

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”

Vol. 36 December 18, 2016 No.37

Music Leaders: Praise Band Worship Leader: Ruth Cressman
Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation – Hymn # 3 (purple)Come, Light of the world

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn # 71 (blue)Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Hymn # 32 (purple)Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem

Hearing God’s Word

Scripture ReadingPsalm 80: 1-7; 17-19

Children’s Storyled by Judy Rivers

Scripture ReadingMatthew 1: 18-25

Sermon ‘Longing to be in God’s presence’

Turn to Jesus

Hymn # 26 (purple)Helpless and hungry

Hymn # 215 (blue)What child is this

A Hospitality MomentJeannette Cressman

Offering, with song ‘Make Room’ by Bryan Moyer Suderman

Announcements

Sharing Time and Prayer of the Church

Go with the Spirit

Hymn # 124 (purple)My soul cries out

Benediction

Time of Reflection

Postlude

Sunday School Class

1. Preschool & Kindergarten Class

2. Primary Class

3. Junior Class

4. Young Adult Class

5. Adult Bible Study Class

6. Sermon Discussion Class

Coffee/Juice Prep: Dan Cressman

Location

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Upstairs Library

Downstairs Hall

Clean Up: Ken Koch

Next Service – Christmas Eve, 4:00 pm

Worship Leader: Kathryn Cressman Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Children’s Story Leader: Tammy Shantz

Next Sunday – December 25, 10:00 am

Worship Leader & Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Pianist: Susan Cressman Chorister: Lois Cressman

Children’s Story Leader: Matthew Isert Bender

Ushers: Nick & Tammy Shantz and family

Financial Update:

100% of 2016/17 Budget	\$163,550.00
Givings to Dec 11/16	\$107,209.85
Shortfall	\$56,340.15

The last day for givings to be included on your 2016 tax receipt is Fri. Dec. 30. Andy will clear his church mailbox at noon on the 30th. He also welcomes cheques post dated to Dec. 30.

Community Events:

- Tues. Dec. 20, 7 pm. Conrad Grebel presents an Advent Jazz Vespers service in the Chapel.
- Wed. Dec. 21, 7 pm. Longest Night service at Zion United Church (215 Peel St., NH). There are many reasons why the Christmas season might feel alienating, sad or full of anxiety. We’ll gather to pray and share hope amidst the darkness.

Advanced Care Planning:

There are purple advanced care planning workbooks under the mailboxes. (Advanced Care Planning is deciding who will make future health decisions for you if you are unable to.) It's about conversations. It's about decisions. It's how we care for each other. Please take one for yourself or for a friend. Use it to guide you in having important conversations. In addition there is a small business card to take and carry with you in your wallet with your SDM information.

From Mennonite Central Committee:

Many of us have in the past year, been part of providing hospitality and welcome to refugees fleeing the violence of Syria. Tragically, there is more violence, producing more refugees than our hospitality will ever be able to welcome. We must see an end to the brutal, refugee-producing violence all over Syria, but especially in Aleppo. As we prepare for the Light from the Prince of Peace shining into our darkness, we are providing for you a simple prayer for your community to offer your Christmas hopes for peace in Aleppo. May our prayers be deep and strong. May Christ's peace reign. *Hope for Aleppo, Christmas 2016*

Join the MCC Team! Make a difference in the lives of individuals and families in Ontario and around the world as the Relief Manager at our Milverton Thrift Shop or as the General Manager at our Stouffville Thrift Shop. Go to mcco.ca/serve to apply today.

Learning Tour to Guatemala - March 14-25, 2017

Hear the stories, meet the people, participate in the rich culture, and witness the efforts of Guatemalans who are striving for positive change. For more info, please contact Bernie Burnett at 226-235-4711 or bernieb747@gmail.com, Katie Buchnea at katiebuchnea@mcco.ca, or visit mcccanada.ca/events Deadline for registration is Sunday, January 15, 2017

Christmas Giving: Choose a gift that is a personal and meaningful expression of God's love through MCC's Christmas Giving Catalogue. Browse and purchase gifts at mcccanada.ca/christmas