

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

November 27th, 2016

~ First Advent ~

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Gathering

Marlene Borzychowski

Call to Worship, Congregational Life & Announcements, Invocation Prayer

Linda Friesen

Worship in Song

Choir

“Jesus the Lord is come”

“My soul cries out” StS #124

Offering Focus- MCC

“Let all mortal flesh keep silence”

Pastoral Prayer

Linda Friesen

Proclamation

Children’s Moment & Candle Lighting

Jolien Koole

“Let there be peace on earth”

Children & Choir

Scripture Reading: Psalm 122, pew Bible p. 604

Erika Froese

“Clothed in Christ”

Stephen Cox

“Put peace into each other’s hands” StJ #87

Communion

“Comfort, comfort ye my people” HWB #176

Choir

Instrumental

Marlene Borzychowski

Sending

“Peace before us” StS #16

Choir

Benediction

Stephen Cox

Today’s Nursery Volunteer: Laurene 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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JOYS & CONCERNS:

Please pray for Justine Konrad. She has expressed gratitude for this praying community and feels the strength of God’s presence and our prayers. May the presence of the Great Physician and the support of her church family uphold Justine and her family in this time of failing health.

The flowers in the front are in memory of Jake Enns who passed away four years ago on November 30th. He is deeply missed by his wife Anne Marie, children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Darin Fast, who passed away on Thursday, November 24th in the morning. May his grandparents, Anneliese Pankratz and Marlene & Werner Fast, as well as the rest of his family be comforted and carried by our Prince of Peace. Funeral visitation is this afternoon from 2:30-5pm and 7-9pm at Cornerstone Church. The funeral service will be Monday, November 28th at Orchard Park at 1:30 pm.

Heartfelt condolences are expressed to the family of David Kopeschny, who passed away peacefully, with his family surrounding his bedside, in the evening on Thursday, November 24th. As we continue to carry Hedy and her family in prayer to our Lord Jesus, may they find comfort in His loving presence, and be uplifted by the peace of our Eternal Hope. The funeral visitation will be held here in our church on Monday, November 28th from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. The funeral service will follow on Tuesday, November 29th at 10:30 am. All singers are invited to participate in the funeral choir- practice is at 10:00 am Tuesday.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

HEADS UP FOR PARENTS: All the children from ages 3 to grade 8 will be singing at the beginning of the service with the choir this morning. They will be assembling on the third floor right after their Bible Story for a short practice and then will proceed to the choir loft in front of the church. They will be dismissed after the children's story.

Pastor David Lewis is away on vacation from November 19-December 5th in Hawaii with his wife Janie, celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary!

The Spiritual Council invites everyone to the annual German Christmas Program (Adventsfeier) this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Celebrate Christmas with the German Church Choir and sing along with your favourite German Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served in the gym/auditorium after the program.

Women in Service is cancelled this week due to the Tuesday funeral service.

Our December Church calendars are available to be picked up. Please find these at the Welcome Centre. Please also note that this information is also available online on our church website.

The Worship Committee thanks Jolien Koole for her work as Advent Coordinator. Her role includes bringing intentionality to our Advent season as we ready our hearts for Christmas. Thank you for your refreshing ideas, enthusiasm, and creative planning in our worship services this Advent Season!

Great opportunity to connect with young families in our church as a Nursery volunteer! Recently some current volunteers have had to step back from this role, so we are in need of new volunteers to step forward. Even 13-year olds and up partnered with an adult would be welcome in the rotation. I will be making a new schedule soon for 2017. Please call Laurene Nickel (905) 262-5166, or email: karlnickel@yahoo.com if interested. Thanks so much!

Ladies Breakfast! All ladies are invited to join together this coming **Thursday, Dec. 1st** at the Red Rooster Restaurant for breakfast and fellowship at **9:00 am**. All ladies are welcome!

Turkey Supper is Saturday, December 10th. Tickets on Sale now! Pick up your tickets before or after service or through the office during the week. Our play is entitled 'So Caught Up', you won't want to miss it. We are of course heavily reliant on your help to pull this large scale event off. It truly is a church-wide effort that makes Turkey Supper happen. If you are able to cook a turkey or help in the kitchen please sign up at the Tickets booth.

Candlelight Services will be held at Bethany Mennonite Church on **Sat. Dec. 17th**, and at Niagara United Mennonite Church on NUMC on **Sun. Dec. 18th**.

The Upper Room Renewal- If you wish to continue receiving your copy of The Upper Room devotional, or would like to start subscribing, please contact April. The cost for the 2017 subscription is \$14 per subscription. Please pay at the Welcome Centre, or in the church office. **Ssign-up/renew by November 30th**.

Bulletin folders needed! The 2017 Bulletin folding schedule is in the works! Please consider if you are willing to add your name to this wonderful list of volunteers who generously serve our congregation by folding and compiling our bulletins for us each week. There is a rotation and volunteers are called upon only a few times throughout the year. Current volunteers will automatically remain on the list. If you wish for your name to be removed, or are interested in joining as a volunteer, please speak with April in the office by **Dec. 15th**.

