

# Oak Street Leaves

A Monthly Newsletter of LUMC

May, 2018



## God Is Not Useful

Mike Williamson

I love ordering from Amazon. With my prime account I can order almost anything and it will arrive on my door step within two days. You name it – I can get it: Toys, a laser printer, books, even diapers. There is no need to ever leave my house!

When the cardboard box arrives on my door step my heart quickens and gets excited. Whatever's inside the box is there for me to use.

I get something from it. That's why I shopped, read reviews, and clicked "Complete Purchase."

And, if I don't like it, *if it's not useful*, then I slap a return label on it and send it back.

In other words, online shopping is an intensely religious exercise. People interact with Amazon like we interact with God.

What good is a Deity who isn't useful? That, after all, is the purpose of religion, right?

- We need things and God is there to hand them over. Religion is basically utilitarian and pragmatic.
- My kids have the flu and I need

God to heal them.

I'm unemployed and heaven needs to give me a job.

- My relationship is in trouble and the Lord needs to fix it.

God exists to make us happy, to straighten us out and to solve our problems.

***In other words, if God expects us to trust him and love him and worship him, then he had better be useful.***

If we're going to be religious people, is it too much to expect for religion to be useful?

Yes. It is. But not for the reasons we might think.

God is use-less. Not because he can't deliver. Not because he's lacking what we need.

***God is use-less because he's not a tool for us to wield.*** He's not a divine object we can bend to our will. He's not a great Santa in the clouds tossing down colorful packages to good boys and girls.

When it comes to giving us what we think we want, what we suppose we need, God is use-less.

God will not be used. He will not be manipulated. He will not be utilized.

There is however one thing God will do: God will transform our hearts so that we realize, over time, that he is not an object from which we get things. Rather, he is The Thing. He and he alone, his very existence, is why we believe in him, love him, and worship him.

When we are in need, God will come to us disguised in many ways.

Wrapped in medicine. Hiding in a soothing touch. Concealed in a friend's wise words. But it's God, clothed in the ordinary things of the world, coming to us to give us the one thing: himself.

So much religion is all about us getting this or getting that. The God who comes to us in Jesus is all about giving us himself over and over. And, in receiving him, we receive everything we need.

Jesus is not use-full but he is love-full. And love defies utility. Love is not about getting what I want but receiving the love of Christ. And that love, the love made flesh in Jesus Christ, is gift for us. The kind of gift that is the Giver. The kind of God that is not use-full but full of everything we need and more.

Worship Walk Witness



### The Child Dedication Service took place on Sunday April 8th, 2018.

Adam and Krista Rempel along with their son, Emmitt, presented themselves in dedication to God and to the Christian nurture of their newest family member, Wyatt.

We pray for the Rempels as they present their child in dedication to God and pray as they commit themselves to the call of nurturing their child into faith.

## Sunday School News

There is a lot happening in our Sunday School wing on Sunday mornings. We are practicing songs, puppet plays and drumming for the Extravaganza on June 17. Please keep that date open as our children and youth will be offering many parts of the church service. You will hear scripture readings, instrumental offerings, songs by the 3-5 year olds and the children in Gr. 1-8 will join with the Levites to help lead congregational singing.

Most of you know that when the offering plate is passed around, some change is put in by children and others. This change gets put into a Sunday School account which is used to help the children understand mission. During the last two

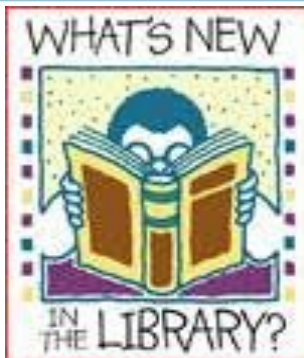
years we have collected and purchased items for MCC school kits and have sent a total of 175 kits to MCC in Kitchener. We now have some money that we want to donate to Gleaners, Foodgrains Bank and the Meat Canner. We look forward to learning about these wonderful mission partners. During our Junior Worship time we will hear from the following people: April 29 - Alison Klassen (Gleaners), May 6 - Dave Epp (Foodgrains) and May 13th - Martin Rahn (Meat Canner). Our hope is that the students will get first hand knowledge about why we give and where the money goes and how it is used.

