

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

April 4 , 2010

EASTER SUNDAY

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Worship in Song ~ “Hope of the Nations”
“In Christ Alone”
“The Wonder of the Cross”

Congregational Life

Offering ~ Budget
Hymn HWB # 273 “Low in the grave he lay”
Hymn HWB # 283 “Christ who left his home in glory”

Pastor Rudy Dirks

Proclamation

Children’s Story
Easter Cantata ~ “Come, Touch the Robe”

*John & Kathy Rempel
& Choir*

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*“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”* expresses our desire to share our faith and love of Jesus Christ with all we meet. We welcome you and hope that your time with us will be enjoyable and enlightening. Families with children are invited to worship together with us in the service. For children 5 yrs old or younger who are not able to sit through the church service, there is a nursery downstairs, or a glassed-in room behind the sanctuary where you may sit with your baby and still follow the service. If you feel a sense of belonging, you are most welcome to be with us. Talk to us about how you can participate.  
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Nursery volunteers during today’s service: Karl & Laurene Nickel.

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Please keep in your prayers those who are lonely, sick and shut in. Maybe you could make a visit or a phone call to someone who would be blessed by your presence in the name of Jesus.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

April newsletter is now online. If you would like a hard copy, please pick one up at the Welcome Center or by the mailboxes.

The children and staff of our Pioneer Club invite everyone to join us Wednesday **April 7, 2010** from **6:30–8:00 pm** for our award Presentation and Closing Celebration.

Peace Tax initiative: Church Council invites anyone interested in finding out more about a Peace Tax Initiative put forward by MC Canada, to come to an info and question night on **April 7th at 7pm**. The meeting will be held in the Lounge (second floor common area).

EDEN SAUSAGE ORDERS: Last order before summer BBQ season! Order by **April 11th**. Forms are located by church mailboxes and can be filled out & put in Kim Baergen's mailbox or call in orders. Or you can place your order online at www.edenschoolcouncil.ca/fundraisers. Once again Thank You for your support!

Our very own Udo Woelke, Lay Minister, has written an article entitled “On the road to Emmaus” which is in the latest Canadian Mennonite of March 22, 2010. Very well written!!

Bike Path – Please be extra careful when leaving the parking lots, day and night. Thank you.

Congregational Discernment Meeting, Sunday, April 18

At the NUMC membership meeting in January, the Spiritual Council began a discernment process pertaining to baptismal practices. The first step was announcing the process and handing out some materials for members to read. The second step is for members to read the materials, discuss it with other members, and pray for discernment. The last step in the process will be a Discernment Meeting on **April 18**. The normal service will begin at **10:45 am**. After a shortened service church members will stay for a half hour meeting of brief sharing and then a decision.

We encourage all members to read the materials over carefully (they are available at the church office, or at the Welcome Centre in the lobby), and pray for God's wisdom for us as a congregation when we complete the process on April 18. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to speak with someone from the Spiritual Council, or one of the pastors.

Children's Church – during the summer. If you would like to help with organizing this, please contact Mary Janzen.

Volunteers still needed for committees: Jr. Sunday School Superintendent & Assistant, both needed for Fall 2010, Music committee (2-year term), Jr Youth sponsors (one couple needed now and another couple to start in the fall). If you are interested in any of these committees, please inform the office or Henry Bergen.

Springfest T-shirts & Aprons: If you still have one at home from previous years, please turn it in to the Springfest room on the second floor, Room 20. Thank you! See you Saturday May 8th.

Kingdom Bound 2010 (August 1st - 4th): Anyone interested in attending KB 2010 please let Emily Fieguth know by **April 15th**. Total cost is \$450 US per person (\$400US if you volunteer), \$200 US deposit due by **April 15th**. This will cover your cost of lodging, park passes and food for the four day event. If you are interested in volunteering at the event, training will be done online this year. “Kingdom Bound Ministries exists to present the gospel through a variety of art forms including concerts, outreaches and an annual performing arts festival; to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to encourage believers in their walk with God.” Please go to www.kingdombound.org for this year’s speakers and musicians.

The Canadian Mennonite – If you are not receiving this magazine, and would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the office asap. If you would like to receive the online version, please let us know as well.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS:

Jr Youth will be going to Peaks climbing on **April 18th**! Meet at church at **2:30pm** bring \$15, bike helmet, running shoes and comfortable climbing cloths, as well as a signed waiver form (available at the Welcome center). Pick up from church at **6pm** - please let Rob & Pam Glass or Erv and Esther Willms know you are coming, so that we can arrange rides.

The Resurrection of Jesus – and You

On Friday we remembered Jesus’ death and its meanings for us (the bulletin insert summaries are available at the Welcome Centre). Today we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. The resurrection is the most incredible event in the history of the universe, next to God’s act of creating the universe by speaking it into existence. It defies any explanation other than that this was the action of the Creator of the universe himself. The resurrection has at least two key meanings:

First, Jesus’ resurrection is God’s victory over death. Ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin and death have been evident all around us and in us. But Jesus’ resurrection is a stunning reversal of the natural order of illness, decay, and death. People had been brought back from the dead before (Jesus himself raised several people from the dead, including Lazarus). But these were resuscitations, not resurrections. These people still had the same bodies, and they still eventually died. Jesus’ resurrection was the only thing of its kind that the world had ever known. After the resurrection Jesus was recognizable as the Jesus people knew, but at the same time his resurrection body was something entirely different. It had a glorious appearance; it was completely free of decay and weakness; it could move through objects like doors; and it no longer was subject to death. I Corinthians 15 tells us that “*death has been swallowed up in victory*”. God proved that all the powers of darkness and death were overwhelmed by the Life that emanates from God Himself. God had died, but death could not keep him down. Now he lived forever.

