



June 16th, 2024 9:30 a.m.

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Annie Schulz

Gathering Thoughts

Judy Willems

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in God,
maker of heaven and earth.

People: For God keeps faith forever!

Leader: God executes justice for the oppressed
and gives food for the hungry.

**People: God sets the prisoners free
and opens the eyes of the blind.**

Leader: God lifts up those who are bowed down.

**People: God watches over the strangers
and upholds the orphan and the widow.**

Leader: People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help.

All: For God keeps faith forever!

Prayer

Hymn

Summoned by the God who made us

*Summoned by the God who made us rich in our diversity,
gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity:*

*Refrain: Let us bring the gifts that differ and,
in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.*

*Radiant risen from the water, robed in holiness and light,
ev'ry person in God's image, ev'ry person, God's delight.*

Refrain

Trust the goodness of creation; trust the Spirit strong within.

*Dare to dream the vision promised
sprung from seed of what has been.*

Refrain

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Prayer

Musical Reflection

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Women's Chorus

Prayers of the People

Judy Willems

Hymn

Blessed Jesus, at your word

HWB #13

Scripture Reading

Psalm 20 (OT p.499)

Hymn

*Between darkness and light I will always walk;
and wherever I will go, I will open a window of light,
and will plant the seeds of love.*

I will open a window of light, and will plant the seeds of love.

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 (NT p.181)

Meditation

"Heart of a Refugee"

Doug Schulz

Hymn of Response

New earth, heavens new

HWB #299, vv.1,2

Benediction

Doug Schulz

Sending Hymn

Summoned by the God who made us

Bring the hopes of ev'ry nation;

bring the art of ev'ry race.

Weave a song of peace and justice;

let it sound through time and space.

Refrain: *Let us bring the gifts that differ and,*

in splendid, varied ways,

sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.

Draw together at one table all the human family;

shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free.

Refrain

Postlude

It is good to be together in worship this morning!

The ushers are pleased to help any who need assistance.

[Offering plate is available on table at back of sanctuary]

GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday June 9th ~ Attendance – 46

Sunday, June 30th ~ Speaker: Mac Plunkett

Scripture Texts: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Solomon 1: 13-15, 2:23-24 or Lamentations 3:22-23; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Coffee Time at Grace ~ July 7th



Men's Breakfast ~ Saturday, June 29th at 8:30 a.m. here at the church, all men are invited to a time of connecting and conversation while enjoying a delicious breakfast. Please sign up in the church foyer.

Summer Teaching Series

For the months of July and August we will be focusing on the book of Ephesians. Dr. Tom Yoder Neufeld, professor emeritus of Religious Studies and Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College will be us July 7th to launch this series, both in the morning service and the Coffee Time to follow. Dr. Yoder Neufeld, in his commentary on Ephesians, writes: "The overall gist of Ephesians can be summarized as follows: The secret is out! In Christ, God is gathering up all things. God's mercy and grace not only extend forgiveness to sinners. The Creator has also taken the initiative to mend broken humanity by removing enmity and by re-creating humanity anew in Christ. This reclaimed human community is immediately drawn into the process of peacemaking: it has become a new home for insiders and outsiders, for humanity and God. But it is also summoned and empowered to take up the divine struggle against the powers of evil that still thwart the full realization of God's peace, and to do so in the trenches of everyday existence."

To encourage further study and reflection, we will be providing a few questions in the bulletin each week based on the portion in focus that day, for our use during the following week.

Save the date ~ September 1st, 4:00 p.m.

Grace Church Social at Doug & Ester's Farm

ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD

Bridge of Hope update - At the BOHC (Bridge of Hope Community) refugee sponsorship meeting on June 4 we were pleased to have representatives from our church, Niagara U.M., St. Catharines U.M., Masjid an Noor, Trinity United (Beamsville), and Pelham Quakers. We have received the good news from MCC that our first South Sudanese family (of three families) will arrive this Fall. A rental house has been provided for the family. Look for upcoming announcements about opportunities to donate funds and furniture/household goods.



*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **Kitchener Emmanuel Church**. Pastor Thing Sai provides leadership for this congregation. Pray for them as they minister in their neighbourhoods and also as they pray for and support families who may or may not be in distress back in Myanmar.

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven.
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.
For ever and ever. Amen.*

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Office Hours: 8:30-2:30 ~ Wednesday, Thursday

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A Moment for MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) MCC Partners with First Steps in North Korea

First Steps is a Christian organization that seeks to prevent and alleviate childhood malnutrition in North Korea through our programs which provide essential nutrients to young children, babies, pregnant, and lactating mothers. We are motivated by our faith to share God's love by working with the government to improve the health and prospects of women and children in the DPRK. First Steps has the rare and privileged opportunity of continuing our humanitarian aid in the DPRK over many years and through many challenges. First Steps' programs operate in 10 areas across four provinces and one district. Learn more at <https://www.firststepscanada.org/>

Grand Opening of the Westview Centre 4 Women

– a place we can call our own! Tuesday June 25th from 1 – 2:30 p.m. at 17 Gale Crescent in St. Catharines. Mayor Matt Siscoe will do the Ribbon Cutting at 1 p.m. This will be followed by a presentation and light lunch. For more information call 905-351-2822 or email westviewcentre4women@yahoo.com.

RESPONDING TO THE GAZA CRISIS AS PEACE CHURCHES:

Seeking the Mind of Christ (Sponsored by Grace Peace Group)

Special Guest Dr. Tom Yoder Neufeld

Saturday July 6th, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Grace Mennonite Church

With over 36000 mostly civilian deaths (thus far), and the entire 2.1 million population of the Gaza strip suffering from conflict-induced famine, the observing world is shocked, appalled, and risks being mesmerized into moral paralysis in the face of the catastrophe. What are pacifist Christians called to do—and *not to do*—to promote peace in Gaza? What insights does the New Testament have, and especially the book of Ephesians, to guide us in practical ways to pursue peace without getting caught up in the spiral of conflict?

We encourage you to join us in seeking the mind of Christ in this time of crisis with our guest Dr. Tom Yoder Neufeld, professor emeritus of Religious Studies (New Testament and Peace Studies) and Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College. Tom Y. Neufeld is the author of numerous articles and books focusing on Jesus, Paul, Peace, and the Bible. Pertinent titles include *Ephesians* (Believers Church Bible Commentary), 2002 *Recovering Jesus: the Witness of the New Testament*, 2007, and *Killing Enmity: Violence and the New Testament*, 2011.

For more information contact John Rempel or Laur Steven.



Niagara Region Mennonite Church Outdoor Service and Picnic

Sunday, June 23rd at 10:30 am

Speaker: Steven Reist
MCEC Regional Ministry Associate

Join other area Mennonite congregations for an outdoor service together at the Virgil Sports Grounds, 1567 Four Mile Creek Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake. (In case of rain we will be at the Niagara United Mennonite Church.)

Food provided: BBQed hamburgers, hotdogs, veggies

Beverages provided: Water, juice

Note: Please bring a dessert to share

Games will be organized after lunch for all ages!
There is a splash pad at the park for those interested.

A cash offering will be received for the costs and any extra given to Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

Bring your own lawn chairs, plates, cutlery, napkins, drinking cups or bottles

(Please note: There will be no service at Grace that morning.)

**We are glad to arrange a ride for anyone who needs one.
Please let Ester or Pastor Darrell know.**