## DVBS News

Please keep July 9-13 in mind when you are planning your summer. We are looking

forward to hosting many children from the North, Faith, Oak Street churches and from our surrounding area. We want to sing, learn about God, play, create crafts and form friendships with others. Our theme is "Shipwrecked - Rescued by Jesus". We have ordered some music CD's. If you would like to have one before this week, they are available at the office. You could also listen to the music on Youtube - just enter the theme and you will find the music.

Many volunteers will be needed from all three churches to make this week run smoothly. If you can help please let Jane Klassen or Frieda Lepp know. In the coming weeks we will also be asking from some snack donations. Please read the bulletin for details.



A requested book "Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr is now on the shelf. It has a focus on healthy spiritual maturity with aging.

Also new on the shelf is "Max Lucado Children's Treasury". A collection of children's stories.

Currently on our cart we are highlighting some of our resources on Alzheimer's / dementia. These books focus on the care and compassion for those with Alzheimer's/dementia and on those who are their caregivers. We are waiting on the arrival of a couple more resources, so keep checking in with us.



### ***Shipwrecked VBS - July 9 - 13, 2018 at LUMC***

Hosted by NLUMC, Faith and LUMC.  
For Children moving into Grades JK - 6.

At Shipwrecked, kids discover that Jesus rescues them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats.

Kids will discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life.

Register at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/dvbs2018>

**Volunteers Needed! Please contact LUMC Office.**

## **WORD SCRAMBLE**

-----  
**T A S D A H O R I N E O T G M A**

*Hint: Luke 10: 25-37*

## **shine On** **A STORY BIBLE**



### **Children's Shine On Readings**

April 30 – May 6	Moses is Born	pg40
	Moses and the Burning Bush	pg 42
May 7 – May 13	Moses Accepts God's Call	pg 44
	Let my People Go	pg 46
May 14 – May 20	Crossing the Red Sea	pg 48
	Enough Food in the Wilderness	pg 50
May 21 – May 27	Ten Commandments	pg 52
	The Golden Calf	pg 54



## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Mennonite Community Festival

June 2, 2018 at 8:00 am

The Annual Mennonite Community Festival is a charity event and community celebration held at UMEI.

The Festival is the best place to eat, bid on a beautiful handmade quilt, buy some fresh produce, get your face painted, bounce, eat some more, bid on a silent auction item, listen to live local music and **EAT EAT EAT!** Traditional Mennonite foods such as Platz and Vereniki are available as well as a pancake breakfast, homemade pies, jams, sausage on a bun and more.

Beautiful handmade quilts are auctioned starting at 11:00 am and a Silent Auction runs through out the festival. There are lots of activities for the children to enjoy. This is the best place to buy plants and sausage and feel good about your purchases because all proceeds go to charity.

This year's charities include:

**Mennonite Central Committee**  
**UMEI Christian High School**  
**Salvation Army Food Bank**  
**Leamington Mennonite Home**  
**Sunparlour Crisis Pregnancy Centre**  
**Erie Shores Hospice**

Volunteers who give their time make the festival a great success! Our committee could also use more members who are excited about the sale. Come out rain or shine and celebrate with us.

**Janice and Harold Wagner**

Phone: 519-723-4807, 519-980-4807

Email: [drjanhuntingford@gmail.com](mailto:drjanhuntingford@gmail.com)

### ***EKMHA news!***

**Friday, May 25:** Book Launch: *"Return to Odessa"*  
 by Harold Wiens, singer and professor emeritus  
 from University of Alberta  
 at the Heritage Centre at 7:00 pm

Everyone welcome  
 Admission by donation

### **Soli Deo Gloria Singers Spring Concert** ***"Beauty is the Handwriting of God"***

Saturday, May 5 at UMEI at 7:30 pm  
 Sunday, May 6 at Leamington United Mennonite Church at 3:00 pm

Tickets: in advance \$12 for adults,  
 \$6 for children  
 at the door \$15 for adults,  
 \$7 for children

Available at Kindred Credit Union,  
 choir members or  
 call UMEI at [519 326 7448](tel:5193267448) for more info.



