



**Sunday, December 1, 2019**  
**First Sunday of Advent & Communion**  
Worship Service — 10 am

Worship Leader: Lindsey Ecker  
Speaker: Ken Driedger

Growing relationships, in Christ.

NLUMC Vision Statement

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**Frustration — Together we enter the season of Advent  
crying out to God to break into our lives with a  
new light and a new hope.**

**We ask the question, God what are you waiting for?**

## **Our Wait Begins**

Announcements

Hymn #16, *God is here among us*

Call to worship, on screen

Prayer

Theme song STS #9, *As the pauper waits for plenty*

Responsive reading, on screen (from Isaiah 2:1-5)

Lighting the Advent wreath

Children's time

Offering with hymn #178, *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Song — *God Almighty, we are waiting*, on screen

Scripture reading — Matthew 24:36-44

Message — Being Ready

Communion

Song, *It may be at morn*

Sharing time and prayer

Sending

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

**Today . . . Missions Team New Program.** When the early Christians celebrated the Lord's Supper, it was a meal or sometimes a banquet. When the meal was over, the food that remained was distributed to people in need. The Missions Team is inviting the congregation to purchase grocery cards in \$10 or

\$20 denominations. *These cards will be collected, whenever our church celebrates Communion*, and will be forwarded to SECC, who then distributes them to people who come to them for help. These cards will be collected, for the first time, at our **December 1 Communion**.

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## ***Second Sunday of Advent, December 8***

► 10 am — Our Advent Theme is "What are we waiting for?" and on the second Sunday we ponder the parallel question "What is God waiting for?" Isaiah 11:1-10 gives us a strong image of God's vision for the future, one that perhaps God is still waiting for - when the lion lays down with the lamb... and a little child shall lead them. Thousands of years after Isaiah articulated this vision, it still hasn't fully come true. So what's the point of this kind of vision? As we engage this Advent season of waiting, I wonder at the power of a vision or dream to shape the present reality. Are we willing to be led (again and again) into a new vision of the future, today? Pastor Charleen will bring the message.

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## **Church Life . . .**

◆ **A Note from Worship Team.** You may have noticed that the name tags are in the foyer for you to fill out. The name tags are used to help visitors feel comfortable when talking with you, to help a momentary memory lapse, to help newer (even longstanding) members learn other member's names. So, if you see the table filled with sticky name tags and markers, fill in your name.

### ◆ **Notes from Missions Team**

► **Venidos Juntos / Coming Together.** Missions Team is coordinating a special event in collaboration with MCC Thrift on Mill, which we are calling Venidos Juntos / Coming Together. It's a simple social event, intended to build connections with our broader community, including recognizing our worker community on **Thursday, December 5, 5-9 pm**. Baked goods are welcomed - contact Janet Woelk. Come, serve, mingle, and represent NLUMC in our community!

► **Community Meal.** Our **Community Meal table** is set up in the foyer. Donations for the community meal fund can be placed into the offering plate, with the cheque made out to our church as usual. Write "Community Meal" and the amount on the outside of the donation envelope on the "other" line. With every \$250 donated, a place setting will be added to the table. Please consider making a donation, and maybe volunteering.

◆ **Children's Sunday School News.** Attention all Sunday School musicians! If you play an instrument and would like to play a Christmas song as part of the prelude for our Christmas Eve service, please speak with Helga Enns before or after singing time on a Sunday morning.

## ◆ **Nominating Team**

▶ Shirley Driedger and sister-in-law Linda Driedger have consented to coordinate future funeral meals at NLUMC. Ruth Warkentin will continue in an advisory capacity. Thank you for your willingness to serve and meet a need at NLUMC.

▶ Over the last two years, Rita Loewen represented our congregation on the Leamington Mennonite Home board. We were all saddened by her sudden passing in October and will miss her presence at the table.

Under the direction of the Nominating Team, a search began, and Jayne Latam has agreed to become our new board member. Church Council approved this appointment at their council meeting on November 20, 2019. The board welcomes Jayne in this new role and looks forward to working with her.

◆ **Greetings!** Thank you to those who have signed up for greeting on a Sunday morning. In the foyer is the next sign up form from December to February. Consider being a welcoming presence to all who come to NLUMC.

◆ **Baby Dedications.** We are currently planning for a baby dedication. If you know of a baby in our community whose family may be interested in a NLUMC baby dedication, please nudge our pastors to contact them or encourage these families to contact the church office. **Tentative date: January 19, 2020.**

◆ **Donations to NLUMC.** Setting up an automatic transfer is a convenient way to make regular donations to the church. If you would like to participate in this program, please stop in at the church office to complete the necessary paperwork and provide a void cheque. These donations will be processed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please contact Susan Klassen at the church office or the treasurer, Louise Neufeld, treasurer@nlumc.com, if you have any questions.

