

**Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church**

Pastors: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender

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

nvmc@sympatico.ca www.nithvalleymennonite.com

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

Vol. 36 January 31, 2016 No.5

Worship Leader: Gloria Richardson Music Leaders: Praise Team  
Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

**Gather to Worship**

- Prelude
- Welcome
- Time of Anticipation
- Call to Worship
- Invocation
- Hymn # 109 (purple) .....Blessing and honour
- Hymn .....By faith
- Hymn .....Lord, I need you

**Hearing God’s Word**

- Children’s Story .....led by Brenda Kirkland
- Scripture Reading ..... Mark 12: 28-31; Mark 10: 28-30
- Sermon ..... ‘Up-In-Out’

**Turning to Jesus**

- Offering
- Announcements
- Sharing Time and Prayer of the Church

**Go With the Spirit**

- Hymn # 84 (duotang) .....To be content
- Hymn # 324 (blue) .....Seek ye first
- Hymn .....Ancient Words
- Benediction
- Time of Reflection
- Postlude

**Sunday School Class**

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|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Preschool & Kindergarten Class (ages 3-SK) | Downstairs            |
| 2. Primary Class                              | Downstairs            |
| 3. Junior Class                               | Balcony               |
| 4. Young Adult Class                          | Sanctuary             |
| 5. Adult Bible Study Class                    | Library               |
| 6. Sermon Discussion Class                    | Downstairs Hall       |
| Coffee/Juice Prep: Carol Cook                 | Clean Up: Lloyd Fretz |

**Next Sunday – February 7**

Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender  
Pianist: Susan Cressman Chorister: Jeannette Cressman  
Children’s Story Leader: Carolyn O’Krafka  
Coffee/Juice Prep: Ralph Cressman Clean Up: Jesse Cressman

**Nith Valley Events:**

- Wed. Feb. 3, 9:00 am. Sewing Circle at Hillcrest Mennonite Church, to spend the day with their ladies knotting comforters and quilting. Lunch is provided. (Note change of day and meeting place.)
- Sat. Feb. 27. Nith Valley Women’s Retreat. Save the date!

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**Financial Update:**

100% of 2015/16 Budget	\$162,500.00
Givings to Jan 17/16	\$155,564.87
Shortfall	\$ 6,935.13

Reminder: Today is the last Sunday for 2015/16 budget givings.

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**New Contact Information:**

Owen & Carol Cook  
9 Alma St., Box 273  
Innerkip, ON N0J 1M0  
519-469-9903

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**From MCEC:**

Mark your calendars – the Annual Church Gathering will be held the weekend of April 29 & 30 at UMEI Christian High School in Leamington.

### Guess Who's Coming to Dinner – Jan 24/16

HOST	GUEST
John & Gloria Ilett	Tammy, Nick, Cole, Luke Shantz
Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender	Judy Rivers, Gladys, Richard, Susan Cressman
Doris & Amzie Brubacher	Diane Traendlin, Owen & Carol Cook
Dan & Kathryn Cressman	Alex, Terry & Jackie Keller
Ralph & Lois Cressman, Bethany Ruby	Wayne & Doris Zehr
Andy & Brenda Kirkland, Elaine Cressman	Ken & Lorrie Koch
Ann & Lloyd Fretz. Joanna Ropp	Donna Hartzler, Orval & Jeannette Cressman

Thank you to the hosts for opening up your homes and providing the meal. Thanks to the guests for participating and engaging in fellowship.

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#### **New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale:**

In honour of the 50th Annual Mennonite Relief Sale in May of 2016, we would like to hear your memories and stories from Relief Sales past. Send stories, memories and special moments from Relief Sales past that you wish to share to [reliefsalestories@gmail.com](mailto:reliefsalestories@gmail.com). We will compile these stories and post them on the Relief Sale website ([www.nhmrs.com](http://www.nhmrs.com)) starting in February. This is a great way of sharing stories before they are lost. They can be short or long, funny or serious. Our hope is we remind ourselves and others why the Sale has continued on for 50 years and why it should continue on for another 50!

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale is looking for a canvasser for the New Hamburg and Baden area. Responsibilities are to approach businesses in the area and ask if they would like to donate items for the Indoors and Outdoors Auctions. For further information contact John Reimer at [john.b.reimer@outlook.com](mailto:john.b.reimer@outlook.com) or call 519-662-4315.

