

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Lent 4

Moses
made a
serpent
of *bronze*,
and put
it upon
a *pole* ...



Numbers 21:9, NRSV

VOL. 31 NO. 10

WATERLOO-KITCHENER UNITED MENNONITE CHURCH

15 George Street, Waterloo, ON N2J 1K6

Telephone: 519-578-0660

E-mail: office@wkumchurch.ca

www.wkumchurch.ca

Staff: Pastor Ben Cassels

E-mail: rev.cassels.ben@gmail.com

Phone: 519-588-0939

Karen Watson - Parish Nurse – parish.nurse@wkumchurch.ca

Phone: 519-578-0660, then press 2 when voice mail picks up

Laura Enns – Worship and Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator

Phone: 519-578-0660 Ext. 13 laura@wkumchurch.ca

Katharine Borch – Office Administrator – office@wkumchurch.ca

Andrew Tubb – Church Custodian – andrewtubb@gmail.com

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

Sunday, March 11, 2018 9:30 a.m.

Worship Leader: Waldemar Regier

Speaker: Pastor Ben Cassels

Congregational Prayer: Pastor Ben Cassels

Accompanists: Karen Enns, Ryan Légère, Ed Janzen

Scripture Readers : Waldemar Regier

Choir: Laura Enns

Esther Harris

Nursery Volunteer: Hertha Enns

Children's Story: Janice Harder

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: *"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of God be lifted up."* John 3: 14

GATHERING

Welcome / Work and Care of the Church

Call to Worship

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

People: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those who God redeemed from trouble,

People: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: The One who gathered us in from many lands, from the east and the west, from the north and the south.

People: Sometimes we wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, our souls fainted within us.

Leader: Then you cried to the Lord in your troubles, and God delivered you from your distress; you were led by a straight path, until you reached your home with God.

People: Let us thank the Lord for that steadfast love, for those wonderful works to all of humankind.



Prayer of Invocation

Gathering Hymns: *“Blessed Jesus at your word”*

HWB # 13

“Longing for light”

STJ # 54

Scripture I: Numbers 21: 4-9 (Old Testament)

page 109

2 Kings 18: 1-6 (Old Testament)

page 274

Our Confession: *“Oh, Lord have mercy”* (repeat Vs. 1)

STJ # 47

Time for Silent Prayer and Confession

Spoken Confession: Adapted from Katherine Hawker, 2003

Leader: We look for a good life through our own ways.

People: Yet you hang your seemingly useless bow in the clouds.

Leader: We live our life at times through our children.

People: Yet your lineage follows lines of faithfulness.

Leader: We try to find our way through our own strength and wisdom.

People: Yet your commandments plead for living the covenant.

Leader: We deny the pain and darkness that we cause
and it overwhelms us.

People: Yet you hold forth the serpent and beckon us to look.

Leader: We seek salvation through our singular intellect and plans.

People: Yet your wisdom is written on our hearts.

Leader: We tend to look for hope in and through our heritage.

**All: Yet you invite us to launch into a journey of faith.
May your invitation to journey overcome
our comfort with the familiar.**

Oh, Lord have mercy

Words of Assurance: from Ephesians 2: 4-10

“God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which we are loved, has made us alive, together with Christ...it is the gift from God. We are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works ... to be our way of life. Let God be praised!”

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hymn: *“O love, how deep, how broad, how high”*

HWB # 236

(Children come forward on the last verse)

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.



Offertory Prayer and Offering

Anthem: *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

D. McIntyre/ W. Billings

Scripture Lesson II: John 3:14-21

(New Testament)

page 72

Sermon: **Me and You and Darkness in View**

RESPONDING TO THE STORY

Hymn of Confession and Commitment: *"Christ is the world's true light "*

HWB # 483

Benediction:

You are all people of God!
Go live into God's divine and all-embracing grace!
Extend God's love,
live into all the covenant promises that you have made.
God has made all of life worthy of living! AMEN.

Postlude

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!

TODAY AT W-K

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Coffee Break
10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School with Ed Janzen – Lounge
7:00 p.m. Youth Room Rental

Next Sunday – March 18, 2018

- 8:30 a.m. *Choir Rehearsal*
9:30 a.m. *Worship Service* *Pastor Ben Cassels*
Lectionary *Jeremiah 31: 31-34* *Psalms 51: 1-12*
Readings: *Hebrews 5: 5-10* *John 12: 20-33*
10:00 a.m. No Children or Youth Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Coffee Break
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: We pray for our Indigenous and Aboriginal neighbours, for the work of reconciliation, and especially for those who feel as if justice has passed them by – the families of Colton Boushie, Tina Fontaine, and all those giving evidence as part of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls Inquiry.

We pray for healing, comfort, justice, peace, and shalom.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Church Office Hours



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 March 11th

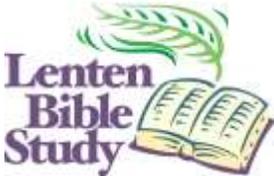
This Week at W-K

Tuesday, March 13	9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study - Lounge
	Noon	Silver Spoons
	1:00 p.m.	Quilters
	6:00 p.m.	IMCC Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study – Rm 7
Wednesday, March 14	9:00 a.m. – Noon	Mission Circle
	2:30 p.m.	Ladies Bible Study – Lounge
	7:30 p.m.	Jubilation Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 15	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	WALC Exercise in the gym
Friday, March 16	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	W-K Book Club - Lounge
	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Men Can Cook - gym
	1:00 p.m.	House of Friendship - gym

Quilters will meet in the basement on Tuesday, March 13th beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Please Note: 2017 Tax Receipts have been mailed. If you have not received your receipt by March 16th, please contact Katharine in the office.

