*“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community*”
**Niagara United Mennonite Church**December 31st, 2017
*~ New Year’s Eve ~*

***“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 3 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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**Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.**

Prelude Stephanie Fung Sin Tung

Congregational Life Erv Willms

Worship in Song Rachael Peters

Children’s Moment Sue Fast

*Children exit for Lighthouse*

Offering Stephanie Fung Sin Tung

*Offering Focus – see financial section*

Proclamation

Scripture Reading John Epp

**“When God makes a promise”** Pastor David Lewis

(Genesis 9:8-17)

**Sending** Pastor David Lewis

PostludeStephanie Fung Sin Tung

**JOYS & CONCERNS:**

**The flowers at the front of the sanctuary** have been placed here today by Udo Woelke in loving memory of Anne, who passed away three years ago today on Dec. 31st. She is deeply missed and held dearly in the hearts of her family and loved ones. May the Spirit uplift those who are feeling the sorrow over the loss of family members this holiday season.

**We value your prayers for Art and Helen Andres** as Art (father of Sharon Dirks and brother of Lena Van Bergen) is in palliative care at home for advanced kidney cancer. He is experiencing God's peace as he passes on God's blessing to his family.

**Please continue to lift Rosemary (Rhodie) Marshall, Debbie Fast’s stepmom, in prayer to Jesus** as she continues with chemotherapy treatments. As she accepts the end of life is near, Rhodie continues to be in good spirits and has made peace, recognizing that she’s in God’s hands. May God, our ever-flowing fountain of blessings, of comfort, of goodness, of hope and of encouragement, shower Rhodie and Debbie and their family with those gifts now. May the spirit provide the strength to support one another through this tough time, looking always to God for wisdom.

**Please continue to pray for** Audrey Epp, Ernie Pries, Vern Riediger, as well as those in our community who have not made public their prayer needs.

**WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

**We are thrilled to welcome Stephanie Fung Sin Tung to our service today.** As a Hong Kong born pianist, Stephanie has stood up as a soloist to give Piano Concerto performances with different orchestras in Hong Kong, Australia, Japan. Stephanie has been visiting Niagara-on-the-Lake over Christmas and has practicing on our piano this past week to rehearse for a concert she has in Taiwan very early in the new year. Stephanie has performed professionally in Tokyo, Sydney, Milan, Taipei, Hong Kong and Toronto. Recently, Stephanie was made a member of staff at the Academy of Performing Arts, which is the equivalent to the Glenn Gould Academy in Toronto. As a thank-you to our congregation for allowing her to use our piano, she is participating in our service today! Thank-you for sharing your musical talents with us today, Stephanie!

**Office Hours Notice:** The church office will be closed from tomorrow (1st) to Thursday (4th) of this week, and will only be open on Friday (5th). The voicemail and email will be checked regularly during this time, so please call or email as regular with pastoral concerns, recognizing that your concerns will be addressed and forwarded to the appropriate people.

**Vacation Notices:**

* Pastor David Lewis is on vacation from Tuesday Jan. 2nd- Sunday Jan.7th inclusive. Renate Dau Klaassen will be covering pastoral emergencies during this time.
* April Michon is on vacation from Tues. Jan. 2nd – Fri. Jan. 5th. She’ll be in Toronto attending a condensed Tyndale course for her Masters program. Emily Fieguth will be monitoring the office voicemail and email remotely Tues-Thurs and will be in the office on Friday.

**Thank you for all your generous donations this year.** Our expenses for 2017 have come in under Budget and thanks to your generosity, we are able to meet our financial obligations. Donations towards our Capital Fund, MCC and Witness are welcome.

**The Upper Room-** Unfortunately it seems that our Jan/Feb shipment of The Upper Room has been lost in the mail. A new shipment is now on its way to us, however will be received in January. We will let you know once it is available.

**Ladies Breakfast Reminder!** ALL LADIES are invited to join together for a time of fellowship over breakfast this week on **Thursday, January 4th, at 9 a.m.** at the Red Rooster in NOTL.

