

**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. 38 January 21, 2018 No. 3

Worship Leaders: Tricia Cressman

Pianist: Susan Cressman Chorister: Lois Cressman

Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

**Gather to Worship**

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn # 20 (blue) .....Come and see

Hymn # 425 (blue) .....Come, come ye saints

**Hearing God’s Word**

Children’s Story .....led by Brenda Kirkland

Hymn .....I will make you fishers of men

Scripture Reading .....Mark 1: 14-20

Sermon ..... ‘Erratic Discipleship’

Hymn # 227 (blue) .....Two fishermen

Hymn # 229 (blue) .....Lord, you have come to the lakeshore

**Turn to Jesus**

Offering

Announcements

Sharing Time & Prayer of the Church

**Go with the Spirit**

Hymn # 40 (purple) .....We will follow

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: Keith & Candice Zehr

**Location**

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Downstairs Hall

Upstairs Library

Clean Up: Judie Bowlby

**Next Sunday – January 28**

Worship Leader: Ruth Cressman Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Pianist: Beth Ruby Chorister: Terry Keller

Children’s Story Leader: Hendrike Isert Bender

Coffee/Juice Prep: Susan Cressman Clean Up: Gabrielle Paff

**Financial Update:**

100% of Budget \$159,200.00

Budget givings to Jan 14/18 \$141,961.60

Shortfall \$17,238.40

Please note: Our fiscal year ends Jan 31/18.

**Nith Valley Events:**

- Wed. Jan. 24, 9:15-11:15 am. MOPS.
- Sat. Feb. 17. Annual Nith Valley Women’s Retreat. 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.

Special THANKS to Nith Valley Church Family for sharing of food, meals and gifts for us these past several weeks. It was greatly appreciated with the arrival of Levy-James Hartzler on November 18<sup>th</sup> and Donna’s car accident. The car has been fixed and is on the road again. Thanks for all your love and caring.

- Susan, Alen, & Lorelai and Donna Hartzler.”

### **Community Events:**

- Tues., Jan. 30, 1:00-3:00. Come to, 'The Kitchen Table,' at Wilmot Mennonite Church. This is a time for seniors to find support and encouragement.
- Thurs. Feb. 1, 5-7:30 pm. Plattsville Christian School's Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser. Admission by donation.
- Sar. Feb. 3, 9:30-11:30 am. Mennonite Coalition Refugee Support Annual General Meeting at Conrad Grebel College. Email [office@mcrs.ca](mailto:office@mcrs.ca) to register. Donations gratefully accepted.
- Feb. 9-11. MCEC's Women's Retreat at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp. For more info, visit [www.slmc.ca/retreats](http://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.
- 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.

### **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](mailto:director@hiddenacres.ca), or go to <https://hiddenacres.ca/site/opportunities/employment>

### **From Tri-County Mennonite Homes:**

Would you like to become a fully certified Personal Support Worker (PSW), have no student debt, earn while you learn, and be guaranteed permanent employment as a Personal Support Worker with Tri-County Mennonite Homes? If this sounds appealing for you or someone you know, please attend an intake/registration session at Nithview Community, 200 Boullee Street, New Hamburg, on Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Classes will be held at Nithview commencing February 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **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](mailto: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.