

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

September 10th, 2017

“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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Our Lighthouse program, which is a time of fellowship and learning for those aged 4 years to Grade 6 is held each Sunday during the Worship Service. Those in Grade 7 and 8 are also welcome to attend. The children will be called to the front for the Children’s Moment and then released after that. Parents may pick up their children in the Education Wing at the end of the service.

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Our Current Sermon Series... **LIVE LIFE WITH US**

LIVE LIFE WITH US is an invitation that is commonly spoken in the context of the NUMC church community. What does that mean and how will we know if we are fulfilling this calling we have placed upon ourselves? In a series of messages designed to explore the theme of Live Life With Us, we will examine several directives that shaped the church community as it started out on its mission of advancing God’s kingdom through faith, hope and love.

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| September 10th | Make the Love Connection
<i>John 15:12-17</i> |
| September 17th | The Power of Everybody
<i>Romans 12:1-5</i> |
| September 24th | Please Pray for me
<i>Ephesians 1:15-23</i> |
| October 1st | Exposing the Imposter in Us
<i>2 Corinthians 3:7-18</i> |
| October 15th | Relational Intelligence
<i>1 Peter 3:8-12</i> |
| October 22nd | To Tell the Truth
<i>Ephesians 4:14-25</i> |
| October 29th | Serving and Sharing
<i>Galatians 5:13-15, Ephesians 5:21, Acts 4:32-35</i> |

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Katrina and Erik Metsa are excited to announce the birth of their daughter Taylor Rena Metsa, born August 31, 2017. Thrilled first time grandparents are Ruth Willms & Alan Teichroeb, and Marie & Tom Metsa who live near Barrie. Third great grandchild for John and Hilda Willms.

With deeply saddened hearts, we offer heartfelt condolences to Henry & Elsie Siemens and their family, who are mourning the loss of their youngest son Drew Siemens, also great-nephew to Hedy Kopeschny, who passed away on September 2nd. Visitation and a Celebration of Life service were held this week (Thurs. Sept. 7th & Fri. Sept. 8th) at George Darte Funeral Home in St. Catharines. May our Lord and Redeemer comfort the family and loved ones of Drew with His peace that passes all understanding during this deepest of sorrows. May His love that shines so brightly shine now, even into the darkness of this grief, bringing hope, healing and reconciliation to Him, our source of truth and life.

With great joy we congratulate Josh Baergen & Marnie Becker on their wedding which was held here last Sunday, September 3rd, in our church. We pray for God' rich blessing to be upon them as they journey through life and marriage together.

Heartfelt congratulations are extended to Alex Froese and Melissa Fyfe who were wedded here in our church yesterday, Saturday, September 9th. May God's love and joy continue to surround this couple and guide their path through their marriage and life together.

Please continue to pray for the members of our church family who are recovering from sickness, in the healing process from injury, and who are in the need of encouragement from our prayers. We recognize that many individuals and families face hardships, physical and otherwise, which go unmentioned publicly. Please continue to share the love of Christ as the Spirit leads, and to boldly ask how you can lift one another in prayer to our Father in Heaven.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

All are welcome today! After our worship service today, we are having a church family potluck lunch. Please stay and join us, even if you did not bring something to share. There is always plenty of food, and we love this time of fellowshiping together. Meet in the gym after service concludes!

The Upper Room Renewal- If you wish to continue receiving your copy of The Upper Room devotional, please contact April in the office, as well, be sure to include any updates on the quantities that you require. If you would like to start subscribing, please contact April to add you to the group subscription. The cost for the 2018 subscription will be \$15 per subscription (one devotional every two months). Payment can be made at the Welcome Centre, or in the church office. **Deadline is Sept. 15th.**

Safe Place Training- Thank-you to the many of our dedicated children and youth ministry volunteers who were able to participate in our mandatory Safe Places seminar this past Thursday evening! As we recognize, some of you were unable to attend this session. We kindly ask that everyone involved in Nursery, Lighthouse, Pioneer Club, Junior Youth, Senior Youth, or is around our children, students or youth in any other capacity who was unable to attend our other seminar, please attend our second and last seminar for this year. It is a mandatory requirement to be involved with our young people, to keep them and yourself as a volunteer safe and protected. This seminar will be held immediately after the service next week: **Sunday, September 17th**. Please contact the church office to RSVP and to obtain further details. Thank-you for your time and generosity, and for your passion in serving our next generation! 😊

