

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

Pastors: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender

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“Love God with all our being and love others as ourselves”

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Worship Leader: Stephen Hoke

Pianist: Susan Cressman **Chorister:** Jeannette Cressman

Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn # 46I sing the mighty power of God

Hymn # 72When all thy mercies, O my God

Scripture Reading # 823Psalm 139

Hymn # 47 (S the S)Let the children come to me

Children’s Story led by Tammy Shantz

Scripture ReadingPsalm 139: 13-15

Sermon’I am fearfully and wonderfully made?!’

Hymn # 115 (S the S).....Beauty for brokenness

(children ages 2 – grade 3 leave for Sunday School)

Offering

Announcements

Sharing Time & Prayer of the Church

Hymn # 76 (S the J)The Lord bless you and keep you

Benediction

Time of Reflection

Postlude

Sunday School Class

1. Preschool & Primary (age 2-gr. 3)

2. Intermediate (gr. 4-7)

3. Youth Class

4. Young Adult Class

5. Adult Bible Study Class

6. Discussion Class

Coffee/Juice Prep: Carol Cook

Location

Downstairs

Balcony

Pastors’ Office

Sanctuary

Library

Downstairs Hall

Clean Up: Ross Roth

Next Sunday – October 6

Worship Leader: Lois Cressman

Pianist: Bethany Ruby

Coffee/Juice Prep: Jackie Keller

Ushers: Wayne & Doris Zehr

Speakers: Phil & Julie Bender

Chorister: Susan Cressman

Clean up: Lorrie Koch

Next Sunday we will welcome guests Phil & Julie Bender. They are now back in Canada after teaching English in China with MC Canada for almost a decade. They will be sharing from their experiences there. They will lead us in worship and Sunday School and stay for our potluck lunch.

Nith Valley Events:

- Mon. Sept. 30, 7 pm. Guideline Review Team meeting.
- Sun. Oct. 6. Potluck lunch following Sunday School.
- Tues. Oct. 8, 9 am – 3 pm. Nith Valley Sewing Circle. (Note change of date, for this month only.)

The grass has been cut along Walker Rd. and the GARBAGE/TRASH is quite visible. Please contact Donna H. for a time and date that you could help in cleaning our part of the country before it is covered with the cold snow. My suggestion is October 1 through October 11th so it would be done before Thanksgiving Weekend.

From Christian Education Ministry Team:

Christian Ed Team is looking for volunteers to help with Activity Time when children from ages 2 to Gr 3 are dismissed after the sermon. Originally we asked for parents to help however since most parents are already involved with Sunday School, we need to expand our volunteers to anyone interested in helping in this way. Please see signup sheet posted in the foyer - you will also be responsible to provide a snack for 12-15 children on your dedicated Sunday. Thank you.

MCEC Celebrates 25 Years:

This fall 6 years ago... Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp and Retreat Centre (near New Hamburg) opened Woodhouse, doubling its capacity for holding retreats in its 45th year of “camping for the glory of God.” Woodhouse and Stone House offer a serene setting for MCEC groups such as Transitioning into Ministry (TiM), for the Quiet Days of Prayer sponsored by the Mennonite spiritual directors, for congregational retreats, and for a myriad of other gatherings.

From the Pastoral Ministry Team:

We as elders and Pastors continue to care for the well being of our congregation as a whole, families and as individuals. The last time we met we prayed for each person in our contact book by name. We value connecting with our church family in times of crisis (accident, physical and relational illness, surgery, etc.) and in moments of joy and celebration (graduation, wedding, new born baby, etc). In addition, together with a visitation team we follow a schedule to ensure that our senior members who are no longer able to attend worship regularly receive visits from their Nith Valley church family throughout the year. When a moment arises that you would like a visit or you are aware of someone else who could benefit from a visit, please do not hesitate to call one of the Elders or the Pastors.

From PMT (Lois, Donna, Lyle, Hendrike and Matthew)

For those who lead worship:

Fri. Oct. 4, 7:30-9:30 pm. Conrad Grebels presents, 'Singing with the Global Church,' led by John Bell at Knox Presbyterian Church, Wloo. Cost is \$10. For tickets, call the church at 519-886-4150 X225 or email terry.english032@gmail.com

Sat. Oct. 5, 9:00 am -1:30 pm. Conrad Grebel presents John Bell, from the Iona Community. His workshop is called, 'Doing Worship Differently: renewing congregational worship at the grass-roots level.' Cost is \$35. To register, contact Alison Enns at 519-885-0220 X24217 or aenns@uwaterloo.ca

Volunteer Needed:

Bible Quiz Volunteer needed:

MCEC is looking for someone to join our Bible Quizzing Task Group. This is a group that meets about four times between September and March to plan the MCEC Youth Bible Quizzing event which takes place at the beginning of April. This group consists of three volunteers who work with MCEC to prepare and plan for the day of Bible quizzing. For more information about this position or to apply, please contact Liz Weber at lweber@mcec.ca or 519-650-3806 ext. 105.