**Baptism Preparation** will begin on **Sunday January 21**. The classes will be held in the Board Room on the second floor of the Education wing at **9:45 a.m.** If you feel called to be baptized this year or would like to explore the option, please join us for these classes.

**Save the Date!!** Our Annual Membership Meeting will be held on **Tues. January 30th @ 7:00 pm**.

**Thank you from Ellery (and Mark)** - Thank you so much for all of the support and encouragement during my time in the role of Youth and Education Director over these past 4 months. As we embark on our next journey, we would love to share our adventures with you through our blog: <https://rauwerdas.wordpress.com/>. Thank you again! We have felt so blessed by this church family!

**LIGHTHOUSE:**

* There WILL NOT be Lighthouse on **Sunday, December 31st**.
* Lighthouse will resume **January 7, 2018**.

**OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:**

**Niagara Sings Today!** - Prepare to end the year very well! Attend the Niagara area Mennonite hymn sing at Grace Mennonite Church at **3 pm**. A one-hour service of congregational singing and selections by three choirs. Refreshments following.

**Stories from Myanmar and Ghana**--Everyone is welcome at MEDA Niagara’s next breakfast meeting **Thursday, Jan. 4, 7:30-8:30am** at Queens Landing in the Loyalist Room, 155 Byron St, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Hear from MEDA staff, Helen Loftin, Bethany Nussbaum and Dean Shoemaker about their recent trips to Myanmar and Ghana. $20 at the door. RSVP by Jan. 2 to pnugteren@meda.org or 519-725-1633

**MENNONITE BURIAL SOCIETY** The Annual General Meeting of the Mennonite Burial Society will be held on **Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 2 pm** in the Auditorium at United Mennonite Home (Orchard View Apartments entrance) at [4020 Twenty Third Street](https://maps.google.com/?q=4020+Twenty+Third+Street&entry=gmail&source=g) in Vineland. Discussions to include levy rates and sustainability of society, revisions to constitution (for Jan 2019 AGM vote) regarding dissolution processes (if it happens in the future) and expanded eligibility of new members, etc. Board and committee positions are available. For further information, please contact Barry Boese at 905-228-1850 or email info@mennoniteburialsociety.com

**Deep New Year Inspiration!** – Mark **Saturday, January 27** on your calendar. Bryan Moyer Suderman will be in Niagara to present his captivating workshop “Reading the Bible with Jesus” at Bethany Mennonite Church [8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., coffee breaks & lunch provided. Tickets $10]. More details on the brochure in today’s bulletin insert.

**Canadian Mennonite digital delivery:** As a Canadian Mennonite subscriber you can receive the latest issue of the magazine by e-mail on the day it is printed; up to two weeks before the paper mail will arrive. To add digital delivery to your subscription, or to switch to digital-only, please email office@canadianmennonite.org and include your name, address and subscription number (see your mailing label; it begins with an A).

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (January 1st – January 7th)**

**Monday: NEW YEAR’S DAY -** OFFICE CLOSED

**Tuesday:** OFFICE CLOSED

**Wednesday:** OFFICE CLOSED

**Thursday:** OFFICE CLOSED

 **9:00 am** Ladies Breakfast @ Red Rooster

 **7:00 pm** Praise & Worship Practice

**Sunday, January 7th**

**9:45 am** Choir Practice

**10:45 am** Worship Service – Message by John Tiessen

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

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| **Offering of December 24th: $21,521.10**  |
| Budget $ 20,446.10 | MCC General $ 675.00 MCC Food $ 400.00  |
| **Offering of December 25th: $ 2,265.00**  |
| Budget $ 2,225.00 | MCC General $ 20.00 MCC Christmas Gifts $ 20.00  |

**Offering Focus** –In addition to your budget commitment, this month we encourage your support of MCC Christmas Gifts.

**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.

**Church Contacts**:

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