

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

March 19th, 2017

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Call to Worship

Linda Friesen

Worship in Song

Choir

“All glory laud and honour” HWB #237

“Peace before us” StS #16

“There is a longing”

Congregational Life & Announcements

Linda Friesen

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

“As lives the flower”

Proclamation

Children’s Moment

Jon Bradnam

“Christ we do all adore You”

Scripture: Galatians 2:15-21pew Bible p. 1129

Bill Harder

“Cross Walk”

Pastor Dave Lewis

Sending

“Crowns”

Benediction

Pastor Dave Lewis

Today’s Nursery Volunteers: Wendy Janzen & Sue Fast

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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:

George and Rita Pauls are excited to announce that on February 20th, 2017 their son, Kyle Pauls finally popped the question to Juliana Aparicio, daughter of Rafael and Patricia Aparicio. Their wedding is expected to be in Spring 2018.

Our deep condolences are extended to David and Janie Lewis as they grieve the loss of Dave’s mother, who passed away last Sunday, March 12th, just weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday. Visitation for Elsie Lewis will be at the Donald V. Brown Funeral Home, 36 Lake Avenue Drive, Stoney Creek, this afternoon, Sunday, March 19th from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. The Memorial Service will be held tomorrow, Monday, March 20th at Paramount Drive Alliance Church, 1035 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek at 11:00 a.m. May the collective prayers of their extended church family and the loving embrace of Christ Jesus comfort the Lewis family during this time of loss.

Please pray for Ingrid Wiens as she receives convalescing care at Heritage Place.

Please pray for continued healing for Sharon Dirks as she recovers from surgery and begins chemotherapy. May our prayers help carry her through this time of trial and may our Lord and Healer be her strength and Redeemer.

God bless and comfort those who are suffering among us. Although their names are not published weekly, there are those who need to be lifted up to God. We are encouraged to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who have experienced joy. How blessed we are to be in God’s family!

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Seniors' Tea The next Seniors' Time Out is scheduled for **Sunday March 26th at 3:30 pm** in the gym. George Dyck will be presenting slides of Ukraine. All seniors are welcome, so please join us for this time of gathering.

Pray. Fast. Give. 40 days of Giving. During Lent this year, we are participating in Niagara Life Centre's *Change is Good Coin Campaign*. NLC is a Christian-based counselling ministry, providing aid for individuals experiencing life crises and caring for families and individuals by offering hope, help and healing. Your support, through participation in this campaign, allows NLC to be able to provide free or low-cost counselling services to the hurting in our community. More info is available at niagaralifecentre.ca or by calling 905-934-0021. The campaign is now underway and concludes on Easter (April 16th). Please pick-up your coin collector container today at 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!

Bulletin Change – In a unanimous decision, the Spiritual Council has voted to remove the attendance figures from the bulletin. The insertion of the attendance figures does not align with what we believe to be our spiritual values. However, it was felt to be correct to let the community know the reasoning behind discontinuing the practice. In 2 Samuel 2, King David is reprimanded by God for counting his fighting men, as it indicated putting trust in his army rather than God. In the same way, we felt we were putting our hopes in numbers of attendees rather than in the relationships with Christ that we are building. We recognize that in this age of statistics, this number has meaning. Yet, it is also a number that the powers of this world can use to drown out the voice of God. So, we have decided to discontinue the practice of announcing attendance figures. We encourage you to talk with members of Spiritual Council if you are hearing a different word, that we may discern together what God is saying in this matter.

The Canadian Mennonite Subscription update: If you currently subscribe to the Canadian Mennonite and wish to make any changes to your subscription, please contact April in our church office. As a current subscriber, you may opt to receive the latest complete issue of the magazine by e-mail. This is a good option if you change your mailing address regularly, if you want to save paper, if you're moving overseas, or if you prefer to read your magazines online. Send your e-mail address to office@canadianmennonite.org to subscribe to the digital version. If you do not currently subscribe, but would like to receive this twice-monthly print publication, please let April know and she will be happy to arrange this for you at no charge. The mission of this publication is to educate, inspire, inform, and foster dialogue on issues facing Mennonites in Canada as it shares the good news of Jesus Christ from an Anabaptist perspective.

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.

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 below:

Office Hours This Week:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wednesday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

FOR OUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE:

Please Note: There is no Lighthouse program today due to March Break.

Lighthouse PRAISE & WORSHIP News for Sunday, March 26 Steve Cox will be presenting our Grade 3 kids with their very own Bible during the Praise and Worship time from 9:45 to 10:00. Parents are invited to attend and worship with us.

Upcoming! Lighthouse kids will be singing in the **April 9th, Palm Sunday** Service.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (March 20th – March 26th)

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 Spiritual Council Meeting
Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
Friday: 7:30 pm Youth
Saturday: 8:30 am Transitional Work Group Meeting

Next Sunday, March 26th

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice
 9:30 am German Choir Practice
 9:45 am Lighthouse Praise & Worship
 9:50 am Choir Practice
 10:00 am German Worship Service – Message by Joachim Dau
 10:00 am Lighthouse Kids Ministry
 10:00 am Baptism Class
 11:00 am Worship Service – Message from David Martin

Next week's Nursery volunteers: Andrew & Kristina Nickel

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

Offering of March 12th : \$5,603.00			
Budget	\$4,528.00	MCC General	\$535.00
Christian Witness	\$400.00	MCC Food	\$120.00
		Friends of Menn. Cntr in Ukraine	\$20.00

Offering Focus – Our weekly budget requirement is \$7,900. 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 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.

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 **Connecting the Congregation to the Mission Field**

Acts 17:14-34

Message by David Martin

April 2nd **The Foolishness of the Cross**

Galations 3:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:18-23

April 9th **For Your Freedom and Mine**

Galations 5:1,6,11; 6:12

MENNONITE CHURCH EASTERN CANADA:

Delegates Needed for MCEC's Annual Meeting NUMC has three delegates willing to attend this meeting held in Oakville from April 27th @ 6pm- April 28th @5 pm. As a congregation we have room for up to 6 more delegates to attend. It is the recommendation of MCEC, which we also support, that delegates attend the Consultation on the Future Directions Task Force Recommendation Meeting, held by MCEC on March 30, 7:00 pm meeting in Vineland if possible. Copies of the proposal that are to be discussed are available on the Future Directions website, or by contacting April in our church office. If you would like to represent our congregation as a delegate, please speak to April Michon.

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). We have two signs left available for purchase.

Women of MCEC invite women of all ages to St Jacobs Mennonite Church, April 22, 2017. Registration and Coffee 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Program 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Guest speaker, Carol Penner currently. Topic: "body and soul" Singing, Scripture, Stories, Sharing. Carol Penner teaches and writes in the area of practical theology. After many years as a pastor Mennonite congregations, she joined the faculty of CGUC. She has a popular blog <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/>. Offering towards WMCEC Conrad Grebel Scholarship.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA:

Mennonite Church Canada celebrates this week: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21) and World Water Day (March 22).

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.

Future Directions: Those attending upcoming Area Church annual meetings - or in case you missed the AGM in your region –check out documents outlining the re-vitalization of Mennonite Church Canada and Area Churches that positions congregations as centres of worship and mission: futuresdirectionsmc.ca/the-proposal.

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.