

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

December 24th, 2017

~ Fourth Advent ~

“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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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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Current Sermon Series: ‘iChristmas’

We all come at Christmas from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, memories and perhaps, hang-ups. However, there is one reality about his season that cannot be ignored – we can’t get away from its grip. What is it that tugs so strongly? Through a look at the stories of those who actually saw Jesus, we get a glimpse of the compelling nature of the Christmas story and how ‘seeing’ Jesus as they did points to the Jesus that “I” can know. ‘iChristmas’ is a series of talks that will invite you to imagine the impact that living from the perspective of seeing, hearing and knowing Jesus will have on what draws you through this season and beyond.

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| December 3 | “Do you see what I see?”
<i>John 1:1-14</i> | Pastor David Lewis |
| December 10 | “Do you hear what I hear?”
<i>Luke 2:25 – 32</i> | Pastor David Lewis |
| December 17 | “A Simple Story of Profound Significance”
<i>Matthew 1:18-21 & Luke 2:8-12</i> | Pastor David Schrader |
| December 24 | “Listen to what I say”
<i>Luke 2:8 – 14</i> | Pastor David Lewis |

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Gathering
Congregational Life
Children’s Moment

Rachael Peters
Joachim Dau
Kathy Rempel

Children exit for Lighthouse

Worship in Song
Offering

Praise & Worship

Offering Focus – see financial section

Proclamation
Scripture Reading
“Listen to what I say”

John Rempel
Pastor David Lewis

(Luke 2:8-14)

Sending

Pastor David Lewis

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German Worship Service - 9:50 am

Andachtsleiter: Gunnar Doerwald - Grusswort: Lukas 2:11

Orgelspiel: Marlene Borzychowski
Opfergaben Fokus: MCC Christmas Gifts
Weihnachts-Botschaft und Lieder
Gemeinde Lieder

- #61 Herbei, o ihr Gläubigen
- #517 Süsser die Glocken nie klingen
- #52 Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht
- #520 Welchen Jubel, welche Freude
- #542 Nun ist sie erschienen
- #51 Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Please continue to support Rosemary (Rhodie) Marshall, Debbie Fast’s stepmom, in prayer as she extends her final days through chemotherapy treatments. May our Lord who came to save his people be a constant assurance to her of the peace and promises that extend beyond this life. May his spirit provide her comfort and hope, and may her family be infused with encouragement and strength to support her and one another through this tough time, looking always to God for wisdom. Through all this, Rhodie continues to be in good spirits and has made peace, recognizing that she’s in God’s hands.

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. May Christ minister to the needs of the ill, hurt, lonely and downtrodden in our community. May our hearts and spirits be ready and open to receive him this holiday season, and let us share the joy we have received with those around us and in our communities.

The Family of John Harder would like to extend heartfelt gratitude for the love and support shown during this most difficult time. Thank you so much to all who were involved with the visitation, funeral service, and fellowship meal. A special thank you to John & Kathy Rempel, Rachael Peters, and Laury Willms for the beautiful music; to Ron Reidiger & Karl Nickel for taking care of A/V; to Esther Willms and the Helping Hands volunteers for the fellowship meal; to Emily Fieguth and April Michon for coordinating many logistics; to those who served as ushers; to Jeff and Anita Friesen for preparing the church; and to Pastor David Lewis for his spiritual leadership and guidance. We are grateful for all of the thoughts and prayers, and feel so blessed to be a part of this caring community.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

A favour to ask from Lighthouse: we kindly ask that today only, immediately following the worship service, you please continue your conversations with family and friends just outside of the sanctuary in the foyer. We ask this so that we can use the sanctuary for a “dress rehearsal” for our Christmas Eve program tonight. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! 😊

Christmas Eve: Our children in Lighthouse will be performing a play, “*The Cattle are Lowing*” this Christmas Eve evening at **6:00 pm**. All are welcome.

Christmas Morning Worship Service- Our Christmas Day Worship service will begin at **10:45 am tomorrow, Monday, December 25th**. Please feel welcome to invite friends and family.

There will be a pick-up choir for our Christmas Day service. Please join us in the choir room at 10 a.m.

As a result of the congregational vote, the Lead Pastor position has not been filled. We will continue to seek the Lord's will for NUMC. A heartfelt thank you to all who helped with the organizing of the candidating weekend. -The Search Committee for Lead Pastor.

Office Hours Notice: The church office will be open next week during regular office hours Wednesday (27th) through Friday (29th). However, the first week of January, the office will be closed Monday (1st)-Thursday (4th), 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.

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE: The deadline for submitting council, committee & ministry reports/financials for the Annual Report is **Wednesday, December 27th**. Our preferred method of submission is by email, however paper copies will be accepted as well.

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 likely be received into January. We will let you know once it has been received.

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**.

ANOTHER special music treat! We are thrilled to welcome Stephanie Fung Sin Tung to our service next week. 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 will be visiting Niagara-on-the-Lake over Christmas and will be using our piano during the 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 of the Glenn Gould Academy in Toronto. As a thank-you to our congregation for allowing her to use our piano, she will be participating in the service next week, starting with a prelude at 10:30 am. Come early next week to hear this talented performer tickle the ivory!

LIGHTHOUSE:

- There WILL be Lighthouse **Sunday, December 24th**.
- **Christmas Eve-- Lighthouse parents:** please have children at NUMC (3rd floor) **by 5:30 pm** for the play that starts at 6:00 pm.
- There WILL NOT be Lighthouse on **Sunday, December 31st**.
- Lighthouse will resume **January 7, 2018**.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

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).

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 pnuhteren@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](#) 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](tel: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 brochure.

Niagara Sings! - Mark calendars for the next Niagara area Mennonite hymn sing, **on Sunday, December 31, 3 pm** at Grace Mennonite Church [refreshments following]. An hour-long service of congregational singing and choirs. End the year in song!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (December 25th – December 31st)

Monday: 10:45 am Christmas Morning Worship Service

CHRISTMAS DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday: BOXING DAY- OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday: 2:00 pm Private Family Gathering

Thursday: 7:00 pm Praise & Worship Practice

Sunday, December 31st

9:45 am Choir Practice

10:45 am Worship Service – Message by Pastoral David Lewis

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

Thank you for all your generous donations! God brings us together as a church community in such a way that each of us has something unique to contribute. By supporting our church financially, we are encouraged to grow in our faith, discover our gifts and share them with our community. We need approximately \$53,360 (\$26,680 per week) by the end of December to meet our budget of \$410,000. Please be generous so that we can meet all our obligations. Donations can be made conveniently online, by debit, by direct bank or internet transfer, and of course by cash or cheque.

Offering of December 17th: \$17,217.10			
Budget	\$ 16,642.10	MCC General	\$ 435.00
Library	\$ 50.00	MCC Food	\$ 90.00

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.