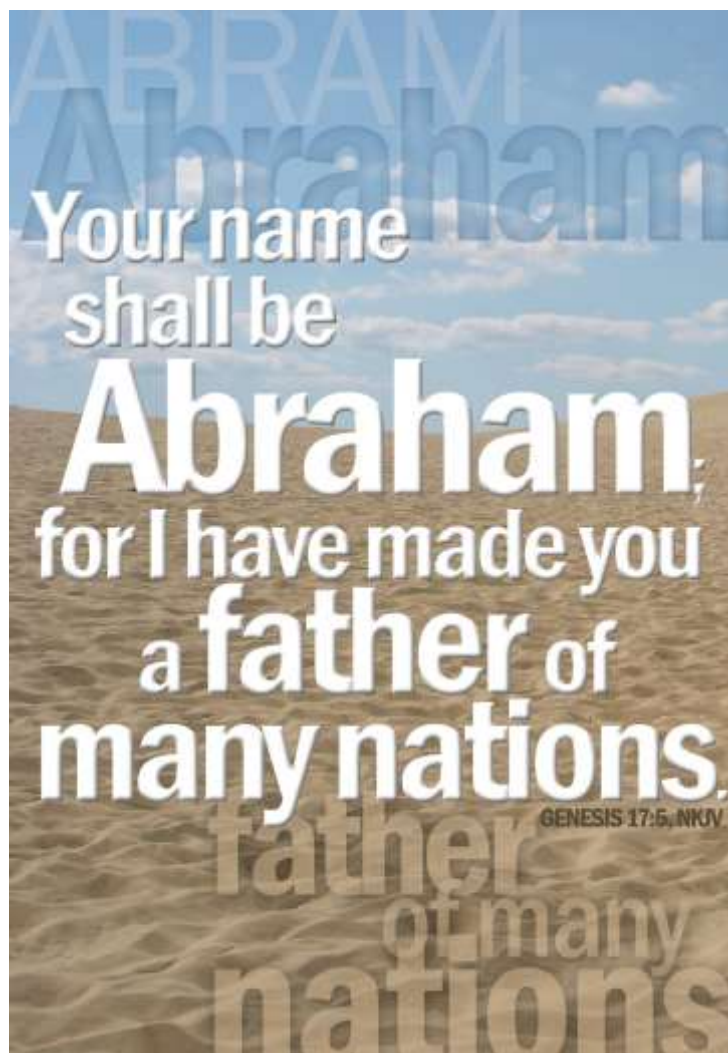


Sunday, February 25, 2018

Lent 2



VOL. 31 NO .8

WATERLOO-KITCHENER UNITED MENNONITE CHURCH

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Welcome to our worship service. May you be blessed as you meet God and be empowered for the week ahead.

Sunday, February 25, 2018 9:30 a.m.

Worship Leader: Laura Enns

Speaker: Steph Chandler Burns

Congregational Prayer: Karen Watson

Accompanists: Ryan Légère, Karen Enns, Ed Janzen

Scripture Readers : Laura Enns,
Waldemar Regier

Choir: Laura Enns

Nursery Volunteer: Nancy Pauls

Children's Story: Dale Enns

Children are welcome in the worship service or younger children may be taken to the Nursery along the Administration Hallway following the Children's Story.

Worship Focus: *Our scriptures this week show people explicitly or noticeably uncomfortable with, or doubtful of God's plans. Often our own expectations or priorities get in the way of joining in God's work. What in the life of the church today might be getting in the way of us joining more fully into God's work in the world?*

GATHERING

Welcome / Work and Care of the Church

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, children of Abraham and Sarah,
nations born of barren lands,
you who stand here because of promises
fulfilled,
come and worship your God.

People: **We were born through the faith of our ancestors,
just as our life will give life to future generations;
even as we hope against hope,
we come to worship our God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks for God's never ending love.

