

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

March 25, 2018 – Palm Sunday

“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 glassed-in room behind the sanctuary where you may sit with your child and follow along in 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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Upcoming ...

March 25	Palm Sunday: “Hosanna!”	Mark 11:1 – 11
March 30	Good Friday: “The Jesus we Knew”	Selection of readings
April 1	Easter Sunday: “Power to Rise Up”	John 20:1-10

The Spirit Within Mini-Series

April 8	On a Wing and a Prayer: Spiritual Guidance for Powerful Praying	Romans 8:12-16, 26-30
April 15	Empowered: Living in the Fullness of the Spirit	Ephesians 5:15-21

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Prelude	Rachael Peters
Worship in Song	Praise & Worship
Congregational Life	Janice Janzen
Worship in Song	Praise & Worship
Offering	
	<i>Offering Focus – see financial section</i>
Scripture Reading	Nicole Tissen
	(Mark 11:1 – 11)
“Hosanna!”	John Tiessen
Sending	John Tiessen

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Please pray for Susan (Dirks) Kaye who now shares with us the news of the cancer that she has been battling for some time now. The form that she is struggling with is called multiple myeloma, and is scheduled to begin a 16 week treatment of oral chemotherapy on April 9th. Upon completing that, she will then be required to have a stem cell transplant at Juravinski hospital. Susan has been walking closely with Jesus through this journey, and knows that our Lord is with her. Let us join her in prayers of healing, restoration, and wholeness as she is now, and through these weeks and months to come.

Please continue to pray for: Audrey Epp, Rosemary (Rhodie) Marshall, Irene Penner & Martha Wiens, as well as those who need our prayers within our church family and wider community, remembering that our Father in Heaven knows the deepest needs of all our hearts at all times. Let us lift one another to him in prayer.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Please note that the church office will be closed on Good Friday.

Vacation Notice: Pastor David Lewis is away on vacation from **March 22-31st**, inclusive. We wish Dave & Janie a restful and enjoyable time on their vacation as they visit their daughter and family in Alberta. Please direct all pastoral concerns during this time to Pastor Renate Dau Klaassen. She can be reached at her home number: 905-468-5277.

We are hiring! We are looking for a summer music worship coordinator to plan a blended style of worship for our Sunday morning worship services this summer. Please spread the word or let Rachael or Ruth know if you think of someone we should tap on the shoulder. More information is on our website.

Mid-day ride needed: Our newcomer families are helping each other very well as far as driving is concerned, but starting this week they will have just a little bit too much juggling to do with different schedules for English classes and work. As of tomorrow, Iman will need a daily ride from Virgil to St. Catharines in order to be at language school by 12 noon. We expect this to be temporary, as her son-in-law is hoping to get his licence soon. If you can drive - even just once, or if you can offer just one day/week - please talk to Greta Wiens or leave a message at the church office.

Jr. and Sr. Youth Progressive Supper! On **Friday, April 6th** the youth needs YOUR help to put on our progressive supper! Please sign up at the welcome center if you are willing to host a group of youth for either an appetizer, main or dessert. There is also a sign-up sheet for the youth so we can know how many youths to expect! **This event is open to both Sr. and Jr. Youth!** You can also contact Kendra Sawatzky. More details to come!

Pastor Lewis' last day is on Sunday, April 15. We are planning a light lunch in our foyer after the service where we will have finger foods and the chance to say our farewells to Dave and Janie. The sandwiches will be provided. If you would like to bring squares or cookies please make sure they are cut up and ready to eat.

What are some of your favourite hymns, or songs of worship?

Is it the melody that you love? Are the words powerful to you? Is there another reason why this song is meaningful to you?

The music committee is asking you to share your favourite songs with us, so we can incorporate them into our summer worship services. If you have a story to share about the song, please write it down.

If you wish to share it with the congregation, or would like someone to read it, give us your contact information and we will make it happen!

**Please drop it in the box beside the welcome centre,
or email to the office.**

*We look forward to sharing musical experiences and songs as a
community this summer!*

From, Your Music Committee

Susan Reimer

Rachael Peters

Ruth Willms

Wholeness Through Christ (WTC) is a scripturally-based, Spirit-led ministry to the whole person. As Jesus came to bring healing, forgiveness, freedom and release, WTC gently ministers these elements of God's love to believers who earnestly desire to be free from all that hinders. You may have been introduced to these principles when we hosted some of the WTC team here at our church a few years ago, or when these principles were taught during sermon series several years ago. Perhaps, you've only heard "Wholeness" mentioned here and there by those in the church who have been to the course, or you've not heard anything about it until now. Several in our church have participated in this ministry and have experienced great freedom. There is an upcoming course happening right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, **June 4-8th**! If you are considering applying for it, there are funds available for those who require access to them through Spiritual Council. WTC requests that it would be helpful for them to know if you are interested in applying, as they need to make decisions very soon about events going forward, as if there are insufficient applications, events will be cancelled. Please check out information on courses at: <http://wholenessthroughchrist.com/> and see pamphlets at our Welcome Centre. You may also connect with Rita Epp for information about WTC, or talk to John Tiessen about funding.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

New sausage representative wanted! As I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Niagara UM sausage rep for several years now, I feel it is time to pass the torch. This is an excellent opportunity to support Eden Sausage and raise money for a Christian high school that so many of our youth attend. Simple responsibilities include:

- notifying the church bulletin when there is an order period available...and that's it!