Search Committee for Lead Pastor: By now you have probably noticed our advertisement in the Canadian Mennonite and the posting on our church website. Candidates have until the end of September to apply for the Lead Pastor position. In the meantime, the Search Committee has been working on a Congregational Information Form as recommended by MCEC as part of the process. The information on this form will give the candidate a good overall picture of our congregation, our theology and our facilities, as well as information about the surrounding community. We are also reviewing other helpful information from the conference and will begin planning the interview process with our next meeting. Our MCEC resource person is David Brubacher, currently half-time pastor at Grace. He comes with many years of pastoral and conference experience and his knowledge of this process has been very helpful. Some of you have been asking if we know how many candidates have applied. Right now, we don't know; but what we do know, is that the Lord is already preparing someone for our congregation. Thank you for your continued prayers and support! Feel free to contact anyone on the committee at any time. Ruth Willms, John Rempel, Joachim Dau, Erik Metsa, Becky Bartel, Becca Willms, Linda Friesen (Henry).

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

PIONEER CLUB: Calling all Kids!!! Keep your Wednesday evenings free! Come to Pioneer Clubs and learn about Jesus and the Bible! All children ages Kindergarten to Grade 6 are welcome. Registration is **Wednesday, September 13, 2017**. Stay for an introductory fun evening! For further information call the office or check out our church web page!

Senior Youth MasterChef - One kitchen. Many chefs. ONE winning team. Who can grill the best cheese? What will it take to win? Battle it out this Friday, September 15 at 7:30 PM, right here at NUMC. See you there!! (Participants are encouraged to up their game by bringing favourite ingredients from home. Ketchup is especially encouraged.)

Junior Youth Sleepover! On **September 22-23rd** the Junior Youth will be having a bring-a friend sleepover at the church! Drop off is at 7:00 pm Friday night, pick-up is between 10-11am Saturday morning. Details to follow. Stay posted. Hope to see you there!

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**Offering Focus** – Our weekly budget requirement is \$8,260. 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, 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.

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| <b>Offering of September 3<sup>rd</sup> : \$8,537.30</b> |            |             |          |
| Budget                                                   | \$7,432.30 | MCC General | \$770.00 |
| Christian Witness                                        | \$205.00   | MCC Food    | \$30.00  |
|                                                          |            | MCC Ukraine | \$100.00 |

## **MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA:**

**Assembly Registration is open!** You are invited to register for the **October 13-15** special 2017 Assembly in Winnipeg. Discernment Documents are now available at [www.futuredirectionsmc.ca](http://www.futuredirectionsmc.ca). These documents share important background and proposals for the re-organization of our Five Area Churches and MC Canada. *The final cut-off date for registration is Sept. 17.* Register online at <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/winnipeg2017>.

**We need your voices! Youth are wanted at the 2017 Special Delegate Assembly, held in Winnipeg from October 13-15.** Emerging Voices Initiative (EVI) is partnering with Mennonite Church Canada to invite financial support available to any youth interested in attending the gathering, with no need to apply. EVI will also be providing youth programming related to the Future Directions process. For more information and to donate, visit <https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/EVI-Youth2017>.

**Chew on This!** Join Citizens for Public Justice in Chew on This!, our annual fall anti-poverty campaign. Each year, on October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, volunteers across Canada hand out Chew on This! lunch bags containing a food item, a magnet, and a postcard directed to the federal government. This year, we are focused on making sure the federal government hears the voices of people calling for a comprehensive national anti-poverty strategy. To organize a Chew on This! event or for more information, go to [dignityforall.ca/chew-on-this](http://dignityforall.ca/chew-on-this) or contact Darlene O'Leary at [darlene@cpj.ca](mailto:darlene@cpj.ca).

## **MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE:**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Mennonite Disaster Service Response Constance Bay (Ottawa), ON - Repairing from May Flooding: MDS is starting to repair homes that were flooded this spring, assisting vulnerable families who need their basements or crawl spaces insulated and do not have insurance. Volunteers are needed in particular for insulating, some hanging and finishing of drywall, and carpentry. Related skills are desirable but not required. Accommodations will be available. Leadership & Weekly volunteers are needed. The project will start the week of 11 Sept, into Oct. Please consider volunteering by calling or emailing, Nick Hamm at 905-401-3990 or [hammnicholas.mds@outlook.com](mailto:hammnicholas.mds@outlook.com)

## **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:**

**MCC Ontario Annual General Meeting:** Cath & Peter Woolner, former MCC Ethiopia Country Reps will join MCC Ontario staff to update you on MCC's work in Ontario and around the world. For more info, to view the business package and to RSVP, please go to [mcco.ca/agm](https://mcco.ca/agm) or call 519-745-8458. **Sat, Sept 30, 12-3 pm.** Community Room, 50 Kent Ave, Kitchener

**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 donate: call 519-745-8458 & specify that it's for soap/sewing kits. Questions? Call Carolyn Gray at 519-745-8458 ext. 234 or email [carolyngray@mcco.ca](mailto:carolyngray@mcco.ca).