Prayer of Invocation

Hymns of Praise: *"We give thanks unto you"*

HWB # 161

"The God of Abraham praise"

HWB # 162

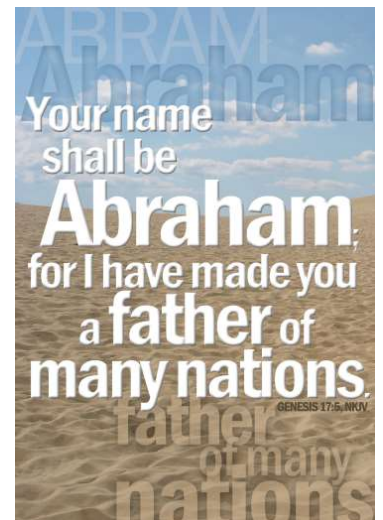
Scripture I: Mark 8: 31-38 (New Testament)

page 34

Prayer of Confession: *"Oh, Lord have mercy" (repeat)*

STJ # 47

Silent Confession



Spoken Confession:

Leader: Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives
and asked them to dream the impossible dream –
that you would transform what appears to have been
a barren and lifeless situation
into one overflowing with promise and hope –
and, through faith in you, they believed your promises.

**People: Forgive us, O God,
if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives
as an impossible dream or even
as an unwelcome interruption.**

Leader: Faithful God, the apostle Paul emphasizes
Abraham's complete trust and faith in your promises
and how he grew ever stronger in faith,
fully convinced of your ability to fulfill what had been
promised.

**People: Forgive us, O God,
when we find it hard even to hear your promises
above the shallow concerns of our own lives.**

Leader: Merciful God, Jesus revealed the great depth of your love
in his determination to defeat evil
even when this meant giving up his own life.

**People: Forgive us, O God,
when we allow the power of evil to flourish
because we fear that taking up one's cross
would be just too costly an exercise.**

Words of Assurance

Leader: God assures us:
"I will always keep the promise I have made to you
and your descendants,
because I am your God and their God."

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *"Come, thou fount"*
(Children come forward on the last verse)

HWB # 521

Children's Time

Song of Blessing: *"I will bless you"*

B. M. Suderman

Congregational Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.



Offering

Anthem: *For these blessings*

N. Sleeth

Scripture Lesson II: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 (Old Testament) page 10

Sermon: **God's Concerns**

RESPONDING TO THE STORY

Hymn of Commitment: *"God loves all his many people"*

HWB # 397

Benediction:

We are people of God.

We go in God's love to extend God's love, and to live God's promise.

Postlude

Prayer and Anointing:

Following the service, those who wish may remain in the sanctuary for a time of quiet prayer and reflection. Pastor Ben Cassels will be available at the front for anointing and prayer for your individual need or for others. Congregational greetings are in the lower foyer.

Welcome to our visitors! We hope our time of worship has been an encouragement to you. Please sign our guest book in the front foyer and join us for coffee and fellowship in the gym hallway. God bless you and we hope to see you again!

A very special welcome today to Steph Chandler Burns. Steph holds a Master of Theological Studies from Conrad Grebel University College, where she focused on queer theology. She is involved with ministry, advocacy and justice work in various capacities, and is interested in exploring the ways that the academy and the church can enter into deeper dialogue. When she isn't dreaming about the church's future, she enjoys playing board games with her family, sleeping, or hanging out with her two cats.



Thank you for your message today.

TODAY AT W-K

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Worship
Prayer and Anointing following Worship – Pastor Ben
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break
Blood Pressure Screening with Karen Watson
- 10:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School – Youth Room
Adult Sunday School with Ed Janzen – Lounge
- Noon Youth Event in the Gym
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Room Rental

Next Sunday – March 4, 2018

- 9:00 a.m. *Choir Rehearsal*
- 9:30 a.m. *Worship Service* *Pastor Ben Cassels*
- Lectionary *Exodus 20: 1-17* *Psalms 19*
- Readings: *1 Corinthians 1: 18-25* *John 2: 13-22*
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break
Youth Sunday School – Youth Room
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School with Ed Janzen - Lounge
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Room Rental

CHURCH FAMILY NOTES



Special Prayers During Lent: Please pray this week for the families of those who were killed in the tragic Stoneman Douglas High School shooting last week. Pray for the community of Parkland, Florida as they attempt to cope with their grief and the aftermath of this loss of life.

We pray for an end to such senseless acts of violence. Lord have mercy.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES



Office Hours

Church Office Hours
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Financial Report: Thank you for your offering of February 18th

2018 Church Directories are in your mailboxes this morning.



Quilters will meet in the basement on Tuesday, February 28th beginning at 1:00 p.m.

