

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”

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Pianist: Bethany Ruby

Chorister: Terry Keller

Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Hymn # 1 (blue)What is this place

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

Hymn # 19 (blue)Open now thy gates of beauty

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story

Milestone Ministry – grades 1 & 9

Hymn # 324 (blue)Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 4: 9-11

Meditation 'Hospitality: A Way of Life'

Turn to Jesus

Offering

Announcements

A Hospitality Moment

Sharing Time and Prayer of the Church

Go with the Spirit

Hymn # 120 (purple)Somebody prayed for me

Blessings of our Sunday School Ministry

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

Location

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Library

Downstairs Hall

Next Sunday – September 18

Worship Leader: Lois Cressman

Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Pianist: Bonnie Stemmler

Chorister: Jeannette Cressman

Children's Story Leader: Brenda Kirkland

Nith Valley Events:

- Mon. Sept. 12, 7 pm. Visitation Team Gathering.
- Wed. Sept. 14, 9:15-11:15 am. MOPS.
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Community Events:

- Sat. Sept. 17. Join Shalom Counselling as they walk 10 000 Steps to improve mental health. More info available at www.shalomcounselling.org or 519-886-9690.
- Sat. Sept. 17, 4:30-7:00 pm. St. Jacob's MC Annual Chicken and Sausage BBQ. Tickets (adults \$18, children \$10) available from the church office 519-664-2268.
- Thurs. Sept. 22, 7 pm. Tri-County Mennonite Homes presents an info session at Nithview about the new GRT Bus Service – Route 77.
- Sept. 23-25. Men's Retreat at Silver Lake Camp. Find more info online at www.slmc.ca/retreats
- Sept. 26 or Sept. 27. Hidden Acres Senior's Retreat, with resource person Ingrid Loepp Thiessen. For more information, go to www.hiddenacres.ca or call 519-625-8602.
- Sun. Oct. 2, 7 pm. St. Jacob's MC hosts Benefit Concert for Benin Bible Institute's Agricultural Project. Freewill offering.

Home Church – Pilot Initiative

Bill Hybels, pastor at Willow Creek and Founder of the Global Leadership Summit is known to say “the local church is the hope of the world”. I remember being challenged and encouraged by this phrase a few years ago when I heard him speak and I still am to this day. There are challenges and change happening in the church but I am filled with hope and optimism for the church.

Over the past 24 months, we as Nith Valley have been coached by 3DM, a European team of church leaders. This initiative has been called re-learning community within MCEC. It is grounded in the reality that things are changing in the culture and local church. This can be unsettling and sad but it is also energizing and exciting. Lois, Kathryn, Hendrike and Matthew have been the participants in this re-learning community from Nith Valley.

At the core of the re-learning community we are being challenged to be like Jesus....to imitate his ways and to be in relationship with one another. We are called to be disciples of Jesus and to disciple others. In the re-learning community, we have been challenged to follow Jesus amidst the cultural shifts around, acknowledging the changes which are happening in our churches (for example in beliefs, church programming, etc.) but to not lose hope and to have a spirit of experimentation as we seek to follow Jesus, invite others to follow Jesus and simply seek to make a difference in our communities, amidst these changing times. The local church is the hope of the world.

This spirit of experimentation deeply rooted in hope for the church is what we seek. For example, the Monday night

backyard fires and visiting emerged from this spirit of prayer, conversation and dreaming. This fall, emerging from our re-learning community conversations and affirmed by the Worship Ministry Team, we are planning to meet in homes for worship and fellowship on the fourth Sunday of the month. During this time we want to grow in our faith and deepen our relationships as disciples of Jesus as we gather in smaller groups.

We hope and pray that we engage together in the spirit of experimentation. After Christmas we will collaboratively discern how to move forward with this pilot project.

The first Sunday will be Sept. 25 and we will meet at 9:45 am.

House church will be held here:

- 1) Janna Lynn and Christopher Cressman – 31 Stiefelmeyer Cr., Baden
- 2) Lois and Ralph Cressman - 946778 Township Rd. 14, Plattsville
- 3) Matthew and Hendrike IB - 16 William Str. S., Plattsville

Please sign up for the home you will attend, to assist our planning for this morning.