

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

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

~ Third Advent ~

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

<b>Gathering</b>	Laury Willms
<b>Call to Worship, Congregational Life &amp; Prayer</b>	Stephen Cox
<b>Worship in Song</b>	Niagara Community Male Chorus
“Blessed is he that readeth”	
“Behold the Lamb”	The Stephens Sisters: Sharla, Jodi & Sheralyn
<b>Offering Focus</b>	
“Speed your journey”	
<b>Proclamation</b>	
<b>Children’s Moment &amp; Candle Lighting</b>	Jon Bradnam
“Prayer of the children”	Niagara Community Male Chorus
<b>Dramatic Reading: “The Magnificat”</b>	Hannah Regier
“There is faint music”	
<b>“Getting the most out of Christmas”</b>	David Lewis
<b>Sending</b>	
“Peace before us” StS #16	
<b>Benediction</b>	David Lewis

Today’s Audio-Visual: Pete Sawatzky & Peter Janzen

Today’s Nursery Volunteers: Janice Janzen & Christina Cox

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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:**

**Heartfelt thanks to our many friends & family** for the countless ways you supported us in recent months. It meant so much to have our wider church community walking with us. Your prayers, cards, visits, financial gifts & so much more helped carry us through a very difficult time. May God bless you richly. Dave & Teri Fast & family.

**WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

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

**Sunday School Program December 24<sup>th</sup>** Please mark your calendar with these important times. All Sunday School children will have a practice on **Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Children should be back on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to get into costumes by **5:15 p.m.** The evening program will start at **6:00 p.m.**

**Donation of Baby & Toddler Items!** Our church has been the recipient of some lovely donated used items for babies and young children! We are now looking for some homes to bless with these gifts. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact April in the church office.

**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. 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Cookies and squares needed** for the refreshments after the Candlelight Service on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>. Preferably they can be dropped off in the morning or before the performance.

**Junior Youth Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm** Sponsors are putting on supper for the youth- come one, come all, and come hungry!

**NIAGARA UM CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

**Thank you for all your generous donations!** Giving is our response to God’s grace in our lives. Each time we give of who we are and what we have, we proclaim that God is our God and that we are God’s people. Each offering is a practical, tangible expression that God has first claim on all we are and have. **We still need approximately \$95,300 (\$31,800 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.

<b>Offering of December 4<sup>th</sup>: \$12,732.40</b>			
Budget	\$9,590.40	MCC General	\$820.00
Christian Witness	\$20.00	MCC Haiti	\$80.00
Women in Service	\$1,500.00	MCC Christmas Gifts	\$90.00
Helping Hands	\$500.00	Teenage Evangelism	\$107.00
Refugee Sponsorship	\$25.00		
<b>Attendance December 4<sup>th</sup>: German Worship – 82 ; Worship Service - 183</b>			

**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.

<b>THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (December 12<sup>th</sup> - December 18<sup>th</sup>)</b>	
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b> Candlelight Choir Sing Time
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b> Women in Service Christmas Party
	<b>7:00 pm</b> Education Committee Meeting
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b> Pioneer Club
	<b>7:30 pm</b> Candlelight Choir Sing Time
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b> Youth
<b>Next Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Advent</b>	
<b>8:45 am</b>	Praise & Worship Practice
<b>9:30 am</b>	German Choir Practice
<b>9:45 am</b>	Lighthouse Kids Ministry
<b>10:00 am</b>	German Worship Service
<b>10:00 am</b>	Youth
<b>10:00 am</b>	Choir Practice
<b>11:00 am</b>	Worship Service – Message from Guest Speaker Paul Schmidt
Next week’s Nursery volunteers: Dan & Sarah Froese	

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

**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.

## **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 27<sup>th</sup>**

**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 4<sup>th</sup>**

**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 11<sup>th</sup>**

**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.

**Fourth Advent: Message by Paul Schmidt**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Day Service: Message by Pastor Stephen Cox**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **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.

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

**InfoHealth Lecture: "Aging: Planning and Making Important Decisions"** will be presented by Randy Klaassen on **Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 1 pm**, in the NOTL Community Centre, Mori Gardens Room.

**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.