Offering of November 20th: \$9,236.00			
Budget	\$7,849.00	MCC General	\$890.00
Christian Witness	\$60.00	MCC Haiti	\$150.00
Deacon's Fund	\$100.00	MCC Food	\$30.00
Miscellaneous	\$107.00	Refugee Sponsorship	\$50.00
Attendance November 20th: German Worship – 86 ; Worship Service - 183			

Offering Focus – Our weekly budget requirement is \$8,260. In addition to your budget commitment, this month we encourage your support of MCC. Donations can be directed to their overall operations (where most are needed), or you can specify specific projects such as food for the hungry, school or other relief kits, Generations at Risk (HIV/AIDS) or disaster relief. Please mark your envelope accordingly. Any church donations not allocated to a specific cause will be directed to our budget.

NIAGARA UM CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Thank you for all your generous donations! Your giving is an expression of thankfulness and praise to God. It comes from a heart of worship that recognizes that everything we give already belongs to him. **We need approximately \$121,000 (\$24,200 per week)** by the end of December to meet our budget of \$429,400. Please be generous so that we can meet all of our obligations. Donations can be made conveniently online, by debit, by direct bank or internet transfer, and of course by cash or cheque.

The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God's Heart

Welcome to Advent 2016 "**The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God's Heart**", which celebrates the arrival of Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's heart. Our invitation this year is to walk in the way of God's heart. This will mean that we first encounter the various character traits of God's revealed heart, and second that we shape our own hearts after His. Walking in the way reminds us that this is not a single step process or event; but that each decision to line our hearts up with God's draws us into and along His way.

God's heart is the emanating energy which creates the kingdom of God. When we walk in the way of God's heart, we will find that we are co-creating the reign of God here on earth.

What co-creating works might God have in mind for you this Advent?

First Advent: "Clothed in Christ"

November 27th

Message by Stephen Cox

We live in a world that seems to carry a great deal of anxiety, spilling over into violent extremism in some places, and contained as fear and despair in others. These are anxious times and even the beauty that Christmas brings oftentimes does little to reduce the anxiety. To get to God's heart of peace, from a world of anxiety, we need to take a walk with Jesus.

Second Advent: "The wolf shall live with the lamb"

December 4th

Message by Nelson Kraybill

This sermon will highlight the role of Mennonite World Conference as a global network of Anabaptist Christians who pool resources and collaborate to embody the peaceable kingdom vision of Isaiah 11. I will start with the image below by an American Quaker artist (Edward Hicks) who imagined European colonists dealing justly and fairly with native peoples. I will show a map of where Anabaptists live in the world, and tell a story or two about practical implications of being a people committed both to evangelism and justice/peacemaking.

Third Advent: "Getting the most out of Christmas"

December 11th

Message by David Lewis

You will get the most out of Christmas when you view it as God's declaration of how much you matter to him.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (November 28th – December 4th)

Monday: 4:00 pm Funeral Visitation for David Kopeschny
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Program Meeting
Tuesday: 10:00 am Funeral Choir Practice
10:30 am Funeral Service for David Kopeschny
Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
Thursday: 8:00 pm Candlelight Choir Practice
Friday: 7:30 pm Youth

Next Sunday, December 4th – Second Advent

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice
9:30 am German Choir Practice
9:45 am Lighthouse Kids Ministry
10:00 am German Worship Service
10:00 am Youth
10:00 am Choir Practice
11:00 am Worship Service – Message from Nelson Kraybill

Next week's Nursery volunteers: Eugene & Anna Kradko

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

MENNONITE CHURCH EASTERN CANADA:

Future Directions: Covenant New! Follow the latest from the Interim Council working on the Future Direction of the Mennonite Church in Canada.

- A website has been created to share information.
- A Facebook Group has been formed as one method of communication.

MCEC will keep you up-to-date when new information is posted. Join the discussion, follow the information, be a part of the process!

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

Receive a copy of Emmanuel, God with Us, Robert Witmer's journey of faith from depression-era Ontario farm life to the mission suburbs of Paris for the gift of \$20 (soft cover) or \$25 (hard cover) to MCC. Your gift will be matched by a foundation. Makes a great and meaningful Christmas gift! Drop by our offices at 50 Kent or call 519-745-8458 for your copy.

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Mennonite Disaster Service Response to the Windsor, ON Sept Flooding: MDS is starting to rebuild basements that were flooded from the late Sept flooding, where vulnerable families need their basement and do not have insurance. The cleanup took place in Oct. Volunteers are needed in particular for hanging and finishing drywall, and some carpentry. Related skills are desirable but not required. Please consider volunteering by calling: Martin Durksen 905-736-1060 or Lindy Fazekas 519-817-4357.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

Niagara Community Male Chorus invites you to its annual **Advent Concert** on **Sunday, December 4, at 7:00 pm**, at Fairview Mennonite Brethren Church. A freewill offering will be held for MCC in support of struggling families in Nigeria.

Come and enjoy an awesome performance of Handel's Messiah, presented by The Menno Singers with Mennonite Mass Choir and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, **Sat., December 10, 2016, 7:30 pm** at Centre In the Square, Kitchener. For tickets go to centreinthesquare.com or call 519 578 1570 or 1 800 265 8977.

Registration is now open for the Canadian School of Peacebuilding, June 12-16 and 19-23, 2017. Go to csop.cmu.ca or e-mail csop@cmu.ca for more information and to apply for your choice of five-day courses on topics such as journalism and peacebuilding, trauma healing, refugee challenges, human rights and indigenous law, transforming the peacebuilder, agroecological peacebuilding, Muslim-Christian dialogue, and gender, violence and peacebuilding.

Newark Neighbours is in need of powdered milk and Carnation milk in a can. Please support this ministry by bringing food donations to our pantry. Thanks!

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.