

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

Pastors: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender

Church: 519-662-3520, Home: 519-684-6957

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

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Worship Leader: Lorrie Koch

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

Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Encountering

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn # 102 To God be the glory

Hymn # 167 For God so loved us

Old Testament Reading Genesis 12: 1-4a

Children's Story led by Janet Cressman

Confession

Witnessing

Hymn # 506 I sought the Lord

Gospel Reading John 3: 1-17

Sermon 'Encountering God: Blessing and Birth'

Hymn # 299 New earth, heavens new

Offering

Announcements

Sharing Time & Prayer of the Church

Hymn # 57 (S the S) Go, my friends, in grace

Benediction

Time of Reflection

Postlude

Sunday School Class

1. Preschool & Primary (ages 2 – gr. 3)

2. Intermediate (gr. 4-7)

3. Youth Class

4. Young Adult Class

5. Adult Bible Study Class

6. Discussion Class

7. Storytelling elective

Coffee/Juice Prep: Chris Cressman

Location

Downstairs

Balcony

Pastors' Office

Sanctuary

Library

Downstairs Hall

Downstairs Office

Clean up: Owen Cook

Next Sunday – March 23 Third Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader: Stephen Hoke Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Pianist: Bonnie Stemmler Children's Story Leader: Tricia Cressman

Ushers: Ken & Lorrie Koch

Coffee/Juice Prep: Stephanie Wager-Cressman

Clean up: Janna Lynn Cressman

Nith Valley Events:

- Sat. Apr. 12, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Women of MCEC Spring Enrichment Day at St. Catherines UM Church. See poster for details.
- Sun. Apr. 13, 2:00-4:30. Christian Ed has planned a day at Mennonite Central Committee's new facility at 50 Kent Ave. Kitchener. Join us for a tour of their new facility and participate in a service project, i.e. packing kits, knotting comforters, working on Thrift Store projects. Donations of items for Relief & Hygiene kits will be accepted that day - refer to flyer in your mailbox for kit details. Please sign-up on the bulletin board if you will be attending.
- Fri. May 2 to Sun. May 4. Women of WMCEC Bus Trip to the Ottawa Tulip Festival. Cost is \$250.00. Register by Mar. 31. More info and registration forms can be found on the table by the sanctuary doors.

Volunteers Needed. Nith Valley is turning 40! It is time to celebrate! January 2015, we will celebrate 40 years as Nith Valley. Church Council wants to take time to celebrate our historic identity, who have become and who we are becoming. If you would be interested in planning anniversary celebrations please contact Mark Keller or Matthew Isert Bender.

Church Leaders Forum 2014 – Shifting Stats, Shaking the Church, with guest speakers Bruxy Cavey (Meetinghouse) and Dr. Don Moore (World Vision). MC Canada has negotiated a rate of \$20/person for this event. OUR LOCATION is Tyndale Seminary in Toronto, 1:30-4:30 pm, Tuesday April 8. Pastor Matthew is planning to attend this event and would gladly carpool with others.

From Tri-County Mennonite Homes:

We are seeking to fill the role of Chief Executive Officer. The successful candidate will provide leadership to Tri-County Mennonite Homes and its divisions, Aldaview Services, Greenwood Court and Nithview Community. To read the job posting please see the church bulletin board or visit our website at www.tcmhomes.com/TCMH/jobs.html. Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 28, 2014. Your prayers and support are appreciated.

From MC Canada:

Registration is underway for Mennonite Church Canada's Assembly 2014: Wild Hope: Faith for an unknown season. It takes place July 3-6 in Winnipeg. Find more information and register at home.mennonitechurch.ca/events/Winnipeg2014. All are welcome!

Soccer Players wanted:

Join the Mennos in Black FC! If you enjoy the beautiful game, are 18+ years of age and wish to play some recreational, fun, outdoor soccer this summer, then you should join the Mennos in Black. Co-ed games will take place on Tuesday evenings between May and August, for more information contact Steven Reesor Rempel at mennosinblack@gmail.com or (519) 588-5236. Please sign-up as soon as possible as space is limited!

Community Events:

- Tues. Mar. 18, 7-9 pm. Interfaith hosts a workshop for people supporting family and friends with mental illness. Workshop will be held in the Community Room at Tri-County Mennonite Homes. See poster for more info.
- Wed. Mar. 19, noon. Soup, Sandwich, Sermon and Song at Zion United Church (215 Peel St., NH).
- Thurs. Mar. 20, 6:30-9:00 pm. 'Mennonites tell Stories about Food,' at the The Mennonite Story (1406 King St. N, St. Jacobs) featuring Marlene Epp and Rick Cober Bauman. Freewill offering.
- Sat. Mar. 22, 8 am. Elmira Meat Canning Fundraiser Buffet Breakfast at Calvary United Church (48 Hawkesville Rd, St. Jacobs). Tickets are \$12 (adult); \$5 (ages 6-12). Advance tickets only. Call 519-745-8458 to reserve yours.
- Sat. Mar. 22, 8:30 am. 6th Annual Community Peace and Justice Breakfast at Steinmann MC. Admission by donation. To reserve your place, call 519-634-8311.
- Sat. Mar. 22, 8 pm. Menno Singers presents, 'Exploring East,' at Waterloo North MC. Tickets are \$20 (\$5 for students).
- Wed. Mar. 26, 7- 9 pm. Interfaith's Annual General Meeting at the Wilmot Rec Centre. See poster for more details.
- Wed. Mar. 26, 7 pm. Conrad Grebel presents Ernie Regehr speaking on the topic, 'Limits to Force: Why Contemporary Wars are Rarely Won.' To register for this free event, call 519-885-0220.
- Sun. Apr. 6, 2:30 and 7 pm. Hillcrest presents, 'It's Cool in the Furnace.' Free admission. Donations accepted.
- Tues. Apr. 8, 7-9 pm. Interfaith hosts a workshop for people supporting family and friends struggling with addictions. Workshop will be held in the Trinity Lutheran Church (Trinity Hall). See poster for more info.
- Mon. Apr. 28 and Tues. Apr. 29. Senior's Retreat at Hidden Acres, with Martin Buhr and John Neufeld. See bulletin board for more details.
- Sat. May 3. Shalom Counselling presents, 'A Bicycle Built for Two: A Playful Reflection on Marriage,' at the Conrad Centre (36 King St., Kit). See poster for more info.

Confession:

Leader: We think that who we are makes us heir to God's kingdom.

Left: the family we are born into,

Right: the name game we play.

Leader: We think that what we have done makes us citizens of God's nation:

Left: which school we went to,

Right: what agency we volunteered with.

Leader: We think that what we look like will make us worthy of God's blessing:

Left: the marks we do (or don't) put on our bodies,

Right: the clothes we wear.

Leader: We think that what we believe will save us from death:

Left: the laws we follow to the letter,

Right: the certitudes we're confident we know because we've verified them.

All: We want who we are, where we come from, what we have done,
what we believe to be enough.
Like Nicodemus, we do not understand how to be reborn.
We speak only about what we know,
Testify only to what we can prove.
Lord, hear our prayer. (Silence)

Claiming our Assurance:

Leader: Let go of who you are, let go of where you come from,
Let go of what you have done, let go of what you believe.
Receive new birth;
Open your hands to God's gift of transformed life.

All: For the gift of Jesus Christ is the gift of rebirth as a child of God,
an heir to the heavenly kingdom,
and is ours through faith and not our works.