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

### ◆ **UMEI Christian High School News**

▶ **Grade 11 Drama Class presents: *And A Child Shall Lead* today** at 1:30 pm. Tickets for the play are available at the door – adults \$15; students \$10. NOTE: Due to the sensitive subject matter of this play, we are recommending it for ages 10 and up. It is a view of the Holocaust through the eyes of children, and a way of honouring their memory through sharing their poems and stories.

▶ Before the play **today**, come out and enjoy lunch in the auditorium at the students **Soup & Chili Cookoff** from 11:30 am – 1 pm. Admission by donation.

▶ **Shop UMEI Vista Christmas Order.** Retail card orders are due in the office by noon **Monday, December 2.** Cards will be ready for pick up Friday, December 6. This will be the last order before Christmas.

▶ **Ground Beef** orders are due in the office by noon **Wednesday, December 11** and will be ready to pick up Thursday, December 19.

NOTE: There will not be a January ground beef order.

▶ **Christmas Concert.** UMEI's annual Christmas Concert will take place **Thursday, December 12** at 7 pm in the auditorium. Everyone is welcome.

### ◆ **Leamington Mennonite Home News**

▶ **Annual Christmas Open House.** Family and friends of the Home are invited to the annual Christmas Open House on **Sunday, December 1,** from 2:30-3:30 pm. The Heritage Choir will sing and Santa promises to visit too.

▶ Our Home is grateful for the many gifts given to our community of care over the past year. The volunteer and prayerful support, together with your financial assistance have allowed us to provide exceptional care to our seniors and frail elderly. We thank our supporting Mennonite congregations with wishes for a Blessed Christmas!

◆ **Heritage Choir Christmas Program, *Songs of Christmas*, Saturday, December 21,** 7 pm at the Heritage Center. There will be a free will offering for the Leamington Mennonite Home Music Therapy and Dementia Support.

### ◆ **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp News**

**2020 Winter Retreats.** Visit [www.slmc.ca](http://www.slmc.ca) for more detailed information and to register for the following retreats:

- **Fathers & Kids Retreat** (January 17-19) A weekend for dads and kids to enjoy traditional winter activities while at camp!
- **Women's Retreat** (February 7-9) Theme: *Let Your Love Sing! Lessons of the Singing Bowl.* Led by pastor and spiritual director Tanya Dyck Steinmann. Enjoy good food, conversations, and fun winter activities!
- **Couples Retreat** (February 21-23) A weekend away to reconnect, relax and enjoy time outdoors. Led by Hendrike & Matthew Isert Bender.

*See bulletin board for the following . . .*

- **Mennonite Disaster Service,** November 20 update
- **Lights of Life tree lighting ceremony,** December 1

*See brochure rack for the following . . .*

- **Blazer,** Canadian Mennonite University, Fall 2019

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## Youth Events . . .

**North Church Christmas Party!** Junior and Senior Youth are invited to a fabulous Christmas party on **Saturday, December 7**, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. This is always a super fun time, and we look forward to seeing you there.

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## Prayer List . . .

**Neighbouring Congregation** — Today area churches are praying for the **Mount Zion Full Gospel Church** and their pastor C.L. Morton, Jr.

**Each week MCEC, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada**, prays for one of our congregations. This week we are praying for **North Leamington United Mennonite Church**.

We are excited to announce the recent engagement of *Elyse Epp*, daughter of Joan (Mike Reynaert) and the late Ken Epp, to *Brandon Betts*, son of Rita & Daryl Betts of Glencoe, Ontario. A summer 2020 wedding is planned.

Tom & Melissa Neufeld thank you for continued prayers as Melissa's mom, *Mary Ann Reive*, continues on her road to recovery.

*If you are aware of any needs within our congregation, please contact the church office so the Pastors and Caregiving Committee can offer our support. We are glad to be able to help!*

*We also invite you to let the church office know of any requests for visitation you might have by calling or emailing the church office, 519-326-7928 or office@nlumc.com, Tuesday through Friday, 9 am to 3 pm. In case of emergency, contact Pastor Charleen at 519-329-3829, Pastor Kendall at 519-329-1514 or Pastor Ken at 519-819-3772.*

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## Pastors

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Facebook: North Leamington United Mennonite Church

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