

buzz

August 30, 2015

Times for Fellowship

I believe that it is extremely important to set aside time to connect with others from our church family. We have often called these opportunities “fellowship time.” It is time to relate to others in our faith community with whom we perhaps do not always have an opportunity to connect with. They are often times to share a meal together where conversation, laughter, and stories are shared across the table and across the generations. They are times to build upon our attachment to each other as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. Often there is laughter, sometimes tears, and always a meaningful time as we sit with each other during times of fellowship.

I want to alert you and invite you to four different opportunities for fellowship from September to December. Those who have been around WMC for a while might be familiar with our pattern of having a carry-in potluck meal following the second worship service on the first Sunday of each month. In addition, we have had the practice of celebrating Christmas and Easter together by sharing in a brunch held during the nurture hour. This fall, based on feedback we have heard, we want to try out a different paradigm of fellowship opportunities. So...

- On **Sunday, September 6** (next Sunday!) we will have a carry-in potluck meal as we celebrate the conclusion of our “Year of the Bible” and the beginning of fall. All are invited to the meal following the second worship service which will be hosted by the Open Door and Praying Companions nurture classes.

Then, instead of having a carry-in potluck on the first Sundays in October, November, and December we are trying out a different avenue for our fellowship opportunities.

- On **Sunday evening October 11** all are invited to a bonfire for our fall theme of “Fanning the Flames”.
- On **Saturday evening November 14** all are invited to an international food themed carry-in potluck as part of our Fall Mission Weekend. We will also have an opportunity to hear more from the Ross Richers and Two Way Mission.
- On **Sunday, December 27** all are invited to a brunch during nurture hour as we celebrate Christmas together.

I am looking forward to these opportunities of fellowshiping with each other!

—Cindy Voth, pastor of community life

Tefillah



During last Sunday’s worship, we gave the children tefillah, the small box that is attached to the doorpost of the house that reminds us to remember who our God is and what God has done for us. (This practice is mentioned in Deuteronomy 6:9.) After the service one of the children asked me, “Which end goes up on this box?” That was a very good question. I had written shema’ in Hebrew on the tefillah, but if you do not read Hebrew, you do not know when the letters are upside down. Here is what it should look like when you attach it to your doorpost.

Also, I need to give a special thanks to Sanford Hostetler, Bonnie Miller’s father, for these carefully and beautifully made tefillah. I added the Hebrew letters to them.

—Ron Guengerich



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Senior Adult Guest Speaker

Senior Adults at Waterford Mennonite: Reserve the date of Wednesday, September 16 from 2:00 to 4:00 to come to the church to hear guest speaker, Dr. Glen Miller, present "If you know my story, you know me." Dessert and fellowship will follow.

Senior Reflection: Listening to "The Word"

Much of my life has been spent listening. I have grown more and more aware of two things: 1) listening is probably the most important things that I can do; and 2) listening is very difficult.

Listening is crucial because I can learn so much and function so much better when I am listening well. Listening, I have learned, is a matter of focus: focusing on what (and who) I am listening to without being distracted by other "noise." Sometimes the noise that distracts me is external noise—noise from the surroundings that captures my attention. Sometimes the noise is internal noise—noise from my own mind and heart that keep me from really paying attention to the "message" that is being given to me.

I know that it is both important and difficult to really listen to my wife Ruth and my children. It is also important and difficult to listen to the voices of other persons in my life. It is especially difficult and important to listen with my soul, first, to scripture and, secondly, to the ways that Jesus, the living word, is speaking to me.

My listening ability to both scripture and Jesus has been enriched and enhanced by learning the languages (and the cultures) that are the context of scripture and Jesus. Hebrew and Greek are not for me simply academic competencies that I began in seminary some 40 years ago. Knowing Hebrew and Greek has been invaluable in listening for new and enriched meanings that so easily get "lost in translation."

As I enter retirement I hope and plan on immersing myself as a listener to the Word of Scripture and to Jesus, the living word. Part of this focus on listening is enriched when I ask others, "So what are hearing Jesus say to our context? What do you hear Scripture saying to us today? What is the new thing that you are hearing today?" Most of all, I have found that listening to neglected parts of Jesus' words and life and the overlooked parts of Scripture often bring new and surprising insights.

—Ron Guengerich

Safe Spaces Training Scheduled

During a spring congregational meeting, an update was given on the Safe Spaces practices that we want to use to ensure that Waterford remains a safe and healthy place for faith formation for our children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

Part of our practices involve an annual training session for those working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. At least two sessions will be offered this fall, first during the nurture hour on Sunday, September 13, and again on Wednesday, September 16, beginning at 7 p.m. Ron Weirich, one of our co-Lay Ministry Partners for the Family Life Ministry Team, will lead the sessions. If you would like to attend, but are unable to make either session, please contact Lyle Miller.

An email invitation has been sent to those currently serving as Sunday school teachers and sponsors for our children and youth. However, anyone is invited to attend to hear more about the training. Special invitation goes to parents and those who anticipate being involved with vulnerable persons in the future.

As a congregation, we lament the need for such training. Yet, we must recognize the reality of abuse in many areas of our life, including in our congregations, and including in Mennonite congregations. Please join us in prayer for those affected, and in your commitment to making Waterford a safe place.

—Lyle Miller, on behalf of the pastoral team

Thank You

Thank you for your prayers and visits regarding my new knee and blood clot. The fresh flowers from the congregation and the beautiful orchid from the Open Door Sunday School class were very much appreciated.

—Thelma Horner

I want to thank you, my sisters and brothers, for the gift of the lovely orchid. It is a wonderful reminder to me of your love and prayers this past month as I've faced health issues, which came up so quickly. I continue to covet your prayers for the future as I've been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and need to consider what treatment I should undergo. Also, I feel your love and concern for me through your phone calls, cards and visits. Thank you so much!

—Cathy Hochstetler