### UMEI WATERMELON OPEN



- 18 Holes with Power Cart**
- Breakfast pastries, coffee and registration at 7:15am
- Shotgun Start @ 8:00am
- Lunch immediately following golf
- \$125 per golfer

**Saturday, May 26th | 8:00am**  
**At Erie Shores Golf and Country Club**  
**Register by May 18th**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Call a Friend  T&Y Hodgson	2 Personal Devotion  T&V Hoffman	3 Family Devotion  L Huntingford	4 Go for a Nature Walk  J&S Hrysko	5 Pick up Litter Outside  A Imeson
6  H Irwin	7 Read a Psalm  S&A Ives	8 Send a Card to a Friend  M&L Jager	9 Personal Devotion  A Janzen	10 Family Devotion  C&K Janzen	11 Find a Place to Regularly Volunteer  E Janzen	12 Pick up Litter Outside  J&M Janzen
13  J&E Janzen	14 Share Your Psalm  J&M Janzen	15 Offer Help to Someone in Need  L&A Janzen	16 Personal Devotion  R&M Janzen	17 Family Devotion  S&D Janzen	18 Congratulate a University/ College Student for their year!  S Janzen	19 Pick up Litter Outside  B&D Johnston
20  B&L Keohan	21 Read a Psalm  T Ketler	22 Go for a Nature Walk  K&D Kimball	23 Personal Devotion  B&L Kipping	24 Family Devotion  E Klassen	25 Ask Stranger About Their Day  B Klassen	26 Pick up Litter Outside  B&M Klassen
27  F&B Klassen	28 Share Your Psalm  F&D Klassen	29 Offer Help to Someone in Need  H&A Klassen	30 Personal Devotion  J Klassen	31 Family Devotion  J & L Klassen		

**To become a stronger community, we will pray daily for a family.** Each day on the calendar you will see the name of a family or individual written at the bottom. On the day listed, our church family is encouraged to pray for the church member listed.

**To become more like disciples, we will deepen our faith and reach out to others.** Each day you will note a small outreach challenge. On the day listed, we encourage our congregation to participate in the small challenge.





## Sr. Youth May Schedule

### **Sr. Youth Bigger & Better Challenge *Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>***

6:30-8:30 at LUMC

---

### **Sr. Youth Mystery Night *Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>***

6:30-8:30 at Jason & Josey's Farm House

Cost: \$5.00

---

### **Sr. Youth Trip to Cedar Point *Monday May 21<sup>st</sup>***

Bus Departs LUMC at 6:00am &  
Returns at 10:00pm

Cost: \$100.00

---

**Grade 8 Students are welcome to attend.**

**Space is limited!**

**VALID PASSPORT IS NEEDED**

---

### **Sr. Youth Capture the Flag Night *Friday May 24<sup>th</sup>***

6:30-8:30 at Steve & Shelly Enns' Home

---

### **Testimony Sunday *Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>***

During the Worship Service at LUMC

## UMEI Christian High School News

### Zwieback & Raisin Bread

Zwieback and raisin bread orders are due in the office by noon **Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** and will be ready to pick up Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. NOTE: This will be the last order for the school year.

### UMEI Math Fair

Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – 6:30-8:00 pm  
Adults and kids alike will enjoy the interactive displays and activities presented by our Grade 10, 11 and 12 students. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

### Ground Beef

Ground beef orders are due in the office by noon **Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** and will be ready to pick up Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. NOTE: This will be the last order for the school year.

