On the road to

Pecember 24 & 27, 2020



COVID Update

Hello NUMC,

It is with disappointment that I am writing to let you know that this year's planned in person Christmas Eve service is cancelled due to the Ontario Public Health announcement on Dec 21st that southern Ontario will be entering into a month long lockdown starting December 26th.

x • x • •

I understand that technically and legally we could still hold our Christmas Eve service on December 24th, since the lockdown only begins on the 26th. But I cannot help feeling that in holding our 24th service, while we would be following the letter of the law, we not be following the spirit of the law.

The way I understood it, the lockdown has been delayed for a few days in order to allow businesses and people to prepare themselves for the month-long lockdown – a grace period of sorts. We, as staff and worship committee, had been watching the news and had made preparations in event of Christmas lockdown, an online service only.

In the December 21st COVID announcement, the Premier stated that the lockdown is to last 28 days and so following the Public Health rules, our church will continue with online service only during the month of January. Near the end of January, when we have a better idea of how things are playing out, we will send out an update.

Lastly,

May the LORD bless you and keep you; May the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; and May the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Daniel Janzen

How will this effect NUMC?

- We will close the church as of December 21
- Only those who require access for employment or maintenance will have access to the church
- In person gatherings and worship services will not be held until further notice
- Funerals will be held as per provincial guidelines with limited numbers in attendance
- Printed copies of the bulletin will be delivered to Pleasant Manor as long as they allow us to continue doing this.

If you have any questions please contact the church office.



Thursday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

7:00 PM English Online Service

Watch our English Christmas Eve Service here!

7:00 PM German Online Service

Watch our German Christmas Eve Service here!



English Online Service

There is no new service this Sunday, but we encourage you to check out our English Christmas Eve service <u>here</u> if you were unable to join us on Christmas Eve

German Online Service

There is no new service this Sunday, but we encourage you to check out our German Christmas Eve service <u>here</u> if you were unable to join us on Christmas Eve

10:00 AM Pleasant Manor German Service

There is no new service this week, but we'll be airing our German Christmas Eve Service

11:00 AM Pleasant Manor English Service

There is no new service this week, but we'll be airing our English Christmas Eve Service

Worship Service

Worship Service (online service outline)

Welcome		Renate Dau Klaassen
Community Connection	Jonathan	Bradnam & Ellery Rauwerda
Music Corner		Praise & Worship Band
		Virtual Choir
		Laury Willms & Erika Janzen
Children's Moment		Jonathan Bradnam
Advent Candle Lighting		Red Brick Church Staff
Scripture Verse:		
	Luke 2:1-14	
Message:		Daniel Janzen
	"Christmas Comes"	

Closing Songs

Candlelight Choir



I absolutely LOVE Christmas music! For one month out of the year, there is a whole genre of music that I get to enjoy along with snowfall, a warm fire, hot beverages, and the Christmas tree. I love the joyous refrains of Christmas music. I love how so many artists have captured the mystery and beauty of the birth of God into a human form in the person of Jesus and what this means for the entire world! I've tried to capture a little bit of that mystery and beauty in the songs for this week.

Sting writes about how Mary is told she will bear God with us. Sarah McLachlan mixes the lyrics of The First Noel with a musicality that mimics the near Eastern roots of the story. Bethlehem Down was penned by a fellow who just needed money on Christmas Eve and yet somehow God used it to captivate millions of people at Christmas time. And the Fantasia on Christmas Carols is just an amazing composition by Ralph Vaughan Williams that expresses the wonder of Christ's birth and the sounds that we use on Christmas to tell of that birth.

Click the image of the bells to be taken to the playlist.

I hope you enjoy these songs as much as I do!

Submitted by: Chris Hutton

German Worship Service

German Worship services will be made available online on our <u>website</u> and will live stream to Pleasant Manor at their respective times.

Musik: Renate Dau Klaassen, Ruth Lamarre u. Lolita Hale

Einleitung u. Gebet		Renate Dau Klaassen
Bibellesung	Lukas 1:26-37	Ingrid Dau
Lied	"Es ist ein Ros entsprungen"	
Bibellesung	Matthäus 1:18-25	Joachim Dau
Lied	"O du froehliche"	
Bibellesung Klaassen	Lukas 2:1-20	Renate Dau
Lied	"Stille Nacht"	
Bibellesung	Matthäus 2:1-12	Hans Hermann Dau
Lied	"Herbei, o ihr Gläubigen"	
Segen		

Die nächste deutsche Andacht wird, so Gott will, am 10. Januar stattfinden.



Within NUMC

All the latest things that are happening

Pastoral Care or Emergencies

Over the next two weeks the NUMC staff are continuing to work from home and some are using up some vacation time. If you are in need of Pastoral Care or there is a Pastoral emergency such as a funeral, <u>call the church phone line</u>. The phone is forwarded to the office administrators cell phone, she will know who is available and contact the appropriate staff to assist you. Emails will be checked regularly for non urgent matters.

