

"Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community"

Niagara United Mennonite Church

~ Fourth Advent ~

December 18th, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Praise & Worship

Call to Worship, Congregational Life & Prayer

Joachim Dau

Worship in Song

Praise & Worship

"Joy to the World/Unspeakable Joy"

"Born in Bethlehem "

"Hope was born this night"

Offering- Focus on MCC Christmas Gifts

"Hark/King of Heaven"

Proclamation

Children's Moment

Katrina Metsa

Dramatic Reading: "Prodigal Christmas" *Kelly Wohlgemut, John & Rita Epp*

"Emmanuel, Hallowed Manger Ground"

"Restoration in Real Life"

Paul Schmidt

Sending

"Hallelujah/Cloverton Christmas Version"

Today's Audio-Visual: Ed Janzen & Kevin Schmidt

Today's Nursery Volunteers: Daniel & Sarah Froese

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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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German Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Andachtsleiter: Gunnar Doerwald

Orgelspiel: Marlene Borzychowski

Opfergaben Fokus: MCC Christmas Gifts

Weihnachtsbotschaft und Lieder

Gemeindebuch #61 v1-3 Herbei O ihr Gläubigen

#41 v1-2 Wie soll ich dich empfangen

#51 v1-3 Vom Himmel hoch

#47 v1,3 Macht hoch die Tür

#62 v1,4 Ich steh an deiner Krippe hier

#518 v1-3 Mit den Hirten will ich gehen

#512 v1-3 Kommet ihr Hirten, ihr Männer

#520 v1-3 Welchen Jubel, welche Freude

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Graham and Emma Thwaites and big sister Kayla are thrilled to announce the healthy arrival of their daughter, Brooklyn Marie Thwaites, born December 14th. Proud grandparents are John and Jocelyn Thwaites and Tom and Yvonne Haines.

With sympathy, we announce the passing of Agatha (nee Giesbrecht) Tomkow, great-aunt to Erika & Peter Janzen, who passed away on Dec.12th. Visitation and funeral to be held at St. Catharines United Mennonite Church on Mon. Dec. 19th at 10 am & 11 am respectively. Our prayers are with the family.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Today we welcome our guest preacher, Paul Schmidt! Paul is from Winnipeg and has lived in Niagara for 3 years with his wife, Leah, and children Annika and Elliot. A Canadian Mennonite University grad, Paul was a youth pastor at Carman Mennonite Church (Manitoba) and is now the Community Coordinator at Quest Christian Community. Thank-you for ministering to us today!

Pastor David Lewis is away visiting with his daughter, Michelle, and her family in Edmonton for the holidays. He will return to work on January 13th.

Please pick up the report at the Welcome Centre, which summarizes the first Transitional Work Group session that was held in November. This update is designed for the congregation to be informed and included in the progression of this group.

Candlelight Services The first service was held last night at Bethany Mennonite Church, and the second showing will be here at Niagara United Mennonite Church tonight, on **Sun. Dec. 18th at 7:00 pm.**

Cookies & squares needed for the refreshments after the Candlelight Service tonight. They can be dropped off in the morning or before the performance.

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

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

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.

Thank you for all your generous donations! It amazes me how generous our congregation is ... we have given over \$75,000 to missions outside of our budget. Giving is an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God. It comes from a heart of worship that recognizes that everything we give already belongs to him. **We still need approximately \$78,000 (\$39,000 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.

Offering of December 11th: \$17,209.70			
Budget	\$15,364.70	MCC General	\$810.00
Christian Witness	\$600.00	MCC Haiti	\$45.00
Friends of Menn. Cntr Ukr	\$70.00	MCC Food	\$20.00
Welcome Inn	\$25.00	MCC School Kits	\$200.00
Attendance December 11th: Worship Service - 250			

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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (December 19th - December 25th)

Tuesday: 7:00 pm Spiritual Council Meeting

Saturday: 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Program

Next Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day

11:00 am Worship Service – Message from Pastor Stephen Cox

Next week's Nursery volunteers: Christina Cox

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

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.

Fourth Advent: "Restoration in Real Life"

December 18th

Message by Paul Schmidt

Christmas Day Service: Message by Pastor Stephen Cox

December 25th

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:

MENNONITE BURIAL SOCIETY The Annual General Meeting of the Mennonite Burial Society will be held on **Saturday, January 14th at 2 pm** in the Tabor Manor Chapel in St. Catharines. Please park in the Scott Street Church parking lot. Board and committee positions are available. For further information, please contact Barry Boese at 905-228-1850 or email info@mennoniteburialsociety.com.

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.