



buzz

Plan on participating...

in our upcoming Soul Food Wednesdays! Below are the descriptions of the exciting and diverse activities that have been planned for our winter series! Please stop by the Participation Station to sign up for meals (as well as to help set up or clean up), childcare, and to participate in the adult activities.

February 10 – Ash Wednesday

We will meet first at 5:30 p.m. for a delicious meal prepared by our MYF as a fundraiser for their faith formational activities (winter retreat, service-learning trips, etc.). Then at 6:30 p.m. all Adults, MYF, Jr MYF, and Venture Club will transition to the sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday worship service as we begin our Lenten journey. This service will include the imposition of ashes.

February 24

We will gather for dinner at 5:30 p.m. (which will be prepared for us – suggested donation is \$4 per person or \$10 per family). Following dinner, all adults will join in a variety of fun and engaging activities to help us get to know others in our faith community. MYF, Jr MYF, and Venture Club will meet with their respective groups. Childcare will be provided for infants through 2nd grade.

March 9

What does *bonjour*, groundnut stew, and pictures all have in common? You will hear and experience each of these tonight as we gather to enjoy an African-themed dinner together at 5:30 p.m. (which will be prepared for us – suggested donation listed above). Then adults will transition to the sanctuary to hear stories, see pictures, and reflect together on the recent trip of our ambassadors to the Benin Bible Institute. MYF, Jr MYF, and Venture Club will meet with their respective groups. Childcare will be provided for infants through 2nd grade.

March 26 – Maundy Thursday

This week we will gather on Thursday night at 6 p.m. for our Maundy Thursday service – a simple carry-in meal of soup, bread, and fruit with a service of the Lord's Supper and footwashing, in the fellowship hall. Stop by the participation station to sign up for childcare (provided for infants and toddlers) as well as for the meal and what you will bring for it. As did the early church (Acts 2:43-47), we will collect offerings for the Sharing Fund at the end of the service as part of our communion.

—Cindy Voth, pastor of community life,
for Adult Nurture Ministry Team

Will-planning seminar set for January 31

As an act of pastoral care, we as pastors have a desire for everyone in our congregation to have a current will in place. During the nurture hour on January 31, the Pathfinder and Gelassenheit Sunday school classes will host a will-planning seminar open to all ages. The seminar will be in the sanctuary. Presenters will include Galen Kauffmann and Vyron Schmidt from our congregation. Galen is an attorney, and Vyron works with wills in his role with Everence.

The timing of this workshop is also significant, because planning a will is an act of stewardship, the theme of our current worship series. To encourage participation in the seminar, the Facilities & Finance Ministry Team will provide \$50 toward the cost of a new or updated will for each household that takes part in the seminar. This opportunity is funded by an earlier grant proposal written by FFMT seeking a distribution from our Endowment Fund. At the seminar, we will have details about how to receive this financial reimbursement.

Please consider joining us for this insightful seminar. If you are unable to participate this day, please be in contact with me. Should there be enough interest, we would be glad to schedule the seminar again.

—Lyle Miller, Pastor of Family Life & Financial Stewardship, on behalf of FFMT and pastoral team



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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

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Need for transitional housing for Kirk Martin

Kirk's re-entry is coming around pretty soon. His release from the Chain O' Lakes facility where he is currently held may be as early as next month. Paper work may delay his return but it is still important that we find some housing soon.

We need your help in providing transitional housing for a few months for Kirk. Do you have an extra room or perhaps a basement apartment you'd be willing to offer for Kirk's housing, for a period of three to six months until he gets a job and has money to rent his own place?

Here are the requirements as we know them:

- A background check for the owner or occupier of the listed address
- A one-time CTP (Community Transitions Program) inspection of the property
- A telephone land-line (necessary for his ankle bracelet system)
- Telephone number for CTP to contact you
- At least one bedroom, not shared with anyone else
- No guns or alcohol in the house

We actually need two people to respond to this need—a primary residence and a backup.

Time is important for your response. If suitable housing is not found, since he is not eligible for the work release center, the alternative would be more time back at the Elkhart County jail.

Might God be calling you to open up your home or a residential property you own as a temporary lodging for a member of our congregation who is eager to rehabilitate his life and give back to the community? Please be in prayer about this opportunity. If you are interested, or have some questions, please contact Russ Hochstetler at 574-537-4747 or at rchoch@maplenet.net.

—Russ Hochstetler for the Ad Hoc group
formed for Prison Ministry and Kirk's re-entry

Apply for 2016 college scholarships

If your family uses Everence faith-based services, you are eligible to apply for college scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year. Submit your application by February 29, 2016. Learn more at everence.com/scholarships.

Share with the ministries close to your heart

Support Waterford or church missions with planned giving such as bequests, gift annuities, gifts of assets and more. At faith-based Everence, a trusted team of professionals can offer you ease, confidence and flexibility in your generosity. Learn more at everence.com/charitable-services.

Thinking about retirement?

Faith-based Everence understands how your values and dreams are important as you make decisions for your future. Use Everence resources—such as a retirement income calculator and other worksheets—to help you determine if you're ready at everence.com/retire.

Prayer Shawl Knitting

Are you currently making a prayer shawl? Do you have interest in making a prayer shawl? You are invited to an informal crafting meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the MYF Room. Come to knit/crochet a prayer shawl you are currently working on, begin a new prayer shawl or get help with beginning or finishing a prayer shawl. There will be a short prayer time for those who will ultimately receive the prayer shawls, good fellowship and yummy food.

Anyone who would like to join the group and work on a project of their own is welcome. RSVP to Cynthia Kauffmann at bornnycer@gmail.com or 534-0101 if you would like to be notified of cancellation due to inclement weather.