



# Sunday, January 1, 2023 New Year's Day

Worship Service — 10 am

Worship Leader — Hayden Epp  
Speaker — David Hrynyk

Where have you met God this week?

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## Order of Worship

Prelude

Land Acknowledgment

Announcements

Words of welcome

Hymn VT #22, *What Is This Place*

Call to worship

Children's time

Offering with hymn VT #248, *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Offering prayer

Congregational Prayer of Discernment

Scripture reading — Hebrews 2:10-18

Message — The Compassionate Humanity of Jesus

Hymn VT #49, *All Who Are Thirsty*

Sharing and congregational prayer

Hymn VT #276, *Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets*

Benediction

Thank you to our participants today including: *Susie Amlin, Curtis Driedger, Linda Driedger, Hayden Epp, David Hrynyk, Jordan Neufeld, Ken Srigley.*

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the worship service.*

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## Church Life . . .

◆ **Sunday, January 8**, 10 am. Join us for worship as Marla Dault leads worship and Pastor Ken Driedger shares the message.

## ◆ **Community Building Team News**

The Community Building Team is re-introducing ‘**Pizza Night**’ at the Roma Club. Let’s plan for the **second Friday of each month** (mark your calendars!) Bring your family - everyone orders and pays for their own pizza and drink. **Friday, January 13** is the kick-off and we are happy to share that our very own Kim DiLaudo will be the featured live music! (Nick assures us that he can set up extra tables so we can sit together as #wethenorthchurch!) Doors open 6 – 10 pm. Come as you are available.

## ◆ **Congregational Discernment Exercise**

Everyone is invited to watch the YouTube worship service from Sunday, December 11 to follow Pastor Al Rempel’s message regarding Liminal Spaces. Here is the link to the recording of the NLUMC December 11 service - [NLUMC 12-11-2022 - YouTube](#)

NLUMC is in a time of transition and re-start in 2022/23. How do we find new energy going forward and can we be candid about any challenges we are facing? We have invited Pastor Al Rempel, MCEC Regional Minister to lead us through a Discernment approach outlining the many strong gifts that our congregation envelops.

### **Timeframe:**

1. Launch on December 11, 2022 - message: Appreciating our Liminal Spaces.
2. **Congregational Exercise - now through the Christmas timeframe (low threshold item - placing your thoughts on a sticky note - and placing on the 3D tree at the front of the sanctuary.)**

### **We will be following a Discerning Approach**

#### **Following is the underlying method of a Discerning approach:**

Appreciative Inquiry is a tool that invites people into a space that looks for what is going well and where energy and positive things are happening. Central to the method is a belief that God is already at work in our community in wonderful ways and our task is not to invent opportunities for God to work but to recognize and align with God’s moves today and in the future. Our approach is not to look at what we are not, but to appreciate who we are and what we are uniquely and well gifted to become.

The following outline of assumptions helps individuals to appreciate the difference between a common Deciding approach to a Discerning approach.

#### **A Deciding Approach — Assumptions:**

- Most problems are solvable if approached carefully and logically.
- We have the capacity to understand and solve our own problems and embrace our own opportunities
- Maximizing the use of available resources is important
- Maintaining or restoring order is important

#### **A Discerning Approach — Assumptions**

- God is not neutral about our mission or our choices

- God is self-disclosing
- The Holy Spirit is our indwelling and ongoing guide.
- Openness of spirit and attitude is required
- God's will is revealed in community.

(Taken from "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going" – Susan Beaumont)

## **2. Congregational Exercise:**

**What is it about NLUMC that has been a blessing to you - and continues to be energizing to you as an individual?**

We are invited to take part in a Prayer Exercise - and the building of a "sticky note tree!"

Each person should listen for God to share with them how NLUMC has been a gift and blessing to them.

Each individual is invited to write a short description of that on a sticky note which can be stuck to our 3D tree at the front of the Sanctuary. The multiple colours of sticky notes will be a wonderful image representing our diversities!

**3. Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 15** to take part in the worship service, pot-luck lunch and afternoon meeting. Message: *Aspiring to follow God in our discipleship* followed by potluck lunch and then a short afternoon talk session: What is already part of our DNA that creates a context for support and encourages us in our aspirations moving forward?

Church Council will continue our discussions as we prepare for these conversations, and we look forward to Pastor Al Rempel facilitating us through this journey. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please contact someone on Church Council to discuss further.

We are grateful to God for leading us. We are grateful to God for His unending Grace! With thanks, NLUMC Church Council

◆ **Faith Exploration Class.** Early heads-up: For all who may be interested in getting baptized this spring, David and Ken are planning to lead Faith Exploration classes beginning on **February 5**. Stay tuned for more details!