Secondly, Jesus’ resurrection was the first installment of our own resurrection. God not only resurrected his own beloved son from the dead, but He invites you and me to join in this resurrection ourselves. Romans 5 says that just as through Adam sin and death infected every one of us – so also, through Jesus’ resurrection we all may have life. Seeing Jesus’ resurrection, as the disciples did, gave them the assurance that God really is Lord of Life and that one day, if

we are in Christ, we will be resurrected to the same new life. *“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ”*. The God who breathed physical life into all living things at the beginning, now breathes spiritual life into everyone who accepts Jesus.

Jesus’ resurrection proves to us that if we receive his Lordship in our lives we will also one day be resurrected into eternal life. For you and me, this means that we can choose to surrender all of our life to Jesus now, and thus have the confidence that nothing in this life can separate us from God’s love, even death itself. We know that when we die we will still be in Christ, and that one day he will return to complete his work of salvation over all creation. He will return, not for good people, or religious people, or people who think they aren’t so bad – he will return for those who have received him into their lives. That is what Easter is all about. If you receive this Jesus into your life, then the rest of your life is transformed by his resurrection life within you. Jesus’ resurrection life begins NOW with a life that is yielded to the Spirit of Christ, and will be completed after death when Jesus returns. Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus, come.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE Apr. 4-10/2010

Monday:	Women’s Bible Study	7:00 pm
	Young women’s bible study	7:00 pm
Tuesday:	Women in Mission Quilt	9:00 am
	Women in Service Quilt	7:00 pm
	Church Council Meeting	7:30 pm
Wednesday:	Pioneer Club (Award Night & Closing)	6:30 pm
	Prayer Meeting	7:00 pm
	Peace Tax Information Night	7:00 pm
Thursday:	German Choir Practice	7:00 pm
	Choir Practice	8:00 pm
Friday:	Revelation Bible Study	7:00 pm
	Sr. Youth	7:30 pm

Next Sunday, April 11, 2010

8:45 am	Praise & Worship Practice
9:30 am	Primary & Junior Sunday School Singing
9:45 am	Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room
10:00 am	Sunday School Classes (age 3 to Grade 8)
	Grade 9 – 12 ~ “The World & Us”
	Catechism Classes (Youth Room)
	Interactive Sermon – “same message-different format” (in auditorium) – Pastor Rudy Dirks.
10:00 am	German Worship Service ~ Udo Woelke
11:00 am	Worship Service ~ Pastor Rudy Dirks

Nursery Volunteers **April 11:** George & Jennifer Friesen, Sydney Finlay.

Offering March 28, 2010 – \$ 9,528.46			
Budget	6,333.46	Christian Witness	645.00
MCC General	315.00	MCC Africa	20.00
Chile Earthquake Relief	655.00	MCC Food	30.00
Haiti Earthquake Relief	850.00	Balcony	680.00
Next Week's offering (Apr. 11): Missions (MC Canada Witness)			
Attendance Mar. 28, 2010: German Service ~ 99; Worship Service ~ 293			

IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

Pleasant Manor Volunteer Appreciation Tea Wednesday **April 7 at 3:00 pm** in the Creekview Meeting Room. An invitation is extended to all of those who have regularly volunteered their time this past year to serve the Residents and Tenants at Pleasant Manor. Please join us for an afternoon celebrating you, our volunteers!

The Evolving Church: Kingdom Economy is a one day conference that will take place on **April 10, 2010** at The Peoples Church (374 Sheppard Ave. E, Toronto) with speakers Brennan Manning, Joyce Rees, David Dark and many others. Discounted price of \$45. per person if register by **March 31st**. Signup sheet at the Welcome Centre with instructions & code for the discounted price. The office can help if you need assistance registering. **NOTICE – YOUNG ADULTS! Five free tickets available!!**

Please take note that an Annual and Special meeting of Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Inc. is scheduled for **3:00 PM** on Sunday, **April 11**, at Waterloo North Mennonite Church, Waterloo Ontario.

MCEC ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING:

The MCEC Spring Gathering is taking place at Club Roma in St.Catharines on Friday Evening **April 23rd** and during the day on Saturday, **April 24th**. Parking Attendants and Ushers are required to help on both days. Please let our church contact, Alex Bradnam, know if you can help in these areas. If you have lodging available for Friday night please contact Becca Willms, who is co-ordinating lodging for those attending from out of our area. Esther Funk of Vineland UMC is serving as the Hosting Committee Chairperson for this event.

April is coming quickly and we still are in need of a Communications Coordinator(s) for the conference. Please contact the church or Alex Bradnam if you could help us in this position. We will not have to bring much equipment in, the Club Roma facility has just about everything we need.

MC CANADA:

Chile Earthquake Relief - To address the tragedy of natural disaster in Chile, Mennonite Church Canada is working closely through our existing relationships with Anabaptist churches in Chile, as well as with partners Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Mission network to direct aid to Chile. Please mark your donation envelopes "Chile Earthquake Relief". Mennonite Church Canada will ensure your generosity is used for relief efforts in Chile in a responsible and accountable manner.