

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”

Vol. 38 March 4, 2018 No. 9

Music Leaders: Praise Team

Worship Leaders & Speakers: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender

Focus Statement: We are in relationship with a God whose foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. We need relational guidelines to guide the between, although rigidly adhering to rules has the potential to come in *between*. How might we seek God each day and tend to the space between (for example, between relationship), rather than focus solely on the rules?

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation - Hymn # 63 (purple).....God, fill me now

Call to Worship

Hymn My Lighthouse

Hymn10 000 Reasons

Hearing God’s Word

Children’s Storyled by Tammy Shantz

Scripture ReadingPsalm 139: 1-4, 13-18; Micah 6: 6-8

Meditation ‘Belonging through relationship’

Hymn # 546 (blue)Guide my feet

Turn to Jesus

Offering

Announcements

Prayer of the Church

Go with the Spirit

Communion

Litany of Release and Blessing

Hymn # 118 (blue)Praise God from whom

Sunday School Class

1. Preschool & Kindergarten

2. Primary Class

3. Junior Class

4. Sermon Discussion Class

5. Current Affairs Class

6. Bible Study Class

Coffee/Juice Prep: Lyle Cressman

Location

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Downstairs Hall

Sanctuary

Upstairs Library

Clean Up: Tricia Cressman

Next Sunday – March 11

Worship Leaders: Ruth Cressman

Speakers: Marg Smith

Pianist: Susan Cressman

Chorister: Jeannette Cressman

Children’s Story Leader: Tammy Shantz

Coffee/Juice Prep: Ralph Cressman

Clean Up: Ken Koch

Nith Valley Events:

- Tues. Mar. 6, 9:30-3:00. Nith Valley Sewing Circle.
- Fri. Mar. 30, 7 pm. Good Friday service.
- Sun. Apr. 1, 8:30 am. Easter Sunday Brunch. Please bring fruit, bread or eggs to share. Your friends are invited as well to join us for the morning.
- Sun. Apr. 1, 10:00. Easter Sunday Worship Service.
- Sat. Apr. 21, 10:00 am. are you interested in knowing what happens with our waste? Everyone is invited to recognize Earth Day to see recycling sorting, composting and get up close to collection equipment. The Fellowship Team has planned a one-hour guided bus tour of the Waterloo Waste Management Site, 1516 Glasgow Street, Kitchener. Car pooling is recommended as parking is limited. The tour is free, however donations to the foodbank are welcome. Following the tour we will have lunch together, so please sign up if you would like to participate. They will accommodate any accessibility concerns, but need to know the requests ahead of time. Deadline to confirm your attendance is March 25.

From Worship Ministry Team:

Next week begins our new worship schedule. We have a variety of guest speakers who will join us for worship. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board and on the website.

Community Events:

- Sat. Mar. 10, 10:00 – 5:00 pm. Conrad Grebel's prospective student Open House. Get more info at grebel.ca/futurestudents
- Apr. 20-21. WMCEC Spring Enrichment Day at North Leamington United Mennonite Church. See poster on bulletin board. Please register by Mar. 9.

From MCEC:

Fred Redekop will be installed at Poole Mennonite Church today, as Pastor of Senior Ministry. Pray for Fred and the congregation as they begin their ministry together.

From Mennonite Disaster Service:

On Mon, 26 Feb 2018, MDS ON Unit executive members toured the recently flooded areas along the Grand and Thames Rivers and met with Emergency Management officials along the way including Haldimand and Brant Counties and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. MDS ON is also part of the NGO Alliance of ON and has been part of the daily conference calls hosted by the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) concerning these floods. The full extent of damage will not be known for a while, as the municipalities enter the Recovery Phase in the next couple of weeks. This will give MDS a better understanding where our help is needed. If you have any questions or referrals please call ON Unit Secretary, Nick Hamm at 905-401-3990 or email hammnicholas.mds@outlook.com.

From Christian Formation Ministry Team:

A Sunday School teacher, or team of teachers is needed to lead the Sermon Discussion class, beginning March 11.

Volunteer Needed:

We need a volunteer to be the Relief Sale Cookie Table Convener. Lara Shantz will pass on some supplies, and information to help the new person get oriented.

From Church Council:

The results of the request relating to the Canada Day brunch are in. In summary, 11 adults and a few children responded that they would be available and willing to volunteer on Canada Day. Based on these results, Church Council has decided to discontinue providing the brunch. However, Nith Valley can be proud of all the years that they did provide the brunch, and all the funds that were distributed to local agencies to further their missions. A huge thank you to ALL the volunteers that have helped out with the brunch in previous years.

Nith Valley Camp Sponsorship Fund:

The Christian Formation Ministry Team is committed to supporting faith formation beyond our 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 Andy.

Litany of Release and Blessing
March 4, 2018

Jackie: Hendrike and Matthew, today we celebrate the years you have served at Nith Valley as our pastors. Together we have journeyed as a people of God.

Dan: We have laughed together, cried together, sung together, prayed together. We have hoped together, dreamed together, worked together.

Jackie: You have cared about our individual journeys whether we were young or old in age or faith. God's loving Spirit has sustained us and together we have grown.

Congregation: Your leadership has been a gift of God's grace. We say good-bye with a mixture of gratitude and sadness for this rich time now ending. You have been both leaders and servants in your ministry here at Nith Valley. Thank you for your years of dedication and service.

Dan: Our paths are separating and our footsteps will take us in new directions, but we all still walk towards Christ with the Holy Spirit. As a congregation we must allow you to step off this path and travel your new one.

Congregation: Hendrike and Matthew, with God's help we release you as our pastors here at Nith Valley. We ask God's blessing on your whole family; Hendrike, Matthew, Benedikt, Thomas, Hanneke and Felix. We offer our support, love and encouragement to each one of you. We ask God's blessing on your future.

Jackie: Now we ask you, Hendrike and Matthew, to release this congregation from its loyalty to you as pastors. Do you release us from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries we seek?

Hendrike and Matthew: We do with the help of God. As of today, our paths part. We have travelled together in faith and trust, looking out for each other and for Christ on the way. It has been a joy to have had the opportunity to minister with you. Thank you for inviting us into the sacred spaces of your lives. Thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility and privilege of being your pastors. Now the space between us is one of friendship.

As a symbol of this ending, we return our keys to our office and the church.

Jackie: Eternal God, our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love, so we pray your blessing on this ending. We give you deep thanks for Hendrike and Matthew and the years of ministry with us. Bless the Isert Bender family. Grant them your love and peace. Help us to live with gladness, courage, and hope in these days and in the coming year. In the name of Jesus we pray. AMEN.