

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

Pastors: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender
Church: 519-662-3520, Home: 519-684-6957
pastor@nithvalleymennonite.com
office@nithvalleymennonite.com
www.nithvalleymennonite.com

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

Vol. 38 January 28, 2018 No. 4

Worship Leaders: Ruth Cressman

Pianist: Susan Cressman

Chorister: Terry Keller

Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn # 11 (blue)Sweet hour of prayer

Hymn # 539 (blue)Make me a captive, Lord

Hearing God’s Word

Children’s Storyled by Hendrike Isert Bender

Hymn # 117 (blue)Fairest Lord Jesus

Scripture ReadingPhilippians 4:4-8

Sermon ‘Look at Jesus’

Hymn # 355 (blue)Savior, like a shepherd lead us

Turn to Jesus

Offering

Announcements

Sharing Time & Prayer of the Church

Go with the Spirit

Hymn # 544 (blue)When we walk with the Lord

Benediction

Time of Reflection

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: Susan Cressman

Location

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Downstairs Hall

Upstairs Library

Clean Up: Gabrielle Paff

Next Sunday – February 4

Worship Leader: Lorrie Koch

Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Pianist: Bonnie Stemmler

Chorister: Jeannette Cressman

Children’s Story Leader: Tricia Cressman

Coffee/Juice Prep: Kathryn Cressman

Clean Up: Wayne & Lynda Eckstein

Financial Update:

100% of Budget \$159,200.00

Budget givings to Jan 21/18 \$145,701.60

Shortfall \$13,498.40

Please note: Our fiscal year ends Jan 31/18, so today’s offering is the last change for us to meet our budget for the year.

Nith Valley Events:

- Sat. Feb. 10. Wilmot Area’s Women’s Breakfast. The poster and sign up sheet are on the table outside the sanctuary. Please sign up by Feb. 4.
- Sat. Feb. 10, 6:30-9:30 pm. Nith Valley Youth Event – Dinner and discussion at Mark & Stacey’s house. Please RSVP to Stacey (keller.stace@gmail.com)
- Sat. Feb. 17. Annual Nith Valley Women’s Retreat. Plan to join us in the church basement. Our theme is "Celebrating Gardens". In the midst of cold, wintry days we hope to lift your spirits with renewed excitement for the promise of new life and warm weather. A sign up sheet is posted in the foyer for attendance and food donations. We'll start the day at 10:00 am and end mid-afternoon.

Community Events:

- Thurs. Feb. 1, 9 am – 7 pm. Plattsville Christian School's Information Day/Open House for prospective families.
- Fri. Feb. 9, 1-3 pm. Alzheimers Society of Waterloo Wellington presents, 'An Overview of Dementia.' Session will take place at the Wilmot Rec Centre (Active Living Centre). No charge. Registration required. Call 519-742-1422.
- Feb. 9-11. MCEC's Women's Retreat at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp. For more info, visit www.slmc.ca/retreats or call 519-422-3200.
- Sat. Feb. 10. Wilmot Area's Women's Breakfast. Watch for a poster and sign up sheet.
- Tues. Feb. 13, 5-7 pm. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at the Wilmot Rec Centre. Cost is \$10 (adults), \$5 (child). For tickets call 519-662-9372.
- Thurs. Feb. 14, 7-9 pm. The Living Room Peer Support Group will discuss, 'What type of love are we looking for on Valentine's Day?' Group meets once a month at Mannheim Mennonite Church.
- Sat. Feb. 24. Coldest Night of the Year Walk. Gather some friends and walk 2, 5 or 10 km. Call the Wilmot Family Resource Centre (519-662-2731) for more info.

From Fraser Lake Mennonite Church:

Staff positions available at Fraser Lake Camp - Are you an energetic youth over 17? We are in need of male camp counsellors to join our awesome team this summer. Interested? Contact camp director, Kristen Berg: kberg@fraserlakecamp.com

Job Opportunity at Hidden Acres Camp:

We are seeking a part-time, year round housekeeper, (8-10 hrs weekly). For more info, contact Campbell Nesbit at 519-625-8602, or director@hiddenacres.ca, or go to <https://hiddenacres.ca/site/opportunities/employment>

Update from PCRC & Church Council:

In the last few months we have begun the process of a pastoral transition. Matthew and Hendrike will have their final Sunday on March 4th. This will be a Sunday of celebration to reflect on their past 17 plus years with Nith Valley! There will be a potluck following Sunday school and an open mic for sharing memories.

PCRC ministry team has met multiple times with MCEC and with approval from church council have submitted an application seeking an intentional interim pastor for a 24 month period beginning sometime after March 4th when a suitable candidate is made available for our church. If you have any questions about this process please see any member of PCRC: Dan, Brenda, Lyle, Janet, or Jackie.

Susan Cressman will be putting together a photo memory album to present to the Isert-Bender family on March 4th. If you have any photos from the past 17 years that you wish to contribute please email her : cressman7@gmail.com or give her hard copies. The deadline for contributing photos is Feb. 15.

Nith Valley Camp Sponsorship Fund:

The Christian Formation Ministry Team along with the Sunday School Team are committed to supporting faith formation beyond our Sunday morning Sunday School hour. As a Church we recognize and affirm that summer camp is one such opportunity. Camp is an important faith forming experience for many children. We believe a camp experience is unique as it allows children and youth an opportunity to explore God's creation in new ways.

The Camp sponsorship Fund exists to encourage all children to experience at least one year of summer camp at an MCEC affiliated camp (Hidden Acres, Silver Lake, Fraser Lake, and Ontario Mennonite Music Camp.) All children between ages 6-18 can draw upon this fund once every five years. The amount given will be \$250 each time the fund is used. To enquire more about this fund speak with Treasurer, Andy.

Practicing Erratic Discipleship

Sometimes it is hard to put experiences into words. I hope this short reflection about our Missional community will give you a glimpse into what we have been up to.

For the past 4 months we have experimented in how to be and grow a missional community. We have met 3 out of 4 Mondays each month. We have grown from 3 to 7 households. When we are altogether we are 28 individuals, but as life goes we usually average between 23-25 around the dinner table.

We have worked at finding a rhythm of spending time together, spending time with God and spending time in the community we live in. In Re-Learning Community terms we refer to it as IN - UP - OUT.

Each Monday evening we begin our meal and during it we pass the thanksgiving spoon sharing with each other what we are thankful for.

After some time of fellowship we focus on either IN -UP - OUT activities.

Before Christmas our time UP was spent wondering what each nativity character might have experienced during this mysterious night 2000 years ago.

The wisdom shared by young and old was truly sacred.

Our OUT time was spent at the local Tim Hortons coffee shop modeling kindness and generosity. All of us took turns to pay it forward by paying for a customer in the drive through or at the counter. For a moment we knew we were passing on the Spirit of Christmas.

During our time we have had opportunity to get to know others around the table whom we usually would not have spent much time with. Early in January we more intentionally spent some IN time finding out what kind of work everyone in the group is doing. It was fascinating to hear what jobs small and big occupies a person's day.

In the coming months we look forward to practicing our IN - UP -OUT and as we look into 2018 our hope and prayer is that we will birth another MC which meets at a different time and with different people.

It is our hope to continue to be disciples who walk in the footsteps of God Emmanuel.