

Niagara United Mennonite Church

Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community

December 24, 2023

Welcome! We are so glad that you have chosen to attend Niagara UM today! If you have any questions or would like to learn about what happens on a Sunday morning please visit the Welcome Centre desk in the foyer or ask an usher.

[Click here](#) to watch the Live Stream.

[Click here](#) to watch archived videos during the week.

Fourth Advent

Worship Service at 10:45 am

Welcome

Erv Willms

Worship in Song

Candlelight Choir

Community Prayer

Children's Moment

Ellery Rauwerda

Scripture Reading

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16

Beverley Epp-Devolin

Message

"The Greatest Gift"

Daniel Janzen

Closing Song

Sending Blessing

***If it is your desire to support work of the church,
donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Centre.***

Within Red Brick Church...

Christmas Eve at Bethany Mennonite

Tonight we will be joining our friends at Bethany Mennonite Church for a special Christmas Eve service starting at 6:30pm. The address is 572 East & West Line NOTL. All are welcome!

Christmas Day Service Tomorrow

Please join us tomorrow morning at NUMC for a Christmas Day Service at 10:45 am. You can also watch the service Livestream on our YouTube Channel.

NUMC Christmas Office Hours

The church office will be closed from December 25 to January 2. If there is a pastoral emergency please reach out to Pastor Daniel Janzen at 905-246-8031.

Thank You, Red Brick Kids!

A big thank-you to Red Brick Kids and all the parents and volunteers who helped prepare last week's presentation. Thank you, as well, to all the leaders who participate with the RBK on a regular basis. We appreciate all your time and energy invested into the next generation.

Pastor of German Ministry

On December 10, we celebrated and marked the retirement of Renate Dau Klaassen, our Pastor of German Ministry. We are grateful for Renate's ministry with us these past years, not only in the German worship service, but also in English. Randy and Renate will be stepping back for a few months to settle into this new retirement season of their lives. God's blessings be with them.

German Worship

On December 10, the German Worship Service celebrated the last service in the German language. We give thanks to God for 85 years of this ministry here at NUMC. We also give thanks to the many volunteers who have given leadership to and have led these services over the years. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Opening our doors to another church community:

In November, we were approached by members of a local Syriac Christian Orthodox (Indian) Church plant to use our sanctuary for regular worship on Saturday mornings. Leadership met with them this past week and we are happy to extended to them our sanctuary for their worship services. Their first service in our building will be held tonight for Christmas eve.

Praying Through Christmas

Copies of the December Prayer Guide are available at the welcome desk. Note: it includes a listing of the weekly Scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. Please take one to guide your prayer & devotional time during Advent & Christmas. Watch for announcements about the next prayer gathering.

Family News...

Please remember Bill and Hannelore Harder in your prayers as Bill struggles with cancer.

The flowers in the front are in loving memory of our dear wife, mother and grandmother, Irene Epp, who passed away one year ago on December 27, 2022.

Henry Epp and family.

A Christmas Reflection by Pastor Daniel Janzen

We have been waiting for the coming of the Christ child, and now He is here once again. This Advent season I came across two new-to-me celebrations of the incarnation. First, the English hymn, In the Bleak Midwinter by Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894). The second verse:

“Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.”

Second, was an article in Christianity Today, “How Asian Artists Picture Jesus’ Birth from 1240 to today,” by Victoria Emily Jones, Dec 18, 2023. One of the pictures of the Nativity scene is inland on a metal Canteen from the 13th century from either Syria or Northern Iraq.



What these have impressed upon me is that each year when we live Advent & Christmas, we join the Church, past and present, in its longing for the revelation of God to make itself new and real once again. We join the mighty chorus and a great cloud of witnesses testifying that God has come in the flesh, and will come again.

Merry Christmas!
-Pastor Daniel

Within the Community...

Thank you from the Pleasant Manor Women's Auxiliary!

Pleasant Manor Women's Auxiliary would like to thank all volunteers who worked at the Bazaar this year AND to all the people who baked goods and donated items to the bazaar to make it a successful year! It was so appreciated. We always need the dedication and care from volunteers for events like this. The total funds raised this year was about \$6,600. The best so far! This money will go to special projects and items needed for Pleasant Manor residents and Heritage Place programming. When the wish lists come to the Auxiliary, our committee will make choices and decisions where the money will go so that the Pleasant Manor community will benefit. We look forward to disbursing the funds with great outcomes. See you all next March 2024 for our Spring Bazaar. You'll be hearing from us.

Mennonite Burial Society

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held both in person at Scott Street Church (www.scottstchurch.ca) and online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7404216638> on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 2 pm. Agenda will be similar to past AGMs, discussing 2023 results, 2024 levies and benefit payments, potential revision to the voluntary payment procedure, and future plans. Board and committee positions are available. Further details available at www.mennoniteburialsociety.com, or Barry Boese at 905-228-1850 or email info@mennoniteburialsociety.com

Connect...

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redbrickchurch.ca

Bulletins

[redbrickchurch.ca/
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Calendar of Events

[redbrickchurch.ca/
calendar](http://redbrickchurch.ca/calendar)

Archived Services

[redbrickchurch.ca/
resources/sermons/](http://redbrickchurch.ca/resources/sermons/)

Giving

redbrickchurch.ca/give

Facebook

[facebook.com/
redbrickchurchniagara](https://facebook.com/redbrickchurchniagara)

Contact

1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313
office@redbrickchurch.ca

Office Hours & Staff

Tuesday - Friday 9am-2pm
Daniel: Tues-Fri, 9am - 2:30pm
Ring the doorbell at the glass doors!

Red Brick E-News

Sign Up

[https://redbrickchurch.ca/thr
ough-the-doors/](https://redbrickchurch.ca/through-the-doors/)

Looking Ahead ...

The Lead Up To Christmas...

Sunday December 24, 6:30 - Special Christmas Eve program at Bethany (572 East & West Line)

Monday December 25, 10:45am - Christmas Day service

Sunday December 31, 10:45 - Worship service