

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Fourth Lent

10:00 am – In-person (with Coffee time)

Lenten Theme:

Created in the image of God, shaped by Jesus

Worship Theme: ***On this fourth Sunday in Lent**, we contemplate the story of Jesus' healing of the blind man in the gospel of John. Jesus heals a man of born blind; he then draws attention to another kind of blindness, not as readily recognized. The light of Jesus helps us to see ways in which we might be blind and how we can be light.*

Prelude

Words of Welcome – Floris

Call to worship: *(based on Psalm 23)*

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd.

People: We shall not want.

Leader: God makes us lie down in green pastures.

People: We shall not want.

Leader: God leads us beside quiet waters.

People: We shall not want.

All: *Restore us through your Holy Spirit,
the love of Jesus Christ,
and the comfort of your presence.*

Opening Prayer - Floris

Opening Hymn – VT # 660 The Lord's my Shepherd

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lord, we long for light, but all is darkness, and we walk in deep shadows.

We have driven back justice.

Truth has stumbled in the streets,

and thick darkness is over the people.

We confess our sinful deeds.

We confess to the Lord . . .

(silent prayer)

Leader: As everything exposed to the light becomes visible,
we walk from darkness into light.

All: *Open our eyes, Jesus,
that our lives may radiate your glory. Amen.*

Words of Assurance: Floris

Hymn: Theme Hymn for Lent -

VT # 141 Create in Me a Clean Heart vs. 1 & 3

Scripture 1: Ephesians 5: 8 – 14 - Floris

Hymn: VT # 738 – Open My Eyes that I May See

Scripture 2: John 9: 1 – 41 - Wayne

Sermon: *How's your Vision?* ~ Catherine Hunsberger

Hymn of Response: VT # 274 See Whose Glory Fills the Skies (Nancy)

Sharing our prayer requests – Nancy

Prayers of the people – Nancy

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: HWB # 401 – This little light of mine

Postlude

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*This morning we welcome **Catherine Hunsberger** as our guest preacher. She has served as a pastor at Rainham Mennonite Church and at First Mennonite Church, Kitchener.*

**Nith Valley EcoBoosters** is hosting an information session geared to questions about electric cars. Webinar on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 7 – 9 p.m. Contact Nith Valley MC to obtain the link.

**An Overlooked Tour: The Story of Canadian Christianity in 5 Acts**: Nith Valley MC is hosting Dr. James T Robertson, Assistant Professor of Christian History, Tyndale University, who will share a presentation which explains the course of churches in Canada that led to the realities of this present age. In 5 acts, James will explore the most important elements of Canadian religious life that most of us have overlooked. He will lay bare the funny, tragic, poignant, diabolical, beautiful, dramatic and above-all else, unique stories that created the place known as Canada. Saturday, March 25 from 9:30-11:30 am. If you would like to join Nancy and Robert at this event, contact Nancy for further information or to register on-line.

**Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Bowlathon** is happening again this year! It will be held on March 25. This is one of the camp's main annual fundraising events with last year's bowlathon raising over \$30,000! You can show your support by sponsoring Judy or donating on-line at [hiddenacres.ca/donate](https://hiddenacres.ca/donate), and select "Annual Bowlathon" from the list. Thank You!

**Taize worship service**: Come and share in a Taize-style worship service which will be offered at Shantz Mennonite Church on Thursday, March 30 at 6 pm. This is a service of music and prayer which has been re-scheduled from Ash Wednesday, and will take a slightly different form than originally planned.

**Rescheduled screening of "Colonization Road"** - an exploration of the effects of road building by settlers on Indigenous land and culture. The Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships rescheduled the screening to Friday, March 31st, 2023, 7 p.m. at Zion United Church, 215 Peel St., New Hamburg. The church requires that face masks be worn. Admission is free and registration is not necessary.

**Worship with us at Agape Fellowship**: On Palm Sunday, April 2, Pastor Nancy will offer a service of worship at Agape Fellowship in London, Ontario. The service will take place in the late afternoon. All are welcome to join us. Service will begin at 3:30 pm with a light supper to follow.

**Transformed, Inspired, Called**: The MCEC Annual Church Gathering will take place on Friday evening, April 28 and Saturday April 29 at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. If you would like to attend as a delegate from St. Agatha Mennonite Church, speak with Pastor Nancy.

**Hidden Acres Spring Seniors Retreat 2023:** Unlearning Loneliness: Relearning Community. Join us Monday, May 1st for a day of fellowship, learning and music with friends new and old! We will be hearing from Chip Bender and Cathi Watson as we reconnect and relearn how to live more fully as relational human beings created in God's image. For more information and to register visit our website at [www.hiddenacres.ca](http://www.hiddenacres.ca) or contact the office at [info@hiddenacres.ca](mailto:info@hiddenacres.ca) or 519-625-8602.

**Upcoming Worship Services:**

Sunday, March 26 – Fifth Lent – Pastor Nancy Mann

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday – Pastor Nancy Mann

(Afternoon service at Agape Fellowship, London)

Good Friday, April 7 – 10:00 am – Service with Foot-washing and Communion

Easter Sunday, April 9 - Sunrise service at 8 am followed by pot-luck breakfast

10:00 am Easter worship