

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

March 5th, 2017

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Rachael Peters

Call to Worship

Joachim Dau

Worship in Song

Choir

Congregational Life & Announcements

Joachim Dau

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

Video Clip launching Niagara Life Centre Coin Campaign

Proclamation

Children’s Moment

Katrina Metsa

“Prayers”

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-4, pew Bible p. 933

Alice Bradnam

“40 Days to a New You!”

Pastor Stephen Cox

Sending

Sending Song

Benediction

Pastor Stephen Cox

Today’s Nursery Volunteers: Eugene & Anna Kradko

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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 relief from pain and for continued healing for Sharon Dirks as she recovers from this past Monday’s surgery where just over half of her stomach was removed. There are currently no indications that the cancer has spread, however pathology results will confirm this in the coming weeks. Sharon and Rudy are so thankful for all of the encouragement and prayers they have received- they feel carried on these prayers and are experiencing the profound peace of Christ. May we continue to lift prayers for Sharon’s health to our Lord and Healer, so that she may be restored to full health and strength.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

The March-April issue of the Upper Room is in your church mailbox. Sorry for the delay in getting these to you!

Our March calendars are available for pick-up at our Welcome Centre! Please feel free to access our online church calendar on our website as well!

Transitional Work Group Summary - Please pick up the report at the Welcome Centre which summarizes our *second* Transitional Work Group session that was held in *January*. This update is designed for the congregation to be informed and included in the progression of the work of this group.

Please pick-up your coin collector today for Niagara Life Centre's *Change is Good Coin Campaign*. Fill your container with spare change and support the life-changing programs at Niagara Life Centre. Containers will be collected on **Easter Sunday- April 16th**. Niagara Life Centre is a Christian-based counseling ministry, providing aid for individuals and families experiencing crisis. More information is available at niagaralifecentre.ca or by calling 905-934-0021. Coin collector containers are available from the Welcome Centre.

Restore Us, O God Mennonite Church Canada has prepared some wonderful Lent-At-Home booklets for families to use to journey through the Lenten season. Please pick one up from the Welcome Centre today for use with your family or however might be meaningful to you!

Donation Tax Receipts are available in your church mailboxes. If you do not have a church mailbox, then your receipt has been mailed out to your home address.

Our 2016 Annual Report is available from the church office.

Office Hours Adjustment- Our Office Administrator April Michon is recovering from an automobile accident and in following doctor recommendations, is working reduced hours for a few months to help recover from her injuries. The weekly office hours are being printed each week in the bulletin during this time, and are included on the back cover of the bulletin.

Please note that the weekly bulletin is printed on Thursday mornings. All submissions for the bulletin need to be received in the office no later than Wednesdays at 12:00 noon. Thank-you for your cooperation for working within this timeline.

MENNONITE CHURCH EASTERN CANADA:

MCEC has made available lawn signs that welcome new Canadians. As Christians, we are called to speak out against any form of violence & especially those that are motivated by religious discrimination and lead to the tragic loss of life. In 3 languages, the sign reads, "No matter where you are from, we are glad you're our neighbour." These signs are available for purchase in our Welcome Centre for \$10 each (which includes the "H stake" for your lawn), and through the rest of the week in the office, while quantities last.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

Winter Warm-up Family Skate - this afternoon! Quest is hosting a Winter Warm-up Family Skate - a fundraiser for the sponsorship of a refugee family of 8, including one year of support for daily living in Canada! **Sunday, March 5th - 4:00-5:30 pm** @ Ridley College Ice Rink - 2 Ridley Road, St. Catharines Tickets: \$10/person or \$30 for a family (any # of family members) Tickets can be purchased and donations made at the door, or online. Anyone not wishing to skate can attend free without a ticket. Come and skate (or just watch and visit) and enjoy the pizza, bake sale and Starbucks coffee!

