



Sunday, March 15, 2020 Third Sunday of Lent

In consultation with pastors, church chair, and worship committee members, we have decided to cancel in person worship this Sunday at NLUMC in response to the Covid 19 Coronavirus outbreak. We will be working at some sort of online option, with details yet to be determined. Although the risk at this time in Essex County seems to remain low, we want to be proactive in reducing risk and "flattening the curve."

One of our considerations in making the tough call to cancel in-person worship has been to think in terms of the collective and not just in terms of individuals. One of the hallmarks of Jesus life and ministry was the way he placed the well-being of the most marginalized and vulnerable people at the center of the community. The decision to cancel worship altogether removes the burden from individuals within our congregation to have to choose to exclude themselves from the embodied community that carries on without them, and instead spreads the burden, loss, and grief to all of us. Indeed, we will all share the sorrow of missing the embodied community experience, instead of that sorrow being unduly borne by only our at-risk-ier members.

Growing relationships, in Christ.

NLUMC Vision Statement

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 22

- ▶ **8:45 am — Faith Exploration Class is cancelled for March Break.**
 - ▶ **10 am — “Being the Bride.”** Join us for worship as Pastor Ken leads us in considering Article 9: The Church. What IS the church anyway? And what difference does it make? **Children’s Sunday School classes are cancelled for March Break.**
 - ▶ **11:30 am — Adult Education is cancelled for March Break.**
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Church Life . . .

◆ **Coronavirus.** As the pandemic spreads around the globe, NLUMC is aware of our responsibilities to protect the most vulnerable in our community. We urge everyone to practice good health hygiene: wash your hands, refrain from close personal contact such as handshaking and hugging and try not to touch your face. If you have any symptoms or feel personally at risk, please stay home. Consider these efforts to be part of loving our neighbour well. We

do not encourage anyone to panic or hoard materials but place our trust in God (Matthew 6:25) while acting with wisdom and maturity.

◆ **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 March to June. Consider being a welcoming presence to all who come to NLUMC.

◆ **Community Meal.** Our next meal is **Wednesday, March 25** at St. John's Anglican Church, Leamington. Preparation begins at 1 pm, serving begins at 4 pm and we finish at approximately 6 pm. We are looking for volunteers to help out with the meal prep, serving and cleanup. Please contact Tammy Warkentin if you can help.

◆ **Pizza Night, Friday, March 27** at 6 pm. Gather with your NLUMC friends at the Roma Club, 19 Seacliff Drive East, Leamington, to share food and fellowship.

◆ **Canadian Mennonite Subscriptions.** All who attend NLUMC may receive a subscription to *Canadian Mennonite*. The biweekly magazine is delivered in print, by email, or both. Subscriptions are paid for collectively through MCEC. To start a new subscription, add digital delivery to an existing print subscription, or switch to digital-only, please contact Brenda Klassen, 519-324-6299 or klassenbookkeeping@gmail.com . We will submit our congregation's subscription list by March 31.

◆ **Sunday School News!** Around the world, a new source of clean water is reason to celebrate! The new Sunday School collection project is **Water for Life: Wells**. MCC encourages donations to help cover the costs of drilling wells in Nigerian communities. The Sunday School children are providing a gift of hope, clean water, when they share their collection money.

 **Church Photo Directory Update** - Great Response! Thanks to everyone who booked their family photo session this week. Almost all of the time slots are scheduled, therefore IPC CANADA will be returning to take the remainder of our pictures on **Friday, May 8** from 2:30 – 8:30 pm; and **Saturday, May 9** from 10 am – 3 pm. We have arranged for the company to set up their mobile studio at the Mennonite Home for a portion of the time to ensure that we accommodate all of our members who are living in Long Term Care and Retirement Residence. **Please contact Jayne Latam as soon as possible to secure your families photo time slot for May 8 or 9.**

— **Upcoming Events** —
Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday
Friday, April 10 – Good Friday & Communion
Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday

**Due to health concerns and staff schedules,
the church office may not always be open from 9 am – 3 pm.
Please call in advance if you plan to come to the church
during weekdays, 519-326-7928.
Thank you**

Community/Conference Events . . .

◆ **Heritage Choir Practice, Monday, March 16, 2 pm** at the Leamington Mennonite Home. New singers are welcome to join the choir at any time.

◆ **Leamington Mennonite Home News**

▶ **Winter Education Series.** The Home invites all seniors to the following information session held at 9:30 am in the J.C. Neufeld Place of Fellowship: **Wednesday, March 18, *Caring for Your Feet as You Age*** with Jessica Rodzik-Couto, RPN, Foot Care Nurse.

▶ **Annual Meeting.** The Annual meeting, which was to take place Tuesday, March 24, has now been **postponed to a date to be determined.** Annual Reports are in the church foyer today. If you would like a pdf. copy, please contact the Home.

◆ **UMEI Christian High School News**

▶ **The International FIRST Robotics Competition** has been cancelled.