### **Nith Valley Mennonite Church 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..."

Please note: As part of our Congregational & Pastoral Review process, a Focus Group discussion has been scheduled at Nithview Home (*Heritage Dining Room*) for Wed. Feb. 17th at 6:30pm for our members residing there that will not be able to attend our Focus Groups being held here at the church.

### From Mennonite Disaster Service:

Summer Youth Project 2016 - Put hands and feet to the gospel by taking your youth group on an MDS Summer Youth Project (SYP). SYP offers projects that are focused on clean up, disaster mitigation and repair. Applications are now being accepted for SYP - project locations will be in Bastrop, TX; Detroit, MI and Camp Likely, BC. Applications are due by Feb 12. For questions or scheduling, call Alicia Hurst, 800-241-811 or email [ahurst@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:ahurst@mds.mennonite.net)

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### Community Events:

- Thurs. Feb. 4, 6:30 pm. Conrad Grebel presents the Bechtel Lecture Dinner, featuring Janneken Smucker speaking about Amish quilt makers. Tickets are \$75. Call Alison Enns at (519) 885-0220 x24217 to reserve yours.
- Tues. Feb. 9, 5-7 pm. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at the Wilmot Rec Complex, hosted by Zion United and St. George Anglican churches. Call 519-662-9372 to reserve your tickets (adult \$9, children \$5). Limited number of tickets at the door.
- Sat. Feb. 13. Mennonite Women of Wilmot Cluster Breakfast at Steinmann MC. Registration at 8:15 am, breakfast at 8:30 am. Omas Siskona of KW: collaborating with African Grandmothers. Special Music: Tracy, Natalie and Cecelia Weber. See Poster on bulletin board for more info and sign- up sheet. Sign up by Mon, Feb 8.
- Sat. Feb. 13, 6 pm. Single Or Single Again (SOSA) Valentines Dinner at Levetto (18 Snyders Rd, Baden). If you want to attend please email [Christian\\_singles@live.ca](mailto:Christian_singles@live.ca) or call 519-662-2971 by Feb. 9.
- Mon. Feb. 15, 10 am – 3:30 pm. Family Day Open House at Hidden Acres. Lots of free indoor and outdoor activities. Lunch available for \$3.00. Reserve your spot by calling 519-625-8602 or email [info@hiddenacres.ca](mailto:info@hiddenacres.ca)
- Feb. 26-28. Women's Retreat at Silver Lake Mennonite Camo with resource person Tanya Dyck Steinmann. For more info, visit [www.slmc.ca/retreats](http://www.slmc.ca/retreats) or call 519-422-3200.
- Sat. Feb. 27, 7:30 pm (pre-concert talk at 7:00). Menno Singers presents, 'Music from the Royal Saxon Court of Dresden, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$25 (\$5 student), at Music Plus, at the door or at [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com)
- Mar. 14 or Mar. 15. Hidden Acres Grandparent – Grandchild (gr. 1-6) Days. For more info, email [info@hiddenacres.ca](mailto:info@hiddenacres.ca) or call 519-625-8602.

### Herald Press receives 2016 Christianity Today book award:

*Christian. Muslim. Friend.*, written by David W. Shenk and published by Herald Press, is among 13 books chosen by *Christianity Today* as "the books most likely to shape evangelical life, thought, and culture." Shenk's book received the top 2016 *Christianity Today* award in the Missions/The Global Church category. (January 22, 2016)

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### From MC Canada:

The future of the church: The Christian church is undergoing a time of much change – and opportunity. Mennonite Church Canada is looking to the future with hope and preparing for Assembly 2016 in Saskatoon, Sask., July 6-10. Based on Jeremiah 31:33 and themed "Faith, God, People," the gathering will look to the future of the Mennonite church in Canada. To learn more about proposed changes to national and area church structures, see the Future Direction Task Force's final report at [www.commonword.ca/go/469](http://www.commonword.ca/go/469)

**Save the date!** The 2016 Mennonite Church Canada Assembly, on the theme of *God~Faith~People*, will take place in Saskatoon from July 6-10. Registration opens in February. See <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/saskatoon2016> for more details.

**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](http://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 your responses to Willard Metzger, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4 or [wmetzger@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto: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](http://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 [towmetzger@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:towmetzger@mennonitechurch.ca)