



buzz

Fellowship Meals at WMC

Waterford has a delightful (and delicious!) history of having on average once a month fellowship meal. These meals have provided opportunities to gather around the table and connect with others within our faith community while enjoying a meal together.

These meals usually take place right after the second worship service and we rotate through our adult Sunday School classes to 'host' the meal. The hosting class handles the set-up, serving of the food, as well as clean up. All attending the meal are invited to bring a main dish, side/salad, and/or dessert to share with others. As we gather together we are also mindful of others in our local community who do not have enough food, and so for each time we gather for a fellowship meal we also invite you to bring a nonperishable food item to contribute to the food pantry at The Window.

So, when do these delightful (and delicious!) gatherings take place? Here are the dates of the fellowship meals through May 2017. Please plan on joining us around the table to get to know each other and to share together as a faith community! –Pastor Cindy Voth

Saturday evening, November 19 – International Theme Fellowship Meal as part of our Fall Mission Fair

(no Fellowship Meal in December)

January 1, 2017 – Christmas Fellowship Meal after second service (Hosted by Open Door, Praying Companions, and Koinonia)

February 5, 2017 – Fellowship Meal after second service (Hosted by Disciples)

March 5, 2017 – Fellowship Meal after second service (Hosted by Seekers)

April 16, 2017 – Easter Brunch during Nurture Hour (Hosted by Sojourners and Pathfinders)

May 7, 2017 – Fellowship meal after second service (Hosted by Gelassenheit)

MVS Update

Two and a half months ago, I arrived in Kansas City and, in many ways, I still feel as though I arrived yesterday! The choice to uproot myself and start fresh in a big city has given me endless opportunities, but also a daily dose of loneliness and uncertainty that I am still learning to manage. I have come to understand and accept this year of my life as a roller-coaster of emotions and a multi-layered struggle, but I wholeheartedly believe that I am where I'm supposed to be and that these struggles are a part of God's well thought out plan.

Despite the struggles, I have found many things to be grateful for on a daily basis. One of these things is Rainbow Mennonite Church, located just down the street from the MVS house. I help teach Sunday School, sing in the church choir, and particularly love the good conversation over coffee and donuts during Sunday coffee hour. My "host family," Dave and Diane Richardson Spaite, are perhaps the most awesome people that I have met through the church. They occasionally invite me over for supper, games, or good conversation and check up on me from time to time.

Our unit, which consists of Kham (from Laos), Michael (from Egypt), and myself, is about to gain one more member! Sometime this next week, Kimberly Hunter, a friend and fellow Rainbow member, will be joining the MVS house as an associate MVSer, which essentially means she will abide by most MVS rules, but earn her own living wage and pay rent.

In August and September, my work at the gardens was heavily focused on maintaining the Beanstalk Children's Garden and leading school tours through the garden. I have learned so many random facts about plants. Now that the growing season is officially over, we have been harvesting and pulling out plants from the garden. I am also working on communications and outreach for our big holiday fundraiser, "Holidays in Crestwood." This also means that I am helping create a holiday fairy garden and paint twenty-five Christmas-themed gourds for the event! Pinterest has since become my new best friend.

In the next few months, I hope to continue to meet new people and explore this city that feels so BIG compared to my previous hometowns of Goshen and Freeman. I always

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feel a bit like a fish out of water, but I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in a new community and to wrestle with the many difficult questions that come from living and serving in communities with diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds. I am SO grateful for your support and hope to reconnect again soon (perhaps during Thanksgiving)! –Christina Hofer

(For more of Christina's letter, please see the entire version on the bulletin board.)

Thank You

Thanks to each of you that participated in the MCC Great Lakes Comforter Bash in October at Pleasant View Mennonite Church in Goshen. Over 200 people helped knot 207 comforters in just two days! Thanks to your generosity, people around the world will feel the warmth and hope that these handmade comforters bring. We look forward to another fun event next year, so stayed tuned for more information.

–Jennifer Steiner, MCC Great Lakes
Communications Coordinator

Interested in a special giving opportunity through your IRA?

A recent tax law allows owners of Individual Retirement Accounts who are at least 70 ½ years old to give donations directly from their IRA account to a church or charity. The IRA owner doesn't pay taxes on this Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), and by making a gift in this way, reduce their taxable income. The distribution is accomplished by making a written request through their IRA provider.

A brochure with more information has been placed in the mailbox of those aged 70 and above. Additional copies are available on the table by the mailboxes. The information may be a helpful planning tool for those approaching age 70 or for those with family members above this age. For more details, talk to interim business manager Mel Claassen or your tax advisor.



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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. Monday preceding publication.

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