

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

July 9th, 2017

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Kathy Rempel

Call to Worship

Linda Friesen

Worship in Song

John & Kathy Rempel

“You’ve got a place” StJ #4

“What a wonderful name it is”

“Teach me thy truth HWB” HWB #548

Congregational Life & Announcements

Linda Friesen

Offering Focus- MCC

“I am weak and I need thy strength” HWB #553

Proclamation

“I Surrender”

Katrina Metsa & Josh Baergen

Children’s Moment

Kathy Rempel

Scripture: Matthew 22:36-40, pew Bible p. 958

John Tiessen

Sharing

Rick Froese, Katrina Metsa, Josh Baergen, Rebecca Willms, Jolien Koole

Reflection

Stephen Cox

Litany of Blessing and Release

Rick Froese, Joachim Dau & Pastor Stephen Cox

Sending

“The Lord lift you up” StJ #73

Benediction

Pastor David Lewis

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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 - 9:00 am

Andachtsleiter: Joachim Dau, Psalm 15, Lukas 15:7

Orgelspiel: Giesella Doerwald

Lied: GB #181 “Gott, deine Guete reichtso weit”

Chorlied

Opfergaben Fokus: MCC

Lied: GB #32 “Wie gross ist des Allmaechtgen Guete” V. 1,3 & 4

Chorlied

Schriftwort: Lukas 6:36-42, Mose 50:15-21

Botschaft: “Der barmherziger Richter ” – Renate Klaassen

Litany of Release and Blessing

Leader 1: We have laughed together, cried together, Worshipped together, prayed together. We have shared our very hearts and lives together.

Leader 2: We have hoped together, dreamed together, planned together, Worked together, and eaten lots of potlucks together.

People: Now it is time to say goodbye.

Leader 1: Parting is bittersweet. Memories flood our minds and hearts.

People: We say goodbye with gratitude and sadness mixed together in all sorts of strange ways.

Leader 2: In saying goodbye to Steve, we release him from his responsibilities as Associate Pastor of Niagara United Mennonite Church. Will you join me in this release?

People: With God's help, we release Steve from his responsibilities as our Associate Pastor.

Steve: I thank you, the members and friends of Niagara United Mennonite Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People: We also ask God's blessing on your future work in the Kingdom of God and offer our support and encouragement to you as your ministry unfolds in new settings. We pray God's blessings on you and on us as we begin a new relationship with each other, in which you are no longer our pastor.

We offer our blessing upon your family, Christina, Trent and Carston, that they too will receive God's gifts of goodness in your new community.

Leader 1: Now I ask you, Steve, do you release this congregation from its loyalty to you as pastor? Do you release its members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

Steve: With the help of God, I release this congregation from its loyalty and dependence on me as its pastor. I pray God's blessing on each person here in his or her spiritual journey, and I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for your future as often as the Lord lays it on my heart.

Leader 2: In our many interactions as a community of followers of Jesus, we have spoken many words, and shared many activities. Inevitably there have been times when we have not always understood each other fully, and where we may even have offended each other.

All: Where this has been the case we humbly ask forgiveness from each other. And we also offer forgiveness to each other. Let there be nothing between us except for the debt of love and the mercy and presence of Christ.

Leader 1: In the course of our interactions we have also experienced the wonderful diversity of each other's personality and gifts.

All: We give thanks to God for enriching each one of us in the community of Christ, far beyond what we could become on our own. God has indeed been among us.

Leader 2: Let us join in prayer.

Most gracious and merciful Father, it was you brought us together and it is you who are separating us. Though we are apart, we are still part of your family and for that we give you thanks. For Steve, grant him your wisdom as he takes on his new role. Bless the Cox family as they start a new home in a new place. For us who remain here, help to sense your new calling upon us. Help us to take up where Steve has left off and to see the new paths you are laying out for us.

Where there is fear and doubt in all of this, fill it with the hope and the joy that comes from knowing that you are the author of all that is good. Bless and help us as we move into your future. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Please continue to pray for Elizabeth Schachowskoj, who has experienced a sharp decline in her health this week. She continues to receive care at the Niagara Falls hospital, and appreciates visits from her church family at this time of failing health. Let us continue to lift her to the Great Physician, and pray also for her family who is surrounding her with care. May they all experience the fullness of Christ's peace and presence at this time.

