

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

January 7, 2018

~ Epiphany ~

“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.



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.



Current Sermon Series ... RESOLUTE DISCIPLESHIP

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS? To answer this question, we will consider the words of the apostle Peter who overcame some profound and provocative miscues in his apprenticeship as a follower of Jesus to become a stalwart learner in the discipleship pathway. Beginning with a reluctant faith, he is shaped, mentored, challenged, rebuked and desperately loved by the living Christ into a place of resolute discipleship. From a heart purified through the heat of refining fire he hammers out seven virtues that are to distinguish the character of every Christ follower. When purposely added to our lives, these seven virtues outlined by Peter in the opening verses of his second letter will bring more promise, more life, more of God.

January 14	“Doing What You Want- God’s Way”	2 Peter 1:1 – 5a
January 21	“Good to Go”	2 Peter 1:5a
January 28	“The Need to Know”	2 Peter 1:2-3, 5, 8
February 4	“Get a Grip”	2 Peter 1:6a
February 11	“Too Soon to Quit”	2 Peter 1:6b
February 18	“The ‘Me’ God Imagines”	2 Peter 1:3,6c 1 Timothy 3:15, 16
February 25	“The Feelings Mutual”	2 Peter 1:7-11

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Prelude		
Congregational Life		Erv Willms
Worship in Song		
Children’s Moment		

Children exit for Lighthouse

Offering		
Proclamation		
Scripture Reading	“Struggling for the ones you love” (Colossians 1:24 – 2:3)	John Tiessen

Sending John Tiessen

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German Worship Service – 9:50 am

Andachtsleiter: Gunnar Doerwald -- Grusswort: Jesaja 40:23-24, 31

Orgelspiel: Marlene Borzychowski

Lied: GB #3 "Lobe den Herren, o meine Seele!"

Chorlied

Lied: GB #346 "Stern auf den ich schaue"

Chorlied

Schriftwort: Matthäus 2:13-18

Botschaft: "Ich höre Weinen" -- Renate Dau Klaassen

LIGHTHOUSE:

Please consider helping Lighthouse with serving snack for a brief time after Children's Moment. Arrangements can be made, schedule-wise, with the current snack server (Alice Bradnam). Your time with our precious children will be well-spent! Laurene Nickel [\(905\)262-5166](tel:9052625166) or karlhnickel@yahoo.com

YOUTH:

On Friday January 12th we will kick off the 2018 youth year with some skating at the outdoor rink by Fort George. Please meet at the church at 7:30 pm. Skating is free, if you don't have skates you can rent them at the rink. After skating, will come back to the church for some hot chocolate and snacks.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

German Worship Service Copies of the calendar for the 2018 year are available from the Welcome Center. All of the services are also posted on the online calendar. The office apologizes for the omission of today's German Worship service in last week's bulletin.

Ladies Bible Study will begin again on Monday January 8th.

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.

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.

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.**

PICTURES For our Annual Membership Meeting we are looking for pictures from events in 2017. If you have a picture to submit please email it to the church office by Friday January 19th.

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!

JOYS & CONCERNS:

The flowers at the front of the sanctuary today have been placed by Dietrich, Ruth, Mark & Julia Bartel in loving memory of Eleonore Suckau who went to be with her Lord and Saviour three years ago on January 8, 2015. She is dearly missed by her family and her memory will be treasured always.

With sadness with announce the passing of Arthur Andres, father of Sharon Dirks and brother of Lena Van Bergen. Art passed away on December 31, 2017. Funeral services were held at Bethany Mennonite Church on Thursday January 4th. May God's peace comfort the family during this season of loss and may our Healing Redeemer allow love, light and hope to shine even in the darkest of days.

Please continue to lift Rosemary (Rhodie) Marshall, Debbie Fast's stepmom, in prayer to Jesus as she continues with chemotherapy treatments. 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.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

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).

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY:

Prayer Request Please Pray for CMU students as they anticipate a new semester of challenge in studies, relationships, and spiritual growth.

Mennonite Burial Society – NUMC Rep Report

While assisting in our church office in December 2016 I started work on a funeral preparation manual (still a work in progress) and was gathering information to include in the manual. I contacted the Mennonite Burial Society to inquire as to who was representing our church at meetings. At that time was informed that no one from our church was attending meetings other than Harold Neufeld who donates his time as a volunteer Board Member, so I said I would attend meetings and bring the information back to our church members. On November 11, 2017, I attended the Board and Administration Council meeting as our church representative to the Mennonite Burial Society.

Sadly, my first report back to the congregation is not one filled with good news.

To start I thought it would be interesting and perhaps helpful to understand the Mennonite Burial Society history.

“The Mennonite Burial Society was formed 1 January 2009 as a merger of the Vineland Burial Society and the Niagara Mutual Funeral Society (also known as the Virgil Burial Society). The Vineland Burial Society was begun in the 1930s. Early in the 1940s a group of Niagara-area Mennonites living to the East of the Welland Canal sought to establish their own, more local burial society. Hence, the Virgil Burial Society was created. Both societies flourished for many years.

A burial society provides a form of mutual aid through providing a funeral benefit to members who have paid an annual levy determined at the annual meeting of the society. In 2008 the funeral benefit was \$5,686 for members covered at 100%. The funeral benefit is normally based on a modest funeral, including the funeral director services, plot, basic casket, etc.

In 2003 members of both societies asked why the earlier split had occurred and whether a re-unification could take place. The reasons for the original separation, including distance, were no longer relevant in the 21st century. Over the next five years, the leadership of both societies worked through the merger options. On 10 May 2008 members present at a special joint meeting voted unanimously to merge the Vineland and Virgil Burial Societies into one society, the Mennonite Burial Society. Peter Janzen (Virgil) and Tim Siemens (Vineland) were presidents of the societies at the time of merger; Siemens served as the first chair of the new society. Barry Boese was the part-time staff person for the society.

Initial operations have indicated the merger to be a success. In late 2009 the Mennonite Burial Society had just over 12,000 members, not only from Ontario, but also across Canada and from the United States.

The merger of these two burial societies demonstrates that what was once divided could again be brought together.” Source: [http://gameo.org/index.php?title=Mennonite_Burial_Society_\(Virgil,_Ontario,_Canada\)](http://gameo.org/index.php?title=Mennonite_Burial_Society_(Virgil,_Ontario,_Canada))

It is strongly encouraged that all members of the Society attend the upcoming Annual General Meeting so your voice can be heard. You, as members, will be discussing and voting on the future of the Society including the potential for future dissolution of the Society. This would include discussions and possible changes to the Constitution regarding the dissolution and payout processes of funds, if the members chose to dissolve the society in the future. The Mennonite Burial Society website has information about the upcoming meeting and a PDF of the current Constitution. If you have any questions about your membership dues, status, or other matters, please contact the Society directly. Only the Society has access to your family's records and can assist you with these questions.

Submitted by: Emily Fieguth – Niagara United Mennonite Church Mennonite Burial Society Rep

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) located at 4020 Twenty Third Street 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

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (January 8th – January 14th)

Monday: 7:00 pm Ladies Bible Study
Tuesday: 9:00 am Women in Service
3:30 pm New Parents Fellowship with Care Committee
7:00 pm Church Council Meeting
Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting
Thursday: 7:00 pm Praise & Worship Practice
Friday: 7:30 pm Youth - Skating

Sunday, January 14th

9:45 am Choir Practice
10:45 am Worship Service – Message by Pastor Dave Lewis

**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.

Church Contacts:

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Intentional Interim Pastor: David Lewis dave@redbrickchurch.ca

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