

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: Stephen Hoke

Pianist: Susan Cressman

Chorister: Jeannette Cressman

Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn # 398 (blue).....I love to tell the story

Hymn # 521 (blue).....Come, thou fount

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Children's Storyled by Doris Zehr

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Hymn # 170 (blue).....The king of love my shepherd is

Scripture Reading2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon 'Welcome Home! You are Enough!'

Turning to Jesus

Hymn # 139 (blue).....Far, far away from my loving father

Offering

Announcements

Hymn # 377 (blue).....Healer of our every ill

Sharing Time and Prayer of the Church

Go With the Spirit

Hymn # 471 (blue).....Eat this bread

Communion

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: Jackie Keller

Location

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Library

Downstairs Hall

Clean Up: Debbie Wall

Next Sunday – March 13:

Worship Leader:

Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Pianist: Bethany Ruby

Chorister: Janna Lynn Cressman

Children's Story Leader: Janet Cressman

Coffee/Juice Prep: Chris Cressman

Clean Up: Owen Cook

Nith Valley Events:

- Mon. Mar. 7, 9 am – noon. Rag cutting at the New Hamburg Thrift Centre. Scissors are supplied. All are welcome.
- Fri. Mar. 25, 9:45 am. Good Friday service
- Sun. Mar. 27. Easter Sunday. Join us for a potluck Easter Breakfast at 8:30, followed by our Easter worship service at 10:00.

Community Events:

- Wed. Mar. 9, noon. 'Soup, Sandwich, Sermon and Song,' at Zion United Church (215 Peel St, NH).
- Sat. Mar. 19, 9 am – noon. Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada Lenten Contemplative Retreat, led by Gord Alton at Mannheim MC. Cost is \$20. Register at mennospiritdir@gmail.com
- Sat. Mar. 12, 6:30 pm. MEDA Annual Spring Banquet at Steinmann MC. See poster for details.
- Mar. 14 **or** Mar. 15. Hidden Acres Grandparent – Grandchild (gr. 1-6) Days. For more info, email info@hiddenacres.ca or call 519-625-8602.
- Thurs. Mar. 31, 7:30 pm. Conrad Grebel presents the Benjamin Eby Lecture, 'The Bottle, the Dagger and the Ring: Church Discipline and Dutch Mennonite Identity in the Seventeenth Century,' given by Professor Troy Osborne in the Grebel Chapel.

Congregational - Pastoral Review 2016 update...

Our sincerest thanks to all those who have been willing to participate in any/all of the review components. We are also very grateful for Jamie Gerber's guidance & support, being MCEC's resource person, during our review.

To date, most all of the Ministry Teams & Council have completed their Ministry Team questionnaires... the Pastors Self Review is completed... 65 attended the hot breakfast, with 48 then participating in our Focus Groups held here at the Church on February 21st, & 6 participated in the Focus Group held at Nithview Home February 17th. Our on-line (&/or paper) Survey closed on Feb. 14th with an 81.5% response rate! (Exceptional response rate!) Summary reports are being prepared (some completed already) for each segment of our review process.

With each of the information gathering segment steps completed, we believe there is more than sufficient information now available for the PCR Ministry Team to review, tabulate and prepare a final summary report to Church Council yet in March. After we complete a summary document for the Ministry Team & Council questionnaires, we will be able to prepare our final report. Once reviewed, revised as needed, and approved by Council, our final report will be provided back to the congregation. Our intentions are to have this readied for verbally presenting either at our Annual Church & Budget Meeting (Sunday April 10th), or in the weeks directly following, yet in April. This final report, along with each of the summary documents from each segment of the review process, will be posted on Nith Valley's website for a few weeks. (in the password protected section, where council minutes are held) Paper copies will be made available if requested, & sent to those at Nithview Home who participated in the review process.

Ephesians 4:15-16... 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.

This process has hopefully celebrated where God has been at work in the past, the present and continue to positively build on that as we imagine the future. Your continued prayers are assuredly appreciated.

“We need each other... we are each other... and we're more than just ourselves because of each other...”

From Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir:

The Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir invites parents and children to an open rehearsal to get a glimpse of the inner workings of the choir. The open rehearsal will take place on Tuesday March 29, 2016 at W-K United Mennonite Church (15 George Street Waterloo). Children ages 6-9 are welcome from 6:30—7:00 and children ages 10-15 are welcome from 7:30-8:00. For more information, email: imcc.conductor@rogers.com

From Women of MCEC:

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Enrichment Day, April 23rd, 2016, at the Rouge Valley Mennonite Church. Our theme will be "This Is My Story, This Is My Song". We will be focusing on experiences and stories of our women through the last ten decades.

Registration forms are available from Jeannette Cressman. Deadline to receive the registration form is April 9th so please reply asap. We are only able to accommodate 225 participants total from all areas.

Our Pastor-Congregation Relations Ministry Team (PCR) continues to meet regularly. Our role is to care for the relationship between our congregation and pastors. We wish to encourage and facilitate open communication, sharing both affirmations and concerns. Please feel free to approach any of the PCR Ministry Team... Brenda K.; Lyle C.; Tricia C.; Pastors Matthew/Hendrike, or Terry K. .