Eden has made ordering available exclusively online. Just ask your customers to sign up for an account, have a credit card, and let them know of the pick-up date, done! **Please contact Harold Neufeld, Nominations Committee Chair Person (905-468-1847) if you are interested in volunteering for this role.**

NIAGARA UM FINANCIALS:

Offering of March 18 th : \$ 8,310.75			
Budget	\$ 7,085.75	MCC General	\$ 510.00
Christian Witness	\$ 460.00	MCC Food	\$ 70.00
Capital Fund	\$75.00	MCC School Kits	\$ 100.00
Deacon's Fund	\$ 10.00		

Offering Focus – Our weekly budget requirement is \$7,654. In addition to your budget commitment, this month we encourage your support of Christian Witness. These contributions go to Mennonite Eastern Canada (MCEC) where they are further allocated to support missionaries, education, leadership training, church planting, as well as administrative support and benefits. They count on our support. Any church donations not allocated to a specific cause will be directed to our budget.

MENNONITE CHURCH EASTERN CANADA:

Each week MCEC staff pray for one of the faith communities within our MCEC community of congregations. We invite you to join us in praying this week for **Windsor Mennonite Fellowship**.

MCEC Annual Church Gathering: Connected: Striving side by side with one mind *"Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel."* *Philippians 1:27* Mark your calendars. Registration is now open. All are welcome. **April 27 – 28th @ Redeemer University College, Ancaster.** ****Please contact April in the church office if you would like to be registered as an NUMC church delegate.****

Youth & Young Adults Engaging in ACG: ACG 101: Are there youth or young adults in your congregation who will be attending? Join Matt, Sara and Steph as they navigate the weekend together - breakfast, alphabet soup, Robert's Rules of Order (who's Robert?), lunch, Dutch Blitz, and more! More information coming soon.

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA:

MC Canada is pleased to announce that Andrew Brown has been hired as Executive Assistant effective March 21, 2018. Andrew comes with experience as Camp Resident Manager at Camp Moose Lake (MCM), and as Archival Assistant at the Centre of Mennonite Brethren Studies in Winnipeg. He is a graduate of CMU (BA) and University of Winnipeg (Education), and is currently completing his Master of Arts in Theological Studies at CMU. He is part of the Sterling Mennonite Fellowship in Winnipeg. You can reach Andrew at abrown@mennonitechurch.ca.

International Witness - Service Opportunity in Germany: The Friedenshaus Ludwigshafen is seeking a new project coordinator or coordinator team beginning in June 2018!

See more information on our MC Canada Bulletin Board, or at: <https://www.friedenshausludwigshafen.com/>

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

The Niagara Community Male Chorus will present its annual Good Friday concert at Fairview MB Church, on **Friday, March 30, at 7:00 pm.**

Radiant Care Pleasant Manor Volunteer Appreciation Tea An invitation is extended to all of those who have regularly volunteered their time to serve the residents & tenants at Pleasant Manor and Heritage Place. Please join us in the Creekview Meeting room, for an afternoon celebrating you, our volunteers! **Tuesday, April 3rd 3:00 pm**

An evening of music and stories of hope: Generation Rising presents Christian touring band Double Portion! Featuring the testimony of Pastor Jose from Honduras - who will share how he continues to boldly proclaim God while surviving terrible gang violence. Free admission with a freewill donation. All funds raised will help children in Honduras receive quality Christian education. **Saturday April 7th @ 7pm** at the Fairview Mennonite Brethren Church, 455 Geneva St. St Catharines, ON.

Want to encounter other cultures? Come hear fascinating stories and experience the diversity at the Canadian School of Peacebuilding. Courses run **Jun. 11-15 or 18-22, 2018** and are a great opportunity to experience an inspiring community of people gathered to learn about peace. For more information, go to csop.cmu.ca or email csop@cmu.ca. *Apply by April 1 to avoid a \$50 late fee.*

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

Executive Director Announcement MCC Ontario is excited to welcome John Head as our new Executive Director. John came to MCC Ontario in 2014 and since the departure of Rick Cober Bauman has served seamlessly as Interim Executive Director. He brings to the role a deep faith and vast experience in organizational leadership that has been well demonstrated during his time at MCC Ontario and especially evident over the past few months. Please join us in welcoming John to this new role.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (March 26th – April 1st)

Monday: 7:30 pm Niagara Male Chorus Practice
Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
Thursday: 7:00 pm Praise & Worship Practice
Friday: **GOOD FRIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED**
9:45 am Music practice (Third Floor)
10:20 am Deacons Preparation of Communion
(Board Room)
10:20 am Worship Team Meeting (Room 30)
10:45 am Worship Service with Communion
– Message by Pastor Renate Dau Klaassen

Sunday, April 1st – Easter Sunday

9:45 am Choir Practice – 3rd floor of education wing
9:45 am Baptism Class- Board Room
10:20 am Worship Team Meeting – Room #30 on the 3rd floor
10:45 am Worship Service – Message by Pastor David 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, 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.