



Waterford Mennonite Church | September 27, 2015

buzz



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Here is the next installment of the weekly Fanning the Flames (FTF) update. We are two weeks into this trek and I am truly feeling the spirit moving. In fact, last week a man approached me and said, "This (Fanning the Flames) thing is really good stuff but I hope it is more than just finding our gifts. I hope we talk about how we use gifts in our community." I assured him that it was. I told him that the first three weeks are inward-focused, like "Strengthening" or "Receiving" gifts; that we are all gifted, and the source of those gifts is God. The final three weeks will be more of an outward focus on "Offering" or using our gifts as God intended—not limited to the walls of the church but offered to the community. Another way to say this is that the first three weeks are about SMOUSCH and the last three weeks are about SPLASH (making waves with our gifts).

Wednesday, September 30, is the first in a series of four Soul Food programs designed to complement the FTF series. We can all gather together for a meal at 5:30 and then afterwards I will be sharing how God can use "gifts" that seem unusable by people who seem unusable.

The **October 11 church-wide bonfire** will be our October "fellowship meal" for the month. There are several things planned for this event. First, there will be a Hot Dog station with all the fixin's. We plan on having some "Fallish" things like apple cider and apples. There will be, of course, a s'more station because, as Deb Yoder reminds us, "What's

S'MORE fun than a bonfire?" There will be a popcorn kettle, a photo booth where you can create your own picture of you and your gifts, and a craft station where young (and not so young) people can work with Audrey Oostland to make their own "Flame." There will be some old-fashioned singing around a fire and the evening will conclude with a special presentation about gifting.

I announced last week that the event will begin with a 3K run/walk. The registration for the run/walk begins at 4:00 with the event to begin at 4:30. The time for the bonfire is 5:00 pm with the afore mentioned "special" event at approximately 6:30.

What should you bring? You can bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on around the fire. All the hot dogs have been provided but there will be other things needed. If you are interested in bringing something, the best way to coordinate this is to contact me at greghire@icloud.com or cell 574-238-7157.

—Greg Hire

Thank You

Our family cannot begin to thank you adequately for all the love and support you have poured out to Doug and the boys and to each of us as family members. Saying goodbye to a dear mom, wife, daughter, sister, and aunt was filled with great pain and grief, and we know you, too, have felt this deep sorrow and loss. Jenny touched many lives. She built relationships easily and had multiple and wide circles of friends. In the midst of our pain, we've always felt your love and support. You reached out to us with words of comfort, with food (Oh my! What wonderful food!), and offers of help in many ways, and for that we will be forever grateful. The outpouring of your words and love was, and will continue to be, a reminder that we are not alone. Thank you so much.

—The Wengerd and Roth families

Worship and Tornadoes

I have been noticing some new signs in the church over the summer. Whenever I use the restroom I am greeted with a Tornado Shelter sign. After all these years of using the restrooms here at church for other things, it never dawned on me that they could be tornado shelters.

But then I thought, what if everyone needed a tornado shelter on a Sunday morning. Do we have enough shelter space for everyone? Who would we choose to place in the tornado shelters if there were too many people? Maybe the elderly, standing room only, except for the stalls. Maybe the pastors and the wisest people we know. Maybe young children and their parents? I am guessing that some adults would want to stay out of the shelters with all the kids in a confined space.

A tornado situation on a Sunday morning would really show our true colors as a congregation. I wonder, do you think that if we really are active in living out a servant faith, that most of us would volunteer to stay out of the tornado shelters so others can be in them? Imagine if a tornado came during a sermon on giving, serving, sharing, and not placing our lives before our neighbor.

Tornado shelters at Waterford Mennonite Church. I will always think of the restrooms in a new way. But I am at peace with the community of faith that I worship with, and look forward to the Spirit Winds that blow as we gather each Sunday to worship.

—JD Smucker



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