

# *“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”*

## **Niagara United Mennonite Church**

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

## **JOYS & CONCERNS:**

**Flowers at the front of the church today are in memory of Justina Rahn,** who passed away on September 13, 1998. She is dearly missed and lovingly remembered by her family.

**Born to Jesse and Stephanie Willms is Hunter Thomas Willms,** born July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (same day as his uncle Josh!). Big Sister Georgia is very happy! Grandparents are Carlos and Carol Wiens, Addie and Don Willms. Great OPA and Great OMA are John and Hilda Willms.

**Albert & Sigrid Wiens rejoice and are thankful to God** for the safe arrival of their newest little grandson Joshua, born to Karen & Paul Epp on Sept. 9. May God bless them.

**Prayers of healing are requested for Vern Riediger, brother to Ron & Laury,** who was admitted to Toronto General Hospital last weekend. He has been diagnosed with Lymphoma, still yet to be determined which kind, though initiation of chemotherapy treatment at Princess Margaret Hospital is imminent. Let us lift up Vern and the family to God in prayer and invite the Lord's healing power to enter into this situation, bringing restoration and recovery through the coming weeks and months.

**Congratulations are extended to Joe Fast and Kailey Harwood** who were married in our church yesterday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. May God bless them as they begin their married 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:**

**The Upper Room Renewal**- If you wish to continue, or would like to start receiving The Upper Room devotional, please contact April. The cost for the 2018 subscription is \$15 per subscription (one devotional every two months). Payment can be made at the Welcome Centre, or in the church office. **Deadline is tomorrow- Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Women in Service:** Please join us **this Tuesday morning at 9:00 am** in the Common Area, on the lower level, between the kitchen and the classrooms, as we gather for our first meeting of the year. Quilting will begin next week on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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 at our Thursday evening session! As we recognize, some of you were unable to attend this session, and as such are offering a last-chance seminar today immediately after our Worship service in the gym. **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 final 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. Pizza lunch is provided. Thank-you for your time, generosity, and for your passion in serving our next generation! 😊

**Vulnerable Sector Police Check Update** (for Children & Youth Ministry Volunteers)!!! We have just learned that any person going in person to request their Vulnerable Sector Police Check at the 5700 Valleyway location in Niagara Falls has available to them the option to have this check done for them while they wait!! **We strongly encourage any volunteer who has not yet filed for their clearance to please do so in this manner** to save the two month backlog that has accumulated by filing online or by going to the other locations (St. Catharines station, etc.). Since the education ministry year is now underway, we are anxious to receive the clearance ASAP. For further details, please contact April in the church office.

**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:**

**Junior Youth Sleepover!** On **September 22-23<sup>rd</sup>** 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!

**Senior Youth Night on the Hill** - Come on out **this Friday night** for the annual Clifton Hill event! All youth grades 9-12 are welcome. Meet here at church at 7:30PM. Cost for the pass is \$15 or pay what you can, plus any extras you wish to purchase. Check out the NUMC Youth Facebook page for more details. See you there!!

### **MENNONITE CHURCH EASTERN CANADA:**

**Future Directions: Covenant New – Update to Congregations:** In October, delegates to the MC Canada Special Assembly in Winnipeg will be asked to approve the Future Directions: Covenant New proposal for re-visioning our denominational structure. Immediately following the Assembly, MCEC is holding a series of regional meetings to introduce and review the actions taken at the Assembly. An update will be provided on the decisions made at the Assembly and their implications for MCEC, congregations and the future of MC Canada Witness initiatives. MCEC is asking that pastors, council chairs, treasurers, other church leaders and interested individuals to attend. This is your opportunity as leaders to be informed and to support the work of the church. Together, we want to collaborate with how God is calling us to shape the church for mission and ministry in the world today. Please join together with David Martin, Executive Minister of MCEC, for this important update and how congregations can engage with and support the regional and nationwide ministries of the church. **Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 pm @ The First Mennonite Church, 3557 Rittenhouse Rd, Vineland.**

## **MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE:**

**Response to Windsor, ON Flooding:** Heavy rains in Windsor-LaSalle-Tecumseh in late August saw 6000 calls to the city from homeowners with flooded basements. After a disaster MDS often partners with agencies such as Samaritan's Purse Canada (SPC) and World Renew in the cleanup phase. During clean-up, homeowners not insured and needing further assistance will be flagged for follow-up. If required, MDS will continue in the rebuilding phase. **To help clean up call SPC at 1-866-628-6565 to volunteer and indicate you are part of MDS. Individuals and groups will be scheduled as needed.** MDS will inform you if and when volunteers are needed for rebuilding. If you have any questions call Martin Durksen with MDS at 905-736-1060.

## **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 TODAY- Sept. 17.*** Register online at <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/winnipeg2017>.

