

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

Pastors: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender

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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: Susan Cressman

Chorister: Jeannette Cressman

Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn 10 000 Reasons

HymnBlessed be your name

Hearing God’s Word

Scripture ReadingActs 2: 1-41

Children’s Storyled by Brenda Kirkland

Sermon ‘Everyone Welcome!’

HymnLord I need you

Baptism

Transfer of Membership

Hymn # 545 (blue)Be thou my vision

Turn to Jesus

Offering

Announcements

Hymn (insert)Be still my soul

Prayer of the Church

Hymn # 363 (blue)Renew your church

Go with the Spirit

Benediction

Time of Reflection

Postlude

Sunday School Class

1. Preschool & Kindergarten

2. Primary Class

3. Junior Class

4. Current Affairs Class

5. Sermon Discussion Class

6. Bible Study Class

Coffee/Juice Prep: Ralph Cressman

Clean Up: Gloria R. & John I.

Location

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Downstairs Hall

Upstairs Library

Fall Retreat 2017 -- September 29 - October 1 @ Hidden Acres

Sign up online (use the link emailed that was emailed to you) or fill out a paper survey at church.

For our Fall Retreat this year, Tamara Shantz will lead us in looking at the spiritual journey from the perspective of the Enneagram – a tool that helps increase our self-awareness. We will explore nine different journeys of the soul: how we experience disconnection from God and our deepest self, and how the Spirit is inviting each of us back home.

In preparation for the retreat, you are invited to read basic descriptions of the Nine personality types outlined by the Enneagram. You don't need to know for sure what type you are, but it may be helpful to come with 2 or 3 of the descriptions with which you most identify. A short description is digitally available for each type attached to this email and/or printed copies are available at church. If you wish to do more reading in advance of the retreat you can visit www.enneagraminstitute.com/type-descriptions

We still need a volunteer to look after the Sunday noon meal. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please speak with Matthew or Susan.

Thanksgiving Service at Hillcrest, Saturday October 7

5:30 pm Potluck supper. We will celebrate around tables the bounty of the harvest and the richness of community.

7:00 pm Worship Service. We will worship our God and creator together.

There will be no service at Nith Valley on Sun. Oct. 8

Financial Update:

33/52 of \$159,200 Budget	\$101,030.76
Budget givings to Sept 17/17	\$72,980.17
Shortfall	\$28,050.59

Please remember that offerings can be designated to the Retreat fund.
Andy has put interim giving reports into the mailboxes at church.

Nith Valley Events:

- Wed. Sept. 27, 9:15-11:15 am. MOPS.
- Sat. Oct. 7. Thanksgiving Service at Hillcrest. (5:30 pm – potluck supper, 7:00 – worship service).
- Sun. Oct. 15, 6:30 pm. Advent Choir practice at Hillcrest. Attention all singers, young and old(er), join our Advent Choir! This will be a joint choir with Nith Valley and Hillcrest. A children’s choir will also be involved. Please contact Les Neufeld if you want to sing in either choir: 519-390-0499 or nlpneufeld@gmail.com

Community Events:

- Wed. Sept. 27, 7 pm. Rockway presents speaker Dr. Drew Hart who will lead a discussion on, ‘Racism in the Modern Age.’
- Sat. Sept. 30, 4 pm. Conrad Grebel University College’s Annual General Meeting (in the Great Hall). The MCEC community is welcome to attend and learn about the activity at Grebel this past year. www.grebel.ca/events
- Sun. Oct. 1, 3 pm. Farewell to Rick Cober Bauman – worship service at Kitchener MB Church. Fellowship and refreshments to follow.
- Mon. Oct. 2 or Tues. Oct. 3. Hidden Acres Fall Seniors Retreat. To register, call 519-625-8602 or email info@hiddenacres.ca
- Sat. Oct. 14, 5 pm or 7 pm. MCC presents Empty Bowls for Haiti, at Steinmann Mennonite Church. Enjoy a delicious meal and take home a one of a kind bowl. Tickets are \$30 and available by calling 519-745-8458 or visit mcco.ca/emptybowlsforhaiti
- Thurs. Oct. 19, 7 pm. Mannheim Mennonite Church hosts a free seminar on, ‘Overcoming Anxiety and Depression.’ With resource person Mike Glugosh from Mountain Clinic for Stress and Anxiety in Mississauga.