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, March 7th at 12:30 p.m. at Kypreos Restaurant, 305 Lancaster Street West in Kitchener. All women are welcome. See you there!



A heartfelt thank you to all who came out to support the annual Roast Beef Dinner. We were able to raise which will be donated to MCC-Ontario. To all those who worked to make this possible – and for the many donations, we are grateful.

This Week at W-K

Tuesday, February 27	9:30 – 11:99 a.m.	Men's Bible Study - Lounge
	Noon	Silver Spoons
	1:00 p.m.	Quilters
	6:00 p.m.	IMCC Rehearsal
	6:30 p.m.	PiE Board – Nursery
	7:00 p.m.	Health & Wellness – Youth Rm
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study – Rm 7
	7:00 p.m.	Worship Planning Team – Lower Lounge
Wednesday, February 28	9:00 a.m. – Noon	Mission Circle
	2:30 p.m.	Ladies Bible Study – Lounge
	7:30 p.m.	Jubilation Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 1	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	WALC Exercise in the gym
	6:00 p.m.	Church Supper
Friday, March 2	1:00 p.m.	House of Friendship - gym
Saturday, March 3	Afternoon	Church Rental

Mennonite Men Can Cook - Some More

Note the new dates this year...

MARCH - Fridays 9, 16 and 23.

Sign up on the lobby window for 1, 2 or all 3 dates!

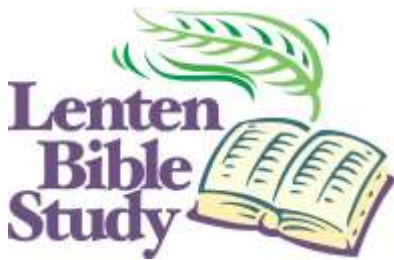
Cost \$10/week, brought to your first class in the gym at WKUM Church, 15 George St. (Invite a friend!)

Time: 10 a.m., but come early for coffee and to visit and plan on staying for lunch. Each week, over two hours, we will taste-test different foods, consider the worth of higher/lower prices, healthier options and which just tastes the best. And it's "hands-on" for everyone as you make something for your lunch and make something to take home to put in the freezer, ready to bake for a future date. Look forward to putting PORK ON YOUR FORK, the theme which will include hams, meatballs, and bacon.



The next Church Supper will be Thursday, March 1st.

The meal will be a chicken and vegetable wrap (or salad) and dessert. Program will be *Walking the Camino de Santiago* with Janice Harder. Sign up on the Courtyard Window today.



The Women's Lenten Bible Study is titled *Praying with Scripture* and will be led by Helen Baergen and Gloria Dirks. It will be held Wednesday afternoons from February 21st to March 28th beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Lounge. All ladies are welcome to attend.

The Men's Lenten Bible Study will be from the book *We Make the Road by Walking*, written by Brian McLaren. Sessions will be held on Tuesday mornings from February 20th to March 27th from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in the Church Lounge. Rudy Baergen will lead the discussion on February 27th which will focus on Chapter 28. Please read Chapter 28 for next week. All men are welcome to attend.

Looking ahead to Good Friday: Good Friday service will be a joint service with Erb Street and Waterloo North congregations and will be held at Waterloo North Mennonite Church at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 30th. Margaret Hull will lead a joint choir in the singing of some chorales from Bach's *St. Matthew's Passion*. W-KUM choir members are invited to participate. Rehearsals will be held at Waterloo North at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays, March 10, 17 and 24 and at 8:45 a.m. on Good Friday.



Lent Little Library: As we explore themes of Biblical Covenant, Land Justice, and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, you're invited to check out our **resource table** in the Lounge, with relevant titles from CommonWord Resource Centre. We invite you to sign out a book, and return it to Laura Enns by **Sunday, March 18th** at the latest. Want to learn more? Feel free to explore other resources in Indigenous-Settler Relations at: <https://www.commonword.ca/Browse/791>.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS



Youth - join in for a pizza lunch event with Erb Street Mennonite youth today, February 25th. We'll meet in the gym at Noon here at W-KUM Church.



Healthy Reflections – Body, Mind and Spirit

We pray for peace and healing.

The Lord our God hears our prayers and will bring healing and peace in times when trouble seems to abound.