Please pray for the family of Walter Berg, who has passed away. His funeral will be held this week on Wed. July 12th at 11:00 am at Grace Mennonite Church in St. Catharines, where he attended, with a time of fellowship afterwards.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Potluck & BBQ – At the conclusion of this morning's worship service, please exit through the back sanctuary doors to greet Pastor Stephen Cox and family. Following that, please carry on to the gym, or backyard where everyone is invited to join together for a potluck BBQ lunch and time of fellowship, as a farewell to the Cox family. If you have brought lawn chairs or blankets and you wish to sit outside, please do. We also have tables set up in the gym for those who prefer to eat indoors. Please give an offering of \$2 per person (excluding children- kids eat free!) to cover the cost of the BBQ, as you are able.

Pastor Stephen Cox will be in the office this week from Tuesday-Friday. His contract with us goes until July 31st, however he will be leaving for vacation this Saturday, July 15th through to the end of his term here. If you were unable to wish him well at today's service, and still wish to do so, please plan to visit him this week as he finishes wrapping up his final ties here.

Special Membership Meeting Please join us immediately after the Worship service **next week, on Sunday, July 16th**. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend. We are expecting two votes to happen during this quick special meeting and encourage members to participate in the discussion and decision-making. The agenda is enclosed in today's bulletin.

Youth Ministry Sponsors are required for our 2017-2018 school year! Please prayerfully consider if this is a way that you may be called to serve in our church community. We have a fantastic group of young people and some great sponsors already- some additional leadership is needed to help share the responsibilities and provide extra supervision. Please contact the church office for more information regarding this role or to volunteer.

Book Sale in the church foyer. \$1.00 hardcover, \$0.50 soft cover, proceeds of the sale to support our church library.

Books from Pastor Rudy Dirks' personal collection are available to anyone in the congregation who would like to help themselves. The books are on a table outside Sharon's former office. **Today is the final day they will be displayed**, after which they will be donated to the community.

Christian Education Worker - As discussed at the May 30 Membership Meeting the Education Committee has requested we hire a "Christian Education Worker" once Stephen Cox finishes his work here. This person would lead, resource, equip and assist in any way necessary in the spiritual nurture of our children (cradle to college). This would be a one year contract until our new Associate Pastor is hired and in place. This request will be brought to the membership for approval on **July 16th**.

Associate Pastor: German Worship – The proposal by the German Worship team to hire an Associate Pastor on a 35% part-time basis was approved by the membership at the congregational meeting on May 30. The position has been posted at both the NUMC and MCEC websites for applications to be received by July 15. A search committee, consisting of Hans J. Wiens, Wilhelm (Bill) Harder, Franz Siemens and Udo Woelke, will evaluate applications and invite a chosen applicant to be interviewed and presented to the membership for approval at a special meeting. A starting date of Fall 2017 is anticipated.

Graduates & Post-Secondary Students – please kindly inform the church office if you or your son/daughter has or is graduating from high school or post-secondary studies this year. Please also notify April if you/they plan to attend/continue college or university in the fall and if so, in which program you/they are enrolled.

<u>THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (July 10th – July 16th)</u>	
Tuesday:	7:00 pm Church Council Meeting
Wednesday:	7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting
<u>Sunday July 16th</u>	
10:00 am	Worship Service – Message by Pastor David Lewis

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

Office Hours This Week:

Monday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Tuesday: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
 Wednesday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Thursday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Friday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Offering of July 2nd: \$4,560.00			
Budget	\$ 3,410.00	MCC General	\$ 565.00
Christian Witness	\$ 415.00	MCC Famine Relief	\$ 20.00
Menn. Cntr in Ukraine	\$ 50.00	MCC Food	\$ 100.00

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.

Membership Meeting Agenda

Sunday, July 16, 2017, 11:10 am

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Acceptance of Agenda
- 3) Appointment of Tellers Committee
- 4) Proposal to hire a "Christian Education Worker" – vote expected
 - One year contract beginning in the Fall
 - Part time – 25 hours per week
 - To lead, resource, equip and assist in the spiritual nurture of our children
 - Position would be reassessed once the new Associate Pastor is hired
- 5) Proposal to hire a "Worship Co-ordinator" – vote expected
 - One year contract beginning in the Fall
 - Part time – 10-12 hours per week
 - To lead a creative, vibrant, multigenerational worship time
 - Style consistent with NUMC traditions
- 6) Other Business
- 7) Close

Our Sermons & Services in July...