Invitation to participate

Would you like to send New Years greetings to the church? We would love to hear from you, and share your greetings in our online service. You can send your written greetings to <u>rachael@redbrickchurch.ca</u> or touch base with Rachael if you'd like to submit a video. The deadline is January 1.

E-News

We don't know what the future holds for potential COVID lockdowns. If you would like an email from the church if we need to close, or if there is any other COVID-related information to share, we welcome you to sign up for our <u>e-news here</u>.

2020 Financial Giving

Donate through the website E-Transfer to treasurer@redbrickchurch.ca Text NUMCGIVE to 73256 Drop a cheque off in the church mailbox or mail a cheque to the church.

Giving Statements:

Those with a REALM account, click on the GIVE tab on your profile page to see your 2020 donations to date. If you do not have a REALM account, and would like a donation statement contact the church office.

Please have 2020 donations to the church or E-Transferred by 9:00 am December 30.

The Church Board, extends its sincere thanks to all persons who have continued to contribute financially towards our church ministry.

In Our Community and Beyond

Mennonite Burial Society

Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 2 pm. This meeting will be via online webinar only, so please register for AGM details available at <u>www.mennoniteburialsociety.com</u> or Barry Boese at 905-228-1850 or email <u>info@mennoniteburialsociety.com</u>.





The people who were walking in the darkness have seen a great light; Those living in a land as dark as death – light has flashed out on them! -Isaiah 9:2 [1]

Nothing has been normal this past year, and I suppose it is only right then our Christmas also be abnormal. I would love for Christmas to be normal, for things to be returned to normal, but would it feel real? I mean could we simply and instantaneously return to "normal" after all that this year has brought?

A few weeks ago, Renate shared a beautiful poem, Christmas 2020, which so wonderfully captured this past year, the yearning, the unrest, the cry and our hope – a hope for light to dispel our darkness.

Chris, earlier this month reflecting on the story, How the Grinch stole Christmas!, reminded us that Christmas without the turkey, ham, or smoked trout, without the trees, wreaths or candles, without Candlelight, a children's Christmas Eve program or a Christmas Day service, without the large family gatherings and other missed traditions still comes!

Christmas, whether we are ready for it or not, comes.

Christmas' arriving is not dependent upon us, our traditions, our celebrations, our lighting of candles, setting up trees, smashing potatoes, buying gifts.

The remarkable thing is Christmas comes!

Christ came! and we were not ready, nor could we have been ready, and while we were far from God. And yet, God's son, Jesus, enters into the world as a tiny babe and we were allowed to share his life with him: to embrace him, hold him, care for him, to listen to, walk with him, be healed by, and ultimately to be saved by him.

Christmas is a story of God's ongoing grace. God's grace that arrives at Christmas cannot be stolen from us, but we can choose not to receive it. We can choose to hide away in some cave brooding as the Grinch did for so many years, but that did not stop Christmas from arriving. He tried stealing all the gifts and decorations, but that did not prevent Christmas from arriving either. The Grinch did not understand that what he was stealing were the external displays of Christmas and not Christmas. Christmas comes.

That is Renate's prayer for us in her poem, for us to hear once again, with open and ready ears, the miracle and glad tidings of God's incarnation: God with us! Immanuel! Christmas is here!

May you this Christmas hear and experience the story anew: the...

"Long-forgotten sounds...

...Snowflakes falling...

...Candles flickering...

...An Infant crying...

...Angels singing...

'Peace on earth!"[2]

Christmas is here!

Merry Christmas! from your NUMC staff team

[1] Alec Motyer. Isaiah by the Day. 56. [2] Renate Dau Klaassen. Christmas 2020.

Contact Us



Our Pastoral Team is still around, just working from home these days. Call/Email/Text:

<u>Pastor Daniel Janzen</u> daniel@redbrickchurch.ca	306.401.0113
<u>Pastor Chris Hutton</u> chris@redbrickchurch.ca	289.228.1971
Pastor Renate Dau Klaassen renate@redbrickchurch.ca	905.348.6257
Rachael Peters rachael@redbrickchurch.ca	905-468-3313
<u>General Inquiries</u> office@redbrickchurch.ca	905.468.3313

Stay Connected

n ways:

Stay connected with church community in the following ways: Click the links to find out more!

Service Information

Care Ministry

Life With Us

<u>E-News</u>

Youth and Young Adults

Red Brick Kids

Calendar of Events

<u>Give</u>

- Visit the website: www.redbrickchurch.ca
- Find us <u>on Facebook</u>
- Reach out to our '<u>Care Ministry'</u>