The Lord spoke mightily to Jeremiah during Israel's captivity in Babylon. The Lord spoke words of judgement and words of peace to the prophet Jeremiah and over the city – the Lord told the people to pray for the welfare of the city where they were captives. “.... the Lord who formed and established the earth says, “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” Despite the wickedness of the city, the Lord said, “Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it: I will heal my people and let them enjoy abundant peace and security.” Jeremiah 33: 3, 6



Health and Wellness Events:

- **Today – Prayer and Anointing in the Sanctuary** after worship with Pastor Ben Cassels
- **Blood Pressure and Blood Glucose (Sugar) Screening** (February is Heart Health month – Do you know your number?)
 - Today, February 25th in the gym following Worship
 - Any Thursday at the regular Parish Nurse Clinic from 11:00 a.m. to Noon
- **WALC Fitness Program** - Each Thursday from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in our gym; gentle program working on flexibility, strength and balance. No fee, everyone welcome

Community Health and Wellness:

- **Parenting With Passion** – many single evening or multiple evening programs at KW Counselling. Please call 519-884-0000 or email parenting@kwcounselling.com to register
- **Healthy SMILES Ontario** – free dental care for **eligible** children and youth under 17 years of age. For more information please call 519-575-4400 Ext. 133304

- WELL-FIT – a free exercise program for individuals with cancer at University of Waterloo. For information please call 519-888-4567 Ext. 36841



WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



St. John's Lutheran Church is hosting a series of noon-hour organ recitals on Fridays during Lent. The recitals begin at 12:15 p.m. with a soup luncheon to follow. Suggested donation is \$7.00 per person. All are welcome to attend. See the poster on Bulletin

Board # 4 for more information.

Jubilation Male Chorus along with the Highland Bell Choir will participate in a Benefit Concert in support of Children's Needs Distribution Centre. The concert will take place on this afternoon at Highland Baptist Church, 135 Highland Road West in Kitchener beginning at 3:00 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken. See the poster on Bulletin Board # 4.

Join Mark Diller Harder, Brandon Leis and the **Menno Singers Family of Choirs** (Menno Singers, Menno Youth Singers and Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir) for an mid-winter evening of hymn singing. This evening will include the testing of songs being considered by the Menno Media Resonate Committee for a new Mennonite Hymnal. Meet this evening beginning at 7:00pm at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church (57 Stirling Ave. N, Kitchener). Admission by donation.

David Weaver-Zercher brings "Bloody Theatre, Bloodless Theatre: Representing Mennonites, Past and Present" to **Conrad Grebel College** as part of the Bechtel Lecture series. His public lecture takes place on March 1st at 7:30 p.m. at Grebel, with a panel discussion on March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. Please visit www.grebel.ca/events for more information.

Other Grebel events are posted on the Gym Hallway board.



Grandparent & Grandchild Day at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp on March 12th, 2018. Bring your

grandchildren in grades 1-6 for an awesome day of playing, singing, laughing, learning and worshipping together. Alexa and Becki from **The Ripple Effect Education (TREE)** will join us to explore how we can work towards peace together in our everyday lives. Brochures can be found on the bulletin board in the gym hallway. For more information, visit www.hiddenacres.ca, email info@hiddenacres.ca, or call [\(519\)625-8602](tel:5196258602).



Join the **Grade 9-12 students of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate** on March 2 and 3,

2018 for their production of a hilarious comedy, *The Mouse that Roared*. Tickets are \$12 and are available online or cash at the door. Visit www.rockway.ca for more info. See the poster on Bulletin Board # 4.

The annual MEDA Spring Banquet is coming up on Saturday, March 3rd at Floradale Mennonite Church. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. – dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. To register, or for more information, please visit the MEDA Waterloo Chapter website or contact the office at 519-725-1633 Ext. 100 or email meda@meda.org



WMCEC Spring Enrichment Day will be held April 20 – 21, 2018 at North Leamington United Mennonite Church. The theme is Living Creatively with guest speaker April Yamasaki. Posters and registration forms are posted on Bulletin Board # 4.

Canadian Mennonite subscriptions: All who attend W-KUM Church may receive a subscription to *Canadian Mennonite*. The biweekly magazine is delivered in print, by email, or both. Subscriptions are paid for collectively through W-K. To start a new subscription, add digital delivery to an existing print subscription, or switch to digital-only, please contact Katharine Borch in the office. We will submit our congregation's subscription list by March 23, 2018.

