

*"Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community"*

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.**

**Gathering**

**Call to Worship**

Steve Cox

**Worship in Song**

Praise and Worship

"Only a God like you"

"One Day"

"Take us to the river"

**Congregational Life & Announcements**

Steve Cox

Child Dedication

Rebecca Scott – parents: Matthew & Melanie Scott

Brooklyn Thwaites- parents: Graham and Emma Thwaites

Congregational Response (on Powerpoint)

Offering Focus- Christian Witness

"How deep the Father's love"

**Proclamation**

Children's Moment

David Martin

"In Christ alone"

Scripture: Acts 17: 14-34 pew Bible p. 1071

Becca Willms

"Connecting the Congregation to the Mission Field"

David Martin

**Sending**

"You are my King"

Benediction

Steve Cox

Today's Nursery Volunteers: Andrew & Christine 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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**German Worship Service - 10:00 am**

**Andachtsleiter: Lani Gade - Psalm 62: 2, 3, 12, 13**

Orgelspiel: Giesela Doerwald

Lied: GB #40 "Ich Singe Dir" (vs 1, 2, 6-8)

Chorlied

**Opfergaben Fokus: Christian Witness**

Lied: GB #289 "In Gottes Reich"

Chorlied

**Schriftwort: Joh 3: 1-20**

**Botschaft: "Was erwarten wir" – Udo Woelke**

**JOYS & CONCERNS:**

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

**From the family of the late Kaethe Esau.** We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Stephen for his caring support and for conducting such a comforting service. Special thanks also to John, Kathy, Giesela, Angela, and the Choir for the beautiful music; Ann Marie and the "Helping Hands" volunteers for serving the lovely fellowship meal; April for all her efforts to ensure no detail was missed; Mary Pompetzki, Jake Enns and John Epp for welcoming our family and friends; and Jeff and Anita for getting the church ready for us. Thank you for your prayers and the overwhelming love and support we have received. We feel truly blessed to be part of such a warm and caring church family.

**With deep sympathy,** we grieve the loss of two of our members this past week. On March 18 Susanna Schroeder went to her heavenly home. Her funeral service was held on Thursday, March 23 here at our church. On Sunday, March 19, Kaethe Esau surrounded by family, said goodbye as she moved into her eternal home in Heaven. Her funeral service was held here in the church on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. May our Loving Father's warm embrace uplift and sustain these families in this time of mourning.

**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:**

**Welcome here today David Martin as our guest speaker!** David Martin's passion for ministry began in the Waters Mennonite Church, a small mission congregation in Lively, Ontario where he learned what it means to live the Christian faith from an Anabaptist perspective. He has held ministry positions at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church in Waterloo, Hagerman Mennonite Church in Markham, and Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church in Kitchener. Since 2005, he serves as MCEC Executive Minister. David believes in God's calling for the Mennonite church to turn outward in mission and ministry to our larger world as agents of God's peace. In his spare time, you will find David on a local curling rink, competing in the Friar's Briar, or out for a walk – preferably in the woods. David and Doris have three adult children and one grandson.

**Seniors' Tea** The next Seniors' Time Out is scheduled for **Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://niagaralifecentre.ca) or by calling 905-934-0021. The campaign is now underway and concludes on Easter (April 16<sup>th</sup>). 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.

**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.

**Office Hours This Week:**

Monday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Tuesday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Wednesday: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Thursday: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Friday: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

**FOR OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH:**

**Lighthouse PRAISE & WORSHIP News** Please bring your kids for 9:45 sharp April 2 and April 9 so that we can practice the song the kids are singing on April 9th in the Service.

**Operation Christmas Child** Thank you to our church for their contribution of 17 shoe boxes this past Christmas that are bringing Good News and Great Joy to many children. **The shoeboxes our church packed joined 664,525 collected in Canada!** Each shoebox is a Gospel Opportunity. Last year alone, in countries receiving shoeboxes from Canada, over 121,000 children gave their hearts to Jesus through The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program. It started with simple shoeboxes. I encourage you to [SamaritansPurse.ca/Celebrate](http://SamaritansPurse.ca/Celebrate) to discover the impact our church is having.

**Jr. Youth** Friday March 31, 7:00 -9:00 pm. Games night here at church! Friends welcome.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (March 27<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

**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  
**Saturday:** 9:00 am Niagara Community Male Chorus Workshop

**Next Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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 Lighthouse Kids Ministry  
 10:00 am Baptism Class  
 11:00 am Worship Service – Message from Dave Lewis

Next week's Nursery volunteers: Graham & Emma Thwaites

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

Offering of March 19 <sup>th</sup> : \$6,712.00			
Budget	\$4,987.00	MCC General	\$380.00
Christian Witness	\$885.00	MCC Food	\$90.00
Refugee Sponsorship	\$70.00	MCC Famine Relief	\$100.00
		Misc. Donations	\$200.00

**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 12<sup>th</sup> **A Forgiving God in an Unforgiving World**

*Galatians 1:3-5; Psalm 103:3; Hebrews 10:15-18*

March 19<sup>th</sup> **Cross Walk**

*Galatians 2:15-21*

March 26<sup>th</sup> **Connecting the Congregation to the Mission Field**

*Acts 17:14-34*

Message by David Martin

April 2<sup>nd</sup> **The Foolishness of the Cross**

*Galatians 3:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:18-23*

April 9<sup>th</sup> **For Your Freedom and Mine**

*Galatians 5:1,6,11; 6:12*

**MENNONITE CHURCH EASTERN CANADA:**

**MCEC Annual Church Gathering:** The Great Recommission - Matthew 28:19. Friday, April 28 - Saturday, April 29 at the Meeting House, Oakville. Rescue Junction, Bruxy Cavey, workshops, Relearning Community, Sacred Trust, and more! If you are interested in attending please contact April Michon in our church office so you can be registered.

**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:**

**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](http://www.pfir.ca).

**Future Directions:** Vineland United Mennonite Church is hosting a meeting on the proposed future direction of Mennonite Church Canada. Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) staff will be there to facilitate conversation and understanding of this new vision for being the church in contemporary Canadian society. The meeting takes place Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 and is open to anyone who is interested. The current proposal may be found online at [futuresdirectionsmc.ca/the-proposal](http://futuresdirectionsmc.ca/the-proposal).

## **OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:**

**Canadian Cancer Society** is in need of Leadership Volunteers for the Niagara-on-the-Lake branch board. Be part of the future. Help share the direction of the Canadian Cancer Society in your area. If interested please contact Kim Spiessmann at [kspiessmann@ontario.cancer.ca](mailto:kspiessmann@ontario.cancer.ca) 905-684-6455 ext. 3152

**Pleasant Manor annual Spring Tea and Bake sale** will be held on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 10am to 11:30am. We would appreciate contributions of baked goods from anyone who would like to bake for this occasion. Baked goods could include items such as bread, meat buns, zwiebak, squares, pies and of course Paska. Everyone enjoys purchasing these delicious goodies. The bake sale will be held in the Pleasant Manor Chapel and in the Heritage Place Chapel. We will also have a Tea Room in the Pleasant Manor Retirement Village dining room. Come enjoy the fellowship over a cup of tea. Baked goods and crafts can be dropped off for the bake sale in the Pleasant Manor Chapel on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> between 7 and 8 pm. We look forward to an enjoyable time with you!

**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.