

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: Matthew Isert Bender

Pianist: Janna Lynn Cressman

Chorister: Lois Cressman

Guest Speaker: Jeanette Hanson

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn # 299 (blue)New earth, heavens new

Hymn # 567 (blue)How firm a foundation

Hearing God's Word

Old Testament ReadingIsaiah 43: 1-7

Children's Story

Hymn # 49 (purple)I will come to you in the silence

New Testament ReadingLuke 3: 15-17, 21,22; Acts 8: 14-17

Sermon 'Something new'

Turning to Jesus

Hymn # 306 (blue)In Christ there is no East or West

Offering

Announcements

Sharing Time and Prayer of the Church

Go With the Spirit

Hymn # 113 (purple)I will stand in the congregation

Benediction

Time of Reflection

Postlude

Sunday School Class

1. Preschool & Kindergarten Class (ages 3-SK)

2. Primary Class

3. Junior Class

4. Young Adult Class

5. Adult Bible Study Class

6. Sermon Discussion Class

Coffee/Juice Prep: Jim Shantz

Location

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Library

Downstairs Hall

Clean Up: Judy Rivers

Next Sunday – January 17 Theme: When is Enough, Enough?

Focus on MCCO New Hamburg Thrift Store

Worship Leader: Lorrie Koch

Guest Speaker: Karla Richards

Pianist: Susan Cressman

Chorister: Terry Keller

Children's Story Leader: Christa Gerber

Coffee/Juice Prep: Susan Hartzler

Clean Up: Bonnie Stemmler

Nith Valley Events:

- Mon. Jan. 11, 7 pm. PCRC meeting.
- Sat. Jan. 23, 9:00-11:00 am. Men's Breakfast. Darrell Bender will raise our awareness of social issues in our region as he shares about his work at the Working Center. Please sign up on the Bulletin board at the back. \$10.00/adult and \$5.00/student.
- Sun. Jan. 24. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner! Please sign up as host or guest on the bulletin board by Jan. 17.

Community Events:

- Jan. 15-17. Fathers and Kids Retreat at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp. To register, call 519-422-3200 or go to www.slmc.ca/retreats
- Sat. Jan. 16, 7 pm. Wilmot MC presents the movie, 'Still Alice.' See poster for details.
- Sat. Jan. 16, 7 pm. Single or Single Again Group meets at St. Agatha MC for a games night. Bring a game and a snack to share.
- Sun. Jan. 24, 7 pm. Three Choir Hymn Sing (Menno Singers, Menno Youth, Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir) at Erb St. Mennonite Church.
- July 29-31. Skylight Festival in Paris, Ontario, featuring speakers, artists and musicians. Early bird price of \$119 until Jan. 15. More info at www.skylightfestival.ca

Nith Valley Congregational and Pastoral Review:

"Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times—speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly and so become more and more in every way like Christ who is the Head of His body, the Church. Under His direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:15-16

Church Council has asked the PCR Ministry Team to lead the process of a congregational/pastoral review in 2016, and MCEC has provided Jamie Gerber from Wellesley as a resource person. The purpose of a congregational/pastoral review is to affirm and strengthen our pastors and congregation in our relationship and ministry. The goal of the evaluation is to find ways to seek growth in personal, professional, and congregational relationships. Our process is being planned to include the following components... i) Pastors self review ii) Our Ministry Teams will receive a questionnaire and be asked to submit collective responses iii) Focus groups discussions, most likely to be held 1 Sunday during the Sunday School hour iv) an on-line (and/or paper) survey for congregants and adherents of Nith Valley... and more details to follow in the coming weeks.

Blessings all, as we invite your participation in the process and uphold this task to prayer and thoughtful consideration. "We need each other... we are each other... and we're more than just ourselves because of each other..."

From the Mennonite Burial Society:

We are a non profit mutual aid society, that for over 70 years have served the Mennonite community in Ontario. We provide funds to aid in funeral expenses to our members in time of need. For a small annual levy, a lump sum is paid to your estate to help with the costs. More info at www.mennoniteburial.com

From MC Canada:

- Being a Faithful Church (BFC) 7: The BFC Task Force's report and recommendation to the church for Assembly 2016 can be found at www.commonword.ca/go/289. The Task Force is seeking responses to the question "Is there any further response that your congregation or group would like the BFC Taskforce to hear before Assembly 2016?" Please send any responses to Willard Metzger, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4 or wmetzger@mennonitechurch.ca by Feb. 15, 2016. The BFC Task Force thanks you for your continued prayerful engagement as together we prepare for Assembly 2016.
- The concluding work of Mennonite Church Canada's Future Directions Task Force can be found at www.commonword.ca/go/469. Please review these important documents about the future of our national and area church system prior to your respective Area Church Annual Gatherings in 2016, and our national church Assembly 2016 in July. Group and individual responses can also be sent to wmetzger@mennonitechurch.ca.
- Invitation to Visual Artists for a Juried Art Exhibition at Assembly 2016 on the theme of *God~Faith~People*. Please see home.mennonitechurch.ca/saskatoon2016 for more information.
- Featured prayer request from the wider church (to receive regular prayer requests, subscribe to PrayerNet at: www.commonword.ca/go/96). The official role of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission concluded in June 2015, but the process of healing and restoration between Indigenous and settler populations is just beginning. Pray for Holy Spirit-filled relationships and a keen desire for true and lasting reconciliation.