**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 CENTRAL COMMITTEE:**

**MCC Ontario Annual General Meeting** For more info, to view the business package and to RSVP, please go to [mcco.ca/agm](http://mcco.ca/agm) or call 519-745-8458. **Sat, Sept 30, 12-3 pm.** Community Room, 50 Kent Ave, Kitchener

**MCC Response to Hurricane Irma in Haiti and Cuba** MCC is responding to the devastation of Hurricane Irma in Haiti and Cuba. Please join us in addressing the suffering caused by this disaster. Donate online at [mcco.ca/hurricane-irma](http://mcco.ca/hurricane-irma), by calling 519-745-8458 or dropping by one of our thrift stores or offices. See poster on the MCC bulletin board.

**South Asia Flooding** MCC is providing relief assistance in Nepal, India and Bangladesh after two weeks of severe monsoon rains displaced more than 1.7 million people and killed 1,246 in the region. We are working with partners to provide emergency food, water, tarps, mosquito nets and hygiene kits to those affected. MCC welcomes your support for our relief work in the area at [mcco.ca/south-asia](http://mcco.ca/south-asia)

**Refugee Sponsorship: A Lunch and Listen** Event Bring your own lunch or watch online as MCC's refugee sponsorship team shares news and stories about the refugee sponsorship program and opportunities for churches, communities groups, neighbourhood associations or groups of friends to get involved. Go to [mcco.ca/events](http://mcco.ca/events) for more info and to watch live. **Tuesday, Sept 26 @ 12 pm**, 50 Kent Ave, Kitchener

**Congo Emergency Assistance** Armed conflict in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has displaced 1.4 million people, including 8,000 Mennonites. A Congolese assessment team visited this summer and found a severe lack of food and increasing malnutrition. Your gift of money will help provide food, household items and shelter supplies. Make your donation online at [mcco.ca/congo-relief](http://mcco.ca/congo-relief). by phone, 519-745-8458 or mail cheques to MCC, 203-50 Kent Ave, Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1

**Ukraine Shipment Urgent Needs** In early November, MCC will be sending a shipment to the Ukraine and urgently needs bed sheets, men's and women's prisoner care kits, sewing kits, infant care kits, bath soap, laundry soap and funds to purchase toothpaste and fabric. More info available at [mcco.ca/ukraine-shipment](http://mcco.ca/ukraine-shipment) or by calling Wendy Cotter at 519-745-8458 ext 248.

## **OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:**

**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.

**Last week for tickets!** Seeking Understanding: Reading the Bible in light of same sex relationships -- Saturday, **September 30<sup>th</sup>** -- **9:00 am -- 3:00 pm**, Grace Mennonite Church, St. Catharines. Seminar presenter: Dan Epp-Tiessen, professor of Bible at Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg. Cost -- \$15, includes coffee break & lunch. Tickets can be purchased through Grace Mennonite Church, The First Mennonite Church, Vineland UM Church, & Bethany Mennonite Church.

**Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario Fall Meeting:** "Celebrating a Century of Mennonite Sewing Circles in Ontario". Meeting **October 14 at 2:00 pm**, in the Community Room, 50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener. Come hear the history and personal reminiscences. A tour of Mennonite Central Committee Ontario's Material Resources operations will follow. For more information check our <http://www.mhso.org/content/celebrating-century-mennonite-sewing-circles-ontario> or contact Bethany Leis 519-568-8086.

**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.)

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (September 18<sup>th</sup> – September 24<sup>th</sup>)**

**Monday:** 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study  
7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice  
**Tuesday:** 9:00 am Women in Service Meeting  
**Wednesday:** 6:30 pm Pioneer Club  
7:00 pm Spiritual Council Meeting  
**Thursday:** 7:00 pm Praise & Worship Practice  
**Friday:** 7:00 pm Junior Youth Sleepover  
7:30 pm Youth – Clifton Hill Outing, meet @ NUMC

**Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice  
9:45 am Choir Practice  
10:45 am Worship Service – Message by David Lewis

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

**Offering of September 10<sup>th</sup> : \$5,765.15**

Fund breakdown will be available in next week's bulletin.

**Offering Focus** – Our weekly budget requirement is \$8,260. In addition to your budget commitment, this month we encourage your support of MCC. Donations can be directed to their overall operations (where most are needed), or you can specify specific projects such as food for the hungry, school or other relief kits, Generations at Risk (HIV/AIDS) or disaster relief. Please mark your envelope accordingly. Any church donations not allocated to a specific cause will be directed to our budget.

**Church Contacts:**

Church Phone: (905) 468-3313 | Website:

<http://www.redbrickchurch.ca>

Intentional Interim Pastor: David Lewis [dave@redbrickchurch.ca](mailto:dave@redbrickchurch.ca)

Youth & Education Director: Ellery Rauwerda [ellery@redbrickchurch.ca](mailto:ellery@redbrickchurch.ca)

Office Administrator: April Michon [office@redbrickchurch.ca](mailto:office@redbrickchurch.ca)

**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.