### Spring Showcase

Join us on **Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm** for our Spring Showcase. Come and enjoy some coffee and dessert as you experience choral & instrumental music, original songs by some of our students & staff, a drama presentation from the Junior Drama class, as well as a Robotics demonstration. Free will offering.

**REGISTER TODAY - UMEI Watermelon Open Golf Tournament** - Saturday May 26 at 8:00 am at Erie Shores Golf Club. Cost is \$125 per golfer and includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, breakfast and coffee, lunch, and a gift package. Call the UMEI office at [519-326-7448](tel:519-326-7448) for more details or to inquire about our sponsorship packages. Register today at [umei.ca/watermelon-open/](http://umei.ca/watermelon-open/) to save your spot in this event!

**Shop UMEI Vista Orders** - Retail card orders are due in the office by noon **Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**. Cards will be ready for pick up Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. **NOTE:** This is the last order for the school year.

**Camp Explore U** - A day camp with activities like basketball, science, cooking, water games, and more!  
Date: July 16 - July 20, 9am - 3pm  
Grades: 3-6 (entering September 2018), co-ed  
Cost: \$100 and \$85 for each subsequent sibling, includes t-shirt and two daily snacks

**Rockets & Robotics** - Rockets & Robotics is a hands on science camp for students who are passionate about building and programming robots and learning the physics behind rocket design and launching.  
Dates: July 16 - 20 for grades 7-8 (entering September 2018) and July 23 - 27 for grades 4-6 (entering September 2018); 9am - 3pm  
Cost: \$300, includes t-shirt and rocket materials

## Leamington Mennonite Home News

### Ladies Auxiliary Yard and Bake Sale

The Auxiliary will host a Yard and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at the Heritage Centre. Used furniture and baked goods will be thankfully accepted on Friday, May 4, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Home will pick up larger items on Thursday, May 4. Please call Judy Ferrari at 519-326-6109 to make those arrangements.

### Diner's Club

Those over 55 can take a break from cooking by coming to our Home, Monday-Friday, for a delicious meal. Diner's Club is an economical and nutritious break from the everyday. The cost is \$7.00 per person and those who would like to come should contact the Front Office at 519-326-6109 at least one day in advance.

### Auxiliary Luncheon Meeting

The Auxiliary Meeting for the month of May will be held on Wednesday, May 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the Berg Lounge in the Retirement Residence.



## Contact Information

***Family Worship Service***  
***9:45 am - Family Worship***  
***10:45 am - Coffee Break***  
***11:00 am - Education Hour***

## Contact Us

**Leamington United  
Mennonite Church**  
78 Oak Street East  
Leamington, ON N8H 2C6  
www.lumc.ca  
office@lumc.ca  
519-326-2727

**Victor Winter**  
Coordinating Pastor, Ext. 1  
Home: 519-326-0363  
victwint@gmail.com

**David Dyck**  
Associate Pastor, Ext. 2  
Home: 519-326-1326  
davidgdyck@gmail.com

**Mike Williamson**  
Associate Pastor, Ext. 3  
Home: 519-398-8628  
mikewlumc@gmail.com

**Frieda Lepp**  
Children's Ministry, Ext. 4  
Home: 519-322-2198  
frieda.lepp@yahoo.ca

**Ernie Brown - Custodian**

**Jane Klassen - Secretary, Ext. 0**

**Bill Konrad - Church Council  
Chair** [wilmarkon2@cogeco.ca](mailto:wilmarkon2@cogeco.ca)

Library - lumclibrary@mdirect.net

**JUNE EDITION of the  
OAK STREET LEAVES DEADLINE:**  
Please send all submissions for ***The  
Leaves*** by May 14, 2018 to the  
LUMC Office. [office@lumc.ca](mailto:office@lumc.ca)



Save the date for **UMEI's 7th Annual Surf & Turf** event Friday, August 10th at Mastronardi Estate Winery in Kingsville.

More details to come soon!



**We invite you to check out the bulletin boards in the Sunday School Wing. Thanks to the volunteers who create these for us all to enjoy!**

