be included on upcoming schedules.

**Thank you to all who participated in summer choirs and special music.** Your gifts of worship were a blessing to all. Starting **September 11**, the English Choir would like to replace traditional Thursday evening rehearsals with Sunday morning choir practices at 10:00 AM in the choir room. Rachael, Ruth, Laury, Kathy and John are taking a team approach in leading the choir during the church's transition period. If you feel called to join the choir, join us Sunday mornings ...before we call you! 😊  
-The Music Committee

**Men's Canoe Trip 2016** - The annual men's canoe trip is in the works again and is planned for **September 16 to 18**. This is a fun and "non-technical" trip, so don't be afraid. The destination is still up for discussion. We already have a number of committed participants, so save the date and come join us this year. If you are interested please contact Joachim Dau.

**Daniel - Beth Moore** The prophet Daniel faced unbelievable pressures—to compromise his faith, to live in a hostile culture, and to confront temptations and threats. Today, believers face many of the same trials. This study examines how believers can develop integrity in our modern-day Babylon, and then explores prophecies from the time of Daniel through the second coming of Christ.

Ladies Bible study group would like to invite any ladies interested in joining us as we study Daniel by Beth Moore. The study will begin on **Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm** meeting in the Meeting Room. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Fast @ 905-646-7410 or debra.fast@cogeco.ca by September 16<sup>th</sup> as workbooks will need to be ordered.

**Andrew and Karen Suderman** - After many years of mission work in South Africa, Andrew and Karen will be leaving their post and returning to Canada later this month. In January they will be relocating to the U.S. where Andrew will start

teaching at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Andrew and Karen will be NUMC on **Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>** to share with us details about their Mission work and future endeavors.



**Please pray for our graduates & post-secondary students** as they embark upon new adventures or continue along in their quest of pursuing higher education:

- Alexandra Baergen graduates this October with her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Brock University.
- Megan Friesen is entering her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Brock University. She is taking the Studio Arts Honours program.
- Noah Janzen is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the University of Waterloo, studying Mathematical Physics, and living at Conrad Grebel College
- Zachary Janzen is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of his electrical apprentice in Saskatoon, SK.
- Chelsea McShane is returning to the University of Guelph for her 3<sup>rd</sup> year, majoring in Bio Science, minoring in Business.
- April Michon has begun working part-time on her Masters of Theological Studies degree at Tyndale Seminary College.
- Kristen Pauls has graduated from the Kitchen & Bath Design Graduate Certificate Program at Georgian College.
- Kyle Pauls is starting his second year at Brock University studying Human Geography.
- Julia Pentesco is starting her first year at Trent University, pursuing a degree in Nursing.
- Danielle Redekopp is in her final year at Brock University for her Bachelor of Accounting degree.
- Victoria Redekopp is in her final year at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, for a Bachelor of Arts and Honours in Communications Studies.
- Isaak Reimer is entering his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Design at Guelph.
- Matt Riediger is entering his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Mechanical Engineering at Guelph.
- Stefan Riediger is graduating at the end of August as an Electrical Engineering Technologist.
- Kurt Tiessen is entering his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a bridging program at Lakehead University, intending to enter civil engineering this fall.
- Victoria Tiessen is entering her first year at Mohawk College for the massage therapy program.
- Julia Wiens is entering her 4<sup>th</sup> year at Brock University, where she is studying Recreational Therapy.

May God bless each of these students in their studies, providing endurance, direction, and a zeal for learning. Heartfelt congratulations go out to all of the recent graduates! May the Spirit prepare you and guide you as you continue along God's path.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

**PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED:** Please pray for the new Children's Ministry that is to start in September. We covet your prayers for the Team Leaders and for the vision that God is placing in our hearts.

**Students in Grades 7, 8 and up!!!** – There are positions coming up in the new ministry of Lighthouse for you! The pay is not great...in fact, there is no pay, but here is your chance to spend time with younger kids, actually be part of the teaching team instead of being the student, and really feeling good at the end of the day because you were part of working for God! If you are even thinking about it give me a call and we will talk. Linda Pankratz.

**Lighthouse is seeking someone** who loves singing to lead the tiny tots to Grade 6 kids in worship on Sunday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. There are many great songs on CDs to go along with the new curriculum that can be used and will connect with the theme that is being taught. It's a great way to interact with kids and only takes 15 minutes of your time. Please contact Linda.

**Sponsors Needed!** Our NUMC Junior Youth ministry is an exciting place for students in grades 6-8 to be involved, share fellowship & experience the love of God. We are looking for some new energy in the form of sponsors, & ask you kindly to prayerfully consider if this might your next calling in our church community. Connect with George Pauls (Nominations Chair) for more info.

**Recruiting Welcome Centre volunteers!** We have a great team of volunteers who faithfully serve at the Welcome centre each week, offering their smiles and friendship whilst sharing their gifts of hospitality with us as well as newcomers. If anyone would like to join this team, or has questions about what is involved, please kindly speak with April in the church office. A new schedule will come out in September, so please connect with the office by Labour Day weekend to be included on it for the 2016-2017 schedule.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (August 29<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>)**

**Thursday: 9:00 am** Ladies Breakfast @ Anne Marie Enns' Home

**Next Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – Labour Day Long Weekend**

**9:00 am** Pick-up Choir Practice

**10:00 am** Worship Service & Pastoral Installment– Pastor David Lewis

Nursery volunteers: Karl & Laurene Nickel

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

<b>Offering of August 21<sup>st</sup>: \$6,321.05</b>			
Budget	\$4,706.05	MCC General	\$765.00
Christian Witness	\$680.00	MCC Food	\$20.00
Refugee Sponsorship	\$100.00	Friends of Menn. Cntr Ukraine	\$0.00
<b>Attendance August 21<sup>st</sup>:</b> German Service – 65      Worship Service – 162			

**Offering Focus** – Our weekly budget requirement is \$8,260. In addition to your budget commitment, this month we encourage your support of Christian Witness. These contributions go to Mennonite Eastern Canada (MCEC) where they are further allocated to support missionaries (including our Mission Partners, the Sudermans & the Dirks), education, leadership training, church planting, as well as administrative support and benefits. They count on our support. Any church donations not allocated to a specific cause will be directed to our budget.

**MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:**

**Urgent Need: 2000 relief kits and 8000 hygiene kits** – Multiple crises around the world including Syria, Iraq and Ukraine have depleted our warehouse inventory. Please help replenish our supply. For information on how to make a kit go to [mcco.ca/kits](http://mcco.ca/kits).

**MCC Ontario Annual General Meeting** Grounded in the church - our Annual General Meeting is an opportunity for us to be accountable, transparent and responsive to you. Register today at [mcco.ca/agm](http://mcco.ca/agm) September 19 at MCCO office, 50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener in conjunction with our fall board meeting.

**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.