July 2 "The Restfulness of God" Final Sermon by Pastor Stephen Cox

July 9 Service of Blessing & Release for Pastor Stephen Cox

July 16 "The Kind of Life God Blesses" Matthew 5: 1-12 *Dave Lewis*

July 23 "What Jesus says you're good for" Matthew 5: 1-12 *Dave Lewis*

July 30 Guest Preacher Gregory Dick

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

Mennonite Church Canada's 2017 Annual General Meeting will be streamed online on **July 12 from 6 – 7 pm CDT**. Instructions on how to join are at <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/2017AGM/>. Join the meeting early to allow a few minutes to auto-install the required meeting software to your browser.

Assembly Registration is open! You are invited to register for the October 13-15 special 2017 Assembly in Winnipeg: <http://www.cvent.com/d/c5q8ft>

Pray for Mennonite Church Canada's Palestine and Israel Resolution Working Group as they continue to develop resources supporting the Palestine and Israel resolution passed at Assembly 2016 and nurture relationships among Palestinian and Jewish neighbours. May such efforts raise awareness and encourage action toward peace and justice today. Pray for open hearts and minds to receive new understandings of justice and peace in this conflicted land. See the congregational study, Pathways for Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel at www.commonword.ca/go/1032.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

New MCC Canada Executive Director It is with mixed emotions that, as of September 30th, 2017, we bid farewell to our beloved Executive Director, Rick Cober Bauman. Fortunately for MCC as a whole, Rick's next role will be as Executive Director of MCC Canada where he will continue to provide the warm, wise, and forward-thinking leadership that we have benefitted from here in Ontario.

Material Resources Shipments We have two upcoming shipments, potentially to the Middle East. Bars of hand soap, laundry soap and sewing kits have been requested. Please consider making a financial donation to help purchase these greatly needed supplies, or buy them and donate to Material Resources at 50 Kent Ave, Kitchener. To make a financial donation, call 519-745-8458 and specify that it's for soap or sewing kits. Questions? Call Carolyn Gray at 519-745-8458 ext. 234 or email carolyngray@mcco.ca.

IVEP Hosts Needed Interested in travelling the world without leaving home? Open your home to an International Volunteer Exchange Program participant! Hosts are needed in St. Catharines for the 2017/2018 IVEP term. Remuneration is provided. Go to mcco.ca/ivep or contact Sheryl Bruggeling (sherylbruggeling@mcco.ca or 519-745-8458 ext 265) for more info.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

Pleasant Manor Fundraising Please see our community board for information on Pleasant Manor's July Fundraising initiative.

Niagara Life Centre Counselling needs your help. If you love to cook, and are able to take part in our cooking ministry for 8-10 young pregnant moms, we need you. Every Thursday the NLC Young and Pregnant Niagara group meets from 4:30 to 6:30 and this includes a healthy dinner. If you're interested and looking for how you can help with this program, please call Rita or Joanne at [905-934-0021](tel:905-934-0021).

Do you know a young person eager for adventure, learning, travel and friendship - all while exploring a life of following Jesus? Outtatown still has space available for 2017-2018! Visit outtatown.com to learn more and apply.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – SILVER LAKE MENNONITE CAMP: Volunteers are needed in the kitchen and to help with maintenance projects the weeks of **July 16-22 and August 6-12**. For more information please contact the camp – 519-422-1401 / fun@slmc.ca or visit www.slmc.ca/volunteers.

SAVE THE DATE! Seeking Understanding: Reading the Bible in light of same sex relationships - Saturday, **September 30- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**, Grace Mennonite Church, St. Catharines. Seminar presenter: Dan Epp-Tiessen, professor of Bible at Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg. Cost - \$15, includes coffee break and lunch. Planned by Grace Mennonite Church, The First Mennonite Church, & Vineland United Mennonite Church. Stay tuned for more details!

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.

Online Filming Privacy Notice – Our church services are recorded for streaming 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.