▶ **Interested in Hosting International Students?** It is with great excitement that UMEI Christian announces that we are in the process of making arrangements to have International Students attend UMEI starting September 2020. These students will be primarily from China and will need a Homestay family or host family to take them in while they are in Canada and doing their schooling at UMEI. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email Sonya Bedal – principal@umei.ca – for more details.

◆ **Essex Kent Mennonite Historical Association News**

Annual Spring Event. Guest Speaker: John Braun (retired pastor) from Winnipeg. Topic: Genealogy **Saturday, April 4** at 7 pm at the Heritage Centre (not at UMEI). Admission: \$20 (includes dessert and coffee). In the afternoon, 2-4 pm, John Braun and Victor Winter will be available to print (for a small

donation) a family tree especially for you from Grandma (Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry) by appointment. To set up your appointment for a print-out of your family or for tickets to the evening just call or visit the Heritage Centre between 9 and 10 am at 519-322-0456.

◆ **Southwestern Ontario Gleaners News**

► **Annual General Meeting** of the SWO Gleaners is **Saturday, April 4** at 2 pm at the Gleaners (40 Industrial Rd, Leamington). Lifetime Memberships \$10. If you have been a member in the past, you are a lifetime member and no payment is required. Join us for 2019 reports and take part in decision making for the future.

► Southwestern Ontario Gleaners' **Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction** is **Saturday, April 18** at 5:30 pm (dinner at 6:30 pm) at the Portuguese Club in Leamington. Tickets are \$50 each and are available at the SWO Gleaners. Please consider attending this event, support by giving a sponsorship donation, or donate a silent auction item. For more information please call 519-326-SOUP (7687).

◆ **Meat Canner Leamington, April 27 – 30**

Six weeks till canning! We are canning at Southwestern Ontario Gleaners located at 40 Industrial Road in Leamington. Please pray for the canning project as preparations continue. See below for available shifts:

Mon. April 27, evening: 5 – 10 pm

Tues. April 28, morning: 7 – 12 noon afternoon: 12 – 5 pm eve: 5 – 10 pm

Wed. April 29, morning: 7 – 12 noon afternoon: 12 – 5 pm eve: 5 – 10 pm

Thurs. April 30, morning: 7 – 12 noon

Volunteer Coordinator - Peter Fiss

First Aid Coordinator - Agnes Langeman

Security Coordinator - Art Warkentin

Our 2020 fundraising goal is \$70,000. Our current account balance is

\$25,983.01. Stay tuned for further updates. Thank you for your continued

support. All donations are gratefully appreciated. *Together We Can*. Donations can be made through designated giving at participating churches, and the Meat Canner Leamington Fund at Kindred Credit Union.

◆ **Get ahead on Spring Cleaning!** Household goods, home décor, and more might be cluttering up your home. Donate to Thrift on Mill today!

◆ **Employment Opportunity**

Looking for a summer job? If so, check out **Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp**. We provide opportunities for you to impact the lives of young people, serve in a safe and fun environment, grow in your ability to be a great leader and have fun through it all! We are accepting applications for the following positions:

Cabin Leaders, Inclusion Cabin Leaders, Camp Pastor, Nature Director, Assistant Program Director, Housekeeping and Maintenance Staff, Head Cook, Waterfront Director & Camp Medic, Adventure Program Director and Lifeguards. For more information or to apply, go to www.hiddenacres.ca or contact Chris Pot at 519-625-8602 or chrispot@hiddenacres.ca

Photography and Media Policy. North Leamington United Mennonite Church (NLUMC) takes photographs/videos of participants at various church services and events. NLUMC may use any photos/videos taken from any service and events for promoting, publicizing or explaining NLUMC and its activities in the form of print, broadcast, website and social media, or in any manner deemed appropriate without prior notification to the participants. Photos could be used in these public forums without consideration and/or compensation. If church members/or participants consent to the use of their photo/or their child's photo to be included in any church broadcasts, they are asked to contact the church office and sign the appropriate Photography and Media Consent Form. The NLUMC Photography and Media Policy has been implemented to inform church participants that NLUMC is committed to a safe environment for all.

Junior Youth . . .

Grades 5-8, Saturday, March 28 at NLUMC.

See brochure rack for the following . . .

- **Fraser Lake Camp, 2020**
- **Mennonite Historian, March 2020**

See bulletin board for the following . . .

- **Mennonite Disaster Service, March 11 update**
 - **Mental Health Seminar Series, Anxiety in Children and Youth, Mar. 31**
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Prayer List . . .

Neighbouring Congregation — Today area churches are praying for **North Leamington**. Let us pray for all other churches in the area.

Each week MCEC, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, prays for one of our congregations. This week we are praying for **Shalom Worship and Healing Centre** in Kitchener, Ontario.

Congratulations to *Abdallah & Fatima Klaibi* on the birth of their son, *Mohammed*. We ask for prayers for Mohammed as he was born at 29 weeks and is currently in the NICU in Windsor Hospital. Baby Mohammed is the grandson of Mohammed & Haneyah Klaibi, NLUMC's refugee family, in the Fall of 2009.

Please pray for *Henry (& Irma) Janzen* and family.

Please pray for *Fred Neufeld* in hospital.

*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.*

Pastors

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