

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

People who love God with all our being and love others as ourselves!

Vol. 36

June 16, 2019

No. 23

Gather to Worship

Prelude
Time of Anticipation
Welcome
Opening Prayer

Hearing God's Word

Hymn # 14 (green)Lord Jesus, you shall be my song
Hymn # 273 (blue)Low in the grave he lay
Children's Story
SongJesus loves the little children
Parent – Child Dedication
Milestone Celebration
Hymn # 90 (green)Lord we bring to you our children
Scripture ReadingDeuteronomy 6: 1-8
Sermon 'Celebrating Young Lives'
Hymn # 89 (green) I was there to hear your borning cry

Turning to Jesus

Offering
Announcements
Sharing Time and Prayer of the Church

Go With the Spirit

Hymn # 546 (blue)Guide my feet
Benediction
Time of Reflection
Postlude

Worship Leader: Terry Keller

Speaker: Greg Yantzi

Pianist: Bonnie Stemmler

Chorister: Janna Lynn Cressman

Children's Story Leader: Greg Yantzi

Dedication/Milestone Participants: Jackie Keller, Doris Brubacher,
Susan Cressman, Lorrie Koch

Maeve Kay Cressman, daughter of Matthew & Faith

Meredith Brooke Kuepfer, daughter of Greg & Shelley

MacKeely Shantz, daughter of Jim & Lara

Next Sunday – June 23 Running From Resurrection

Worship Leader: Tricia Cressman

Pianist: Susan Cressman

Chorister: Janna Lynn Cressman

Children's Story Leader: Tammy Shantz

Nith Valley Events:

- Fri. June 21, 6-8 pm. Gym night at Bethel Church in New Dundee.
- Mon. July 1, 4 pm – dark. Canada Day campfire to kick off our Monday night summer campfires! Come to the Cressman Pond for food, fellowship, games, swimming and hopefully fireworks! Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring finger foods & lawn chairs. Feel free to invite friends to join us.
- July 5-7: Camping at Hidden Acres with St. Agatha Mennonite Church. More details to follow. Speak to Keith Zehr to reserve your spot.
- Sept. 27-29. Save the Date! Annual Nith Valley church retreat at Hidden Acres. More details to come in the months ahead.

Our summer services will be held in the basement again this year and we would like to be able to serve refreshments prior to the service. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. This will involve bringing something to share, i.e. muffins, fruit, cookies, cheese; preparation of beverages and/or cleanup. This involves 6 Sundays – June 23, July 14, 21, Aug 11, 18, 25. Refreshments should be ready to serve by 9:40 each week.

Financial Update:

Budget givings to Jun 2/19	\$45,071.75
18/52 of 2019/20 Budget	\$57,876.92
Givings Shortfall	\$12,805.17

Nith Valley Mennonite Church Contact information:

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www.nithvalleymennonite.com

Interim Pastor: Greg Yantzi pastor@nithvalleymennonite.com

Milestone Blessing

Leader: As you enter into these young adult years,

All: God goes with you.

Leader: Through tough decisions and new experiences,

All: Let Jesus be your guide.

Leader: As you discover who you are and where God is calling you,

All: Invite the Holy Spirit to empower you.

Leader: As you set out on the next phase of your journey,

**All: May the light of faith shine bright in you,
may the light of hope surround you,
may the light of love lead you on your way.**

Leader: We offer you our continued support, prayers and love for the years of discovery that lie ahead.

All: God be with you.

Community Events:

- Wed. June 19, 7 pm. Fairview & Parkwood Mennonite Homes' Annual General meeting, at Parkwood. RSVP to Barb Montague 519-653-5719 X4837, or email bmontague@fairviewmh.com.
- Sat. June 22, 9:30 am (registration at 9:00). Meet at Elmira Mennonite Church for MennoHomes Inc. 9th Annual Bike-a-thon, in support of MennoHomes projects in the Waterloo Region. (Note: the 75 km ride begins in St. Jacobs at 7:00 am.) Consider joining or sponsoring 'Team Nith Valley.' Refer to the email send May 24 for a link to sponsor or join in. Talk to Greg or Dan for more info, or to make a cash donation.
- Sat. June 22, 2-4 pm and 6:30-8:00 pm. Nithview Strawberry Social. (\$5 adults; \$3 children).

From Canadian Mennonite:

New from *Canadian Mennonite*: digital issues for the summer slowdown. The magazine will print one issue in July and one in August during our annual summer slowdown but subscribers are eligible to receive a digital issue by email in two-week intervals. If you already receive digital delivery throughout the year, you do not need to sign up again. To add digital issues to your subscription, please email office@canadianmennonite.org and include your name, address and subscription number (see your mailing label; it begins with an A).