The Women's Lenten Bible Study is titled *Praying with Scripture* and will be led by Helen Baergen and Gloria Dirks. It is being held Wednesday afternoons until 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 are held on Tuesday mornings until March 27th from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in the Church Lounge. Ben Cassels will lead the discussion on March 13th which will focus on Chapters 30 and 31. *Please read those chapters 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.

Easter Choir: If you are interested in joining the choir for Easter Sunday, your participation would be greatly appreciated. Rehearsals begin on Sunday, March 11th at 8:30 a.m. in the basement.



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>.

Urgent or Immediate Prayer Requests: We want to be a church that supports each other in prayer, especially when immediate needs arise. We have a Prayer Ministry team of about a dozen members who pray regularly on such occasions. If you ever have a situation where you would like additional prayer, please be in touch with Rita Reimer (ritareimer@gmail.com or 519-658-6739); Karen Watson (parish.nurse@wkumchurch.ca or 519-578-0660 ext. 11); or Pastor Ben Cassels (ben@wkumchurch.ca or 519-578-0660 Ext 12) who will send your request to this group. And if you would like to be part of this prayer team, please be in touch with either Rita or Ben and we'll happily add you.



Email frustrations: We are aware that some of you have not been receiving email from the church office. We have recently switched to a different provider, and have done some work here at church to solve the issue, however, some problems continue to exist. If you are not receiving emails, eg. Bulletin, funeral announcements, etc. please let Katharine know. The emails from you are received by church staff, but they do not seem to go out. We are continuing to work on the problem.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



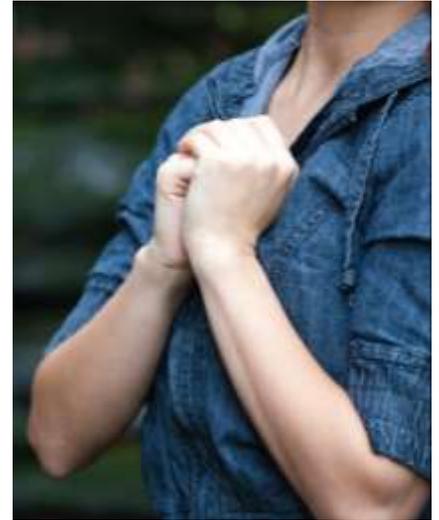
Healthy Reflections – Body, Mind and Spirit

Prayer as a Spiritual Discipline:

The apostle Paul reminds the people of Ephesus to pray.....

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

(Ephesians 6:18 NIV)



Health & Wellness Program:

- March 22nd at 3:00 p.m. at Waterloo Mennonite Homes
Music Therapy with Jasmine Lo. What is it? How is it used? Who can benefit? If you are not a tenant at WMH and want to attend this session, please contact Karen Watson 519-578-0660 Ext 2

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.

The Wayne Gilpin Singers present *Peace Like a River: Songs of Faith and Inspiration* on Saturday, March 24th beginning at 8:00 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 23 Water Street North in Kitchener. See the poster on Bulletin Board # 4 for more information.

Singing with our Neighbours: Building Peace through Word and Song

Inshallah invites you to join them for their annual winter celebration of singing with local groups of various cultures and faiths. The concert will take place on Sunday, March 25 beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, 50 Erb Street West in Waterloo. A free-will offering will be taken. See the poster on Bulletin Board # 4.

Music, song, scripture and silence are the foundations of Taizé

ecumenical worship. St. Agatha Christian Communities will host a Taizé service on Sunday, March 25th beginning at 7:30 p.m. at St. Agatha Catholic Church, 1839 Notre Dame Drive, St. Agatha. All are welcome to attend.

The Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir invites parents and children to an open rehearsal to get a glimpse of the inner workings of the choir. The open rehearsal will take place on Tuesday April 3, 2018 here at W-KUM Church.

Children ages 6-9 are welcome from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. and children ages 10-14 are welcome from 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. For more information:

imcc.conductor@rogers.com

HOLD THE DATE! Menno Youth Singers annual Coffee House and Spring Concert, Friday, April 27th, 7 p.m., at Waterloo North Mennonite Church. More info to come.



MCEC 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.

MCEC Annual Church Gathering 2018 will be held on April 27-28th at Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ontario. The theme for this year's gathering is *Connected: Striving side by side with one mind.* If you would like to attend please speak with Ed Janzen. Registration is now open on the MCEC website.

Elmira Meat Canning Committee is planning for this year's event. A fundraising breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 17th at Calvary United Church in St. Jacobs from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Stephanie Heide from Aylmer will be doing a presentation. Tickets must be reserved. Please call 519-745-8458 or visit www.mcco.ca/events for more information. Poster 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.

Student Summer Employment Opportunity

The Mennonite Story in St. Jacobs is partnering with Woolwich Township to offer a summer employment opportunity for post-secondary students. The position is called "Culture Coordinator" for Woolwich Township, and will involve work with visitor services, tourism and social media. Time will be split between the Township Offices in Elmira and The Mennonite Story in St. Jacobs. For more information or to apply, contact Raj Sian (Township of Woolwich) at rsian@woolwich.ca. Applications deadline is April 12, 2018.

Loved by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus Christ.
As a welcoming Mennonite community,
we worship God, nurture each other
and extend God's love and peace to all.