Community Events:

- TODAY, 2:30 pm. First MC (Kitchener) is celebrating its 200th birthday, and invites all to a service of celebration and reception. All singers are invited also to join the Homecoming Choir, rehearsing at 3 PM on Saturday, Sept 28, and Sunday at 1:30 pm, prior to the service. The highlight will be the Hallelujah Chorus with Mark Diller-Harder conducting and Jan Overduin on the organ. Join us!
- TODAY, 7 pm. Benefit concert for Benin Bible Institute's Agricultural Project at St. Jacobs MC.
- Tues. Oct. 1, 6:30-8:00 pm. Interfaith begins an 8-week Bereavement Support Program at the Tri-County Mennonite Homes Board Room (Nithview). See poster for details.
- Sat. Oct. 5, 1:30. Single or Single Again Group meets at Steinmann MC to car pool for hiking at Elora Conservation Area or meet at Elora Welcome Centre, 9 Mill Street E at 2:30.
- Sun. Oct. 6, 2:30 pm. Petersburg's Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is hosting a fundraiser at the New Dundee Community Centre featuring the Jubilation Male Chorus. Freewill offering and silent action.
- Thurs. Oct. 10, 7 pm. A seminar on the topic, 'Death: Planning for End of Life Care,' will be held in the Nithview Auditorium.
- Fri. Oct. 11, 8 pm. Steinmann MC hosts Theatre of the Beat Production about restorative justice, 'Forgiven/Forgotten, A stranger in need, a community in turmoil, an offender in their midst.' Admission by donation.
- Sat. Oct. 19, 1 pm. Mennonite Historical Society's Fall Meeting at Rouge Valley. MC, featuring George Reesor 10 Bus leaving from Kitchener at 10:00 am. Tickets are \$25. Reserve your place by contacting Roy Scheerer: 226-660-0606 or rws42@rogers.com

Future Directions Task Force...

Go... I'm told the word occurs over 1,000 times in the Bible. Much of my life's work experience involves meat processing, and "go" is very, very relevant in successful meat processing operations. I was blessed with experiencing very different successful cultures of "go" within Canadian meat processing plants, as well as outside of Canada while living in Guatemala, and working for a few years in 5 countries within Central America recently. Although my career involved meat processing, I know God's Spirit was/is directly involved in all aspects of the "Go" in my life, and that my faith and love for the Church continues to profoundly influence me.

In June, our Future Directions Task Force (FDTF) was able to meet for 2-days, face to face. There were 3 previous conference calls, but it was great to have the opportunity to meet in person, sharing personal stories and values, while worshipping, praying and sharing in communion together. Although at times there seems to be almost endless amounts of information resources available, and yet more information is still required, work of the task force is progressing. The face to face experience made it clearly evident to me, that the FDTF is unified in the conviction of it being a "Go" that is Spirit led, and totally centred in Christ.

Central questions for the FDTF continue to be...

- *What is God's Spirit calling us to in the 21st Century?*
- *What are the best ways (programs, structures, strategies) for the church to thrive and grow?*

We also had conference calls in July and again earlier in September. Gail Schellenberg formally resigned and was replaced by Anita Retzlaff (both representing the area church

for Saskatchewan). There has been limited recent progress in terms of any additional information or resource materials being advanced. (likely in part due to summer vacations etc) Although very initial discussions of alternative structural models have been had, they've been thought of as "musings" and are to be considered early stage drafts only, treated as confidential at this point. A number of the Task Force (as well as leaders from other area churches) attended an Anabaptist Learning Tour in the UK recently. There is a follow up report from this tour pending, but my sense from discussions to date, is there were no definite "Ah Ha's" learned that would impact recommendations from the FDTF.

Please consider including me, the others on the FDTF, and all those assisting the FDTF, in your prayers. That we remain open to moving into what God has ready for us... that we continue to fully engage the Spirit as our guide leading the "Go" forward for the work of our Future Directions Task Force.

Blessings, Terry Keller