From PCR Ministry Team:

Greg Yantzi (interim pastor) has begun meeting with family units. Please select a date & time through the google document or by speaking to Carolyn, or Greg directly. Here are some questions to ponder or take notes on in preparation for this:

- *When do you feel closest to God; when are you at peace in your life?
- *What helps your faith to feel real?
- *What is one thing you love about Nith Valley currently?
- *What is one thing you would like to see in the future that is different?
- *What does the physical building and meeting place mean to you and your family?
- *What do you think is God's Vision for Nith Valley 5 years or 10 years from now?
- *Or, if we were just starting Nith Valley as a church, what would it look like? Where would we meet? What would worship services look like? What programs/activities would there be?

Please speak to anyone on the PCRC ministry team (Greg, Jackie, Janet, Chris, Lyle & Dan) with your questions/comments or suggestions.

Blessing:

God, we ask your blessing on these families.

As they grow, may their relationship with you, grow.

May they know your love. May each day bring them...

Enough hugs for a smile,

Enough friends for security,

Enough adults for guidance

Enough love for faith to flourish.

God, you have spoken hope through the lives of these children.

We delight in your great gifts.

May we see your image in these little ones as they grow into the fullness of who you have created them to be. Through them, may we learn more about your love and grace.

Maeve and Meredith, may the love of God, the gracious Spirit of Christ, and the fellowship of God's people bless your lives today and in the days and years to come. Amen.

Litany of Parent/Child Dedication**June 16, 2019**

It is always an exciting time when parents decide to dedicate their children to God in the midst of the faith community. Parents and families don't create faith. Faith comes from God and God has planted the seed of faith in each child. "...For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Ps. 139:13-14a). We praise God for Maeve and Meredith, and the seed of faith planted deep within them.

Parents and families have a major role in how faith is nurtured. We don't create faith, possess faith or control it. Faith is a relationship like the relationship between a vine and its branches. Faith flows. Our main task is to encourage this flow and not block it. This morning we commit ourselves to let this flow happen.

Parent/Child Dedication is a service of three-fold blessing and commitment. In the celebration of this ritual:

1. We acknowledge each child as a gift from God, entrust her to God's love and care, and pray for God's blessing in her life.
2. Parents commit themselves to nurturing their child within a Christian context in such a way that she grows in faith.
3. We recognize that families are not solely responsible for the nurture of a child and so the church community commits to participating in the task of faith nurture by providing a community in which each child can grow to the potential God has placed within her.

Elder:

When parents present their child to God before the congregation, they come to thank God for the life entrusted to them, to offer their child back to God and to ask for God's blessing on their life together. We as a congregation come to share this joy, to pray with them for the child's well being and to receive the child into the care of the church.

Parents:

We celebrate the miracle and gift of life. We want to teach Maeve and Meredith the way of faith in Christ by example and by our words. We ask for your support in our task of parenting. We need your encouragement and we entrust our children to your loving care.

Pastor:

I invite all of you to stand and show your support to Matthew & Faith and Greg & Shelley.

Congregation:

We want to share responsibility for the nurture and care of Maeve and Meredith. We are prepared to support this family with our love, encouragement and prayers. We promise to enfold them all with Christian love and acceptance.

Pastor:

Maeve and Meredith, we hope that you will be comfortable here in this place. We hope and pray that through the people you meet here you will experience God's love in wonderful ways. We want this to be a place where you experience joy, peace, fun, laughter and hope. We hope that this is a 'good news' place for you.

Act of Dedication

It is a joy and privilege, on behalf of everyone here at Nith Valley, to welcome you both into this family of faith. We are so glad that God has blessed us with you.

Dedication Song: Hosanna, Jesus loves....**Congregation:**

You have offered your children to the strong and tender providence of God. We rejoice with you and give thanks for the gift of your child. We promise, with humility and seriousness, to share in your child's nurture and well-being. We will support, by our example and words, your efforts to provide a loving and caring home, where trust in God grows and Christ's way is chosen. Our prayers will be with you and for you. May our shared life and witness help make your task both joyful and fruitful.

Presentation of Faith Chest (Elder):

As a symbol of the congregation's partnership with you in nurturing a relationship with God, we present you with this Faith Chest. In this chest are some items for the journey of faith. As Maeve and Meredith grow in their awareness of God's presence and love in their lives, they can collect more items for the faith chest; items which are significant to them.