Food Festival & Pop-up Market! Enjoy mouth-watering Greek cuisine from Niagara's hottest new restaurant, George's Greek Village, and stroll through the marketplace with more than 22 of your favourite lifestyle product and clothing vendors! Proceeds from food sales will be donated to Niagara Life Centre Counselling's Renovation Fund. **From 12:00 noon – 9:00 pm on March 6 & 7** at 535 Queenston Street, St. Catharines. Reservations recommended, but not required. More info on the poster in the foyer.

Stay in touch with Mennonites in Canada and beyond by signing up for CM Now, a free newsletter that comes directly to your email inbox every two weeks. You'll find quick links to recent Canadian Mennonite web stories and viewpoints, plus items for you and your church to pray about. Go to <http://www.canadianmennonite.org/subscribe/cmnow>.

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.

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.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA:

World Women's Day is celebrated this year on **March 8th!**

Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights: Save the date – **April 23 - May 14** – to join all or part of a 600 km pilgrimage from Kitchener-Waterloo to Ottawa. Details at www.pfir.ca.

Those attending upcoming Area Church annual meetings will want to check out documents outlining the re-vitalization of Mennonite Church Canada and Area Churches as a result of our Future Directions process: futuredirectionsmc.ca/the-proposal.

FOR OUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE:

Please Note: During the March Break from school, Sr. Youth is also taking a break. Therefore, there will be no youth activities planned for Friday March 17th. On Friday March 10th if there is enough interest then an activity will be planned. Enjoy the break from school & the extra time with your families, and we will see you back at youth on **Friday, March 24th**!

Please Note: During the March Break from school, Lighthouse is taking a break as well. Therefore, there will be no Children's Ministry offered on the Sundays of March 12th or March 19th. Enjoy the break from school & the extra time with your families, and we will see you back at Lighthouse on **Sunday, March 26th**!

Junior Youth Retreat at Silver Lake: March 31st - April 2nd. Meet at the church on Friday @ 5:00 pm. The cost will be \$95-\$110. Let Lisa & Greg or Audrey & Joachim know by next Sunday if you are planning to attend. Further details to follow.

Our Upcoming Lenten Sermon Series.... **Cross-examined**

Into a world of hostility and retribution, God introduces the gift of forgiveness. And he did so in a most violent and offensive way. He brought the grace of forgiveness into the world through the cross. How this all works out in our lives requires a 'Cross examination'. For the next few weeks, leading up to Easter, we will go on a journey of examining the cross as it portrays the heart of God for us.

- March 12th **A Forgiving God in an Unforgiving World**
Galations 1:3-5; Psalm 103:3; Hebrews 10:15-18
- March 19th **Cross Walk** *Galations 2:15-21*
- March 26th **The Foolishness of the Cross**
Galations 3:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:18-23
- April 2nd **For Your Freedom and Mine**
Galations 5:1,6,11; 6:12

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (March 6th – March 12th)

Monday: 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study
7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice
Tuesday: 9:00 am Women in Service
7:00 pm Church Council Meeting
Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
Friday: 7:30 pm Youth

Next Sunday, March 12th

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice
9:30 am German Choir Practice
9:50 am Choir Practice
10:00 am German Worship Service
11:00 am Worship Service – Message from Pastor Dave Lewis

Next week's Nursery volunteers: Jolien Koole, Laurene Nickel

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

Offering of February 26th: \$8,223.00			
Budget	\$6,991.00	MCC General	\$760.00
Christian Witness	\$182.00	MCC Food	\$180.00
Library	\$50.00	MCC School Kits	\$40.00
		Friends of Menn. Cntr in Ukraine	\$20.00
Attendance February 26th: German Worship – 83 ; Worship Service – 149			

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.

Church Contacts:

Church Phone: (905) 468-3313 | Website: <http://www.redbrickchurch.ca>
Intentional Interim Pastor: David Lewis dave@redbrickchurch.ca
Associate Pastor: Youth and Christian Education: Stephen Cox scox@redbrickchurch.ca
Office Administrator: April Michon office@redbrickchurch.ca