From Linda and Bill Barker:

As a child, I grew up and was baptized at this church. It was very much a part of my growing up. When I married Bill, he remembers and appreciated the warm welcome and handshakes he received whenever he attended.

Later on, I moved my membership to Memorial Baptist, where I and our daughter were attending. Through time, Bill was baptized and also became a member.

As we are moving on in our journey, we both feel the need and want to become part of Nith Valley again.

From Joyce Fyn:

I was very blessed to have Christian parents and a stable home. During my school years we attended Bethany Baptist Church in Harriston. When I was 13 years old an evangelist spoke at the church and I made a decision to follow Jesus. I was later baptized at the church and became a member.

In October 1966 I was married at Bethany Baptist Church. I have 4 children from this marriage. We moved many times and had financial hardships. When I was pregnant with my youngest daughter Sarah, Robby left and we were later divorced.

During my pregnancy I attended the Wellesley Missionary Alliance Church with my children. Ken Weston was the pastor. His wife Faith called me on the day Sarah was born to tell me that today was my day, and they were prepared to take me to the hospital and be with me. Indeed Faith was with me in the delivery room. I had an epidural and Faith said I was carried through the delivery on eagles' wings with a pain free birth. The verse Isaiah 40:31 has been special to me ever since:

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up on wings like eagles.”

Faith lead a bible study for women which I attended. On one occasion I was upset because Robby had not called for Lesley's birthday. One of the women played a song about Jesus dying for us and I realized anew that God allowed His son to die for us, not sparing Him the pain. Lesley's anticipated pain was more bearable from that perspective. I learned that bitterness would only hurt me and my children and that forgiveness was healing.

Sarah and I started school on the same day. She started kindergarten and I attended college. It was very difficult to balance the work load and raise my children. I had a devotional reading about

Jesus going into the boat with his disciples and the storm coming up. Jesus said “peace be still” and the storm ceased. In the devotional reading it said that Jesus told his disciples to go to the other side of the lake, not to the middle of the lake and drown. I told my school friend that we were to make it through our education and we did. During my working career I relied on God for direction and wisdom in working with my families.

I have been a church member at Bethel Baptist Church on Stirling Street in Kitchener until it closed. I have not felt connected with other churches which I have attended since. The first time Sam and I came to this church the guest speaker spoke of the Bible story of Jesus and His disciples on the lake. I have felt welcomed and a part of the church family since coming to this church. I would very much like to become a member and continue to learn as I attend this church.

From Nicholas and Tammy Shantz:

Tammy - As a baby I was christened at Trinity Anglican Church in Cambridge. As a child I only remember going to church sporadically with my family, however, I attended church camp and later went to Manheim Mennonite and their youth group as often as I could with a friend. I moved to Abbotsford B.C. when I was fourteen and quickly started with a youth group there. I was confirmed as part of my faith journey with this group. When I moved back to Ontario, I met Nicholas and we attended the UB church in New Dundee. We were married there in 2002 and had Cole Dedicated in 2005.

Nicholas - I was baptized as a baby at Trinity Lutheran in New Hamburg and attended until about age twelve when my family started going to the UB Church in New Dundee. I attended there youth camp for many years as a teen. Tammy and I started coming to Nith Valley when we were two weeks away from delivering Luke. We loved the small, close knit, welcoming style that we have grown apart of, and is now so important to us. Luke was dedicated here. Both boys are free to follow their faith inquisitively surrounded by friends and caring adults alike. Luke was recently asked “what is the best thing about being ten”? Luke responded, “My ten year party at church”!

We are thrilled to (finally) become members today in a church that has taken us in, accepting us as we are, While challenging us to be who we are supposed to be. We look forward to continuing our faith journey with all of you!