**MCC Ontario is planning a shipment to Ukraine in mid-November** and is urgently in need of hygiene kits, sewing kits and some kits we don't regularly collect (sewing kits, and men's and women's care kits). Please help families and individuals in Ukraine meet their basic needs. Find info about this shipment and the needed supplies on our MCC bulletin board.



Get your bikes and feet tuned up for the fantastically fun national church bike-a-thon on **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**.

Register at <https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/mennonitechurchca> or contact Jason Martin at [jmartin@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:jmartin@mennonitechurch.ca) or (226) 747-1833.

In Ontario, you can join "The Real MCCO" in support of MCC Ontario Programs addressing poverty, helping refugees and newcomers, walking with Indigenous neighbours and bringing peace through restorative justice. Grab your friends and family for a great time. Register at <https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/mcco> or contact Katie via [katiebuchnea@mcco.ca](mailto:katiebuchnea@mcco.ca) or 519-745-8458 x235.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of the ministries of Mennonite Church Canada and MCC Ontario!

## **OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:**

**Fairview Community Church** is offering "Ladies Time Out" on Tuesday mornings for women of all ages. For details visit <http://www.fairviewmb.ca/connect/programs> or come to registration on **Sept. 12 at 9:00am.**

**Newark Neighbours** would like to thank our congregation for our past support and hope we can help restock the shelves that have become depleted over the summer. In particular they need non-perishable foods, small jars of peanut butter and personal hygiene items. Collection bins will be in the foyer area for the next few weeks.

**Varenecki Supper!** Fundraiser for "Friends of the Mennonite Centre in Ukraine" on **Saturday October 28th at 6 p.m.** in Niagara United Mennonite Church auditorium. Tickets \$35 per person (\$20 receiptable) available from Linda Friesen (Henry) 905-684-2929 or George & Teresa Dyck (Vineland) 289-929-3211. A great evening of good food and singing, fun and fellowship, and updates on Ukraine and the Centre's projects. (If you would like to volunteer to help, please call or email me. Thank you, Linda Friesen.)

**Seeking Understanding: Reading the Bible in Light of Same-Sex Relationships** A workshop presented by Dan Epp-Tiessen. One of the reasons for conflict over same-sex relationships in the church is because advocates for different positions can marshal good biblical and theological evidence to support very different sides of the issue. Assuming that the Bible should play a central role in our discernment, this workshop will explore relevant biblical passages, different principles of biblical interpretation, and different ways of thinking theologically about the biblical texts and the issues at stake. The goal is to encourage respectful dialogue between different voices in the conversation that sometimes find it difficult to hear each other. *Tickets on sale at Grace Mennonite Church, Vineland United Mennonite Church, Bethany Mennonite Church, and The First Mennonite Church until Sept. 15th!* Tickets: \$15 (includes coffee break & lunch) **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am – 3:00pm**, Grace Mennonite Church, 677 Niagara St., St. Catharines

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (September 11<sup>th</sup> – September 17<sup>th</sup>)**

**Monday: 7:30 pm** Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice  
**Tuesday: 7:00 pm** Worship Committee Meeting  
**Wednesday: 6:30 pm** Pioneer Club Registration  
**7:30 pm** Ladies Book Club  
**Thursday: 7:00 pm** Praise & Worship Practice  
**Friday: 7:00 pm** Wedding Rehearsal (Kailey Harwood & Joe Fast)  
**7:30 pm** Youth – MasterChef @ NUMC  
**Saturday: 2:30 pm** Wedding of Kailey Harwood & Joe Fast

**Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – EDUCATION SUNDAY**

**8:45 am** Praise & Worship Practice  
**9:20 am** German Choir Practice  
**9:50 am** German Worship Service – Message by Ramona Neufeld  
**10:45 am** Worship Service – Message by David Lewis  
**12:00 pm** Safe Places Seminar

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

**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.