◆ **Community Health Update.** We, at NLUMC, feel it is necessary to follow public health recommendations and so we also suggest wearing a mask indoors in public settings. We welcome the use of reusable masks. Disposable masks are available in the church foyer.

◆ **Donations to NLUMC are Accepted by —**

- 1) Automatic transfers – contact Susan
- 2) E-transfer – email treasurer@nlumc.com - include member # in message
- 3) Mail donation to church address

4) Offering on Sunday morning  
Contact Susan Klassen, [office@nlumc.com](mailto:office@nlumc.com); or Brenda Klassen,  
[treasurer@nlumc.com](mailto:treasurer@nlumc.com)

— **Church Office Holiday Hours** —  
**Open**  
**Wednesday, January 4, 9 am – 3 pm**  
**Closed**  
**January 1, 2, 3.**

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## **Community/Conference Events . . .**

### **◆ Essex Kent Mennonite Historical Association News.**

▶ **Friday, January 13: Travelogue, Africa, Egypt & Dubai** by Peter Andrew at 7 pm at Heritage Centre.

▶ **Saturday, January 21: Super Soup Night** at UMEI at 6 pm.

▶ **Friday, January 27: Travelogue, Oberammergau & Iceland** by Hugo & Linda Tiessen at 7 pm at Heritage Centre.

Admission by donation to all events.

### **◆ Mennonite Burial Society. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

will be held both in person at Scott Street Church, St. Catharines, ([www.scottstchurch.ca](http://www.scottstchurch.ca)) and online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7404216638> on **Saturday, January 14** at 2 pm. Agenda will be similar to past AGMs, discussing 2022 results, 2023 levies and benefit payments, and future plans. Board and committee positions are available. Further details available at [www.mennoniteburialsociety.com](http://www.mennoniteburialsociety.com), or Barry Boese at 905-228-1850 or email [info@mennoniteburialsociety.com](mailto:info@mennoniteburialsociety.com)

### **◆ UMEI Christian High School News. Experience Day is Friday,**

**January 20.** This event is for Grade 7s and 8s and it is a PA day in the GECDSB board. We will have "preview" classes and chapel in the morning, lunch included, and then games, dodgeball, and prizes in the afternoon. Details and registration are here: <https://umei.ca/experience-day/>

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## **Junior Youth News**

**Junior Youth Gathering, Sunday, January 22** in Kitchener, Ontario. Contact David Hrynyk for more details.

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## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the traditional territory of indigenous peoples. In Leamington, we gather on the traditional, unceded territory of the Caldwell First Nation, and the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi and Huron/Wendat peoples. We give thanks to the Creator and to those peoples who have stewarded this land for generations.

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## Prayer List . . .

**Neighbouring Congregation** — Today, in our cycle of prayer, area churches are remembering **Leamington United Church**.

Congratulations to *Tim & Patti Neufeld* on the birth of their grandson, *William Andre Neufeld*, born on Tuesday, December 20, 2022. Thankful parents are *Bailey & Kristen Neufeld*, great-grandmother *Evelyn Neufeld* and uncles *Justin Neufeld* and *Jordan Neufeld*.

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## Connect . . .

- Check out our church website at [nlumc.com](http://nlumc.com), including YouTube videos of our past services.
  - Watch our Sunday morning service via YouTube livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCdn1sLuXDZYqHsEyd92k0g/featured>
  - Get updates on our ministries by joining our Facebook group.
  - See photos of what we are doing on our Instagram page.
  - Contact the church office, pastor or Council members for more information.
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## Care . . .

If you are aware of any crises needs or visitation needs within our community of faith, please contact the church office or Linda Driedger, Caregiving Team chairperson, 519-733-6130.

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## Contacts . . .

Ken Driedger ..... cell 519-329-6215 ..... [ken@nlumc.com](mailto:ken@nlumc.com)  
David Hrynyk..... cell 613-743-9299 ..... [youthleader@nlumc.com](mailto:youthleader@nlumc.com)

Church Council Chairperson; Brenda Fischer; Council members; Dennis Dick, Dennis Driedger, Brenda Klassen, Sandra Warkentin, Sonya Cornies, Paul Tiessen, Louise Neufeld, Fred Driedger, Linda Driedger, Kevin Fischer, Barb Fischer, Ken Hamm, Lindsey Ecker, Joanne Brown, Maida Tiessen, Greg Driedger.

Church phone: 519-326-7928 .....Email: [office@nlumc.com](mailto:office@nlumc.com)

Facebook: North Leamington United Mennonite Church.....

Website: [www.northleamington.com](http://www.northleamington.com) ..... Instagram: [wethenorthchurch](https://www.instagram.com/wethenorthchurch)

Office hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 3 pm