



buzz

Summer Sunday Schedules

Spring is in the air and several groups at WMC have already been working hard on exciting plans for our summer months! It might seem like summer is a far ways away; however, we know it will be here quickly! We wanted to let everyone know that we will have a different schedule on the nine Sundays in June and July. The schedule will be as follows:

- Nurture Hour - 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- Fellowship - 10:00-10:15 a.m.
- Worship - 10:15 a.m.

The only exception will be on July 17 for our Bible School Retreat. On July 17 we will begin at 9 a.m. but will have a different structure to our morning (more info will be coming!).

So, perhaps you are asking yourself “I wonder what brought about this change to our summer schedule?” There are several factors that we considered in the discussions of various groups. Summer is a time when we have historically had slightly lower attendance on Sunday mornings, which allows us to make a change to worship as one body at the same time in the same place. We also recognize that as we live in the midst of pastoral transition we will be down 1.15 FTE this summer (as compared to previous summers) and therefore stretching our remaining pastors in a time when they too will be seeking to have time away with their families. We also named that we use a lot of volunteer hours/individuals every Sunday morning and moving to one service for two months helps to reduce the number of hours/individuals needed and consequently provides some Sabbath rest to those who use their gifts in these various ways (including but not limited to: worship leaders, song leaders, musicians, ushers, AV booth, greeters, and nursery caregivers).

Perhaps you are asking yourself, “I wonder how it was decided to have nurture first followed by worship?” Again, this question was processed by pastoral team, Ministry Leadership Council, Worship Ministry Team, Adult Nurture Ministry Team, and Family Life Ministry Team. The outcome from those conversations was the understanding that it is a blessing to those who provide leadership for our nurture classes (especially our children and youth) to have a set beginning and ending time, and a set anticipated time when children/youth will be arriving to class. Nurture Hour

is also a set sixty minutes while worship is more fluid in it being somewhere in the range of 70-90 minutes depending on various components included week to week. Therefore having worship second gives it some flexibility with time while not conflicting or adding stress to those leading nurture hour.

We are excited for our summer worship series where we will spend time each Sunday delving into the story of a different biblical character. We will look at his/her life, hear parts of his/her stories, and invite the Holy Spirit to challenge and inspire us through the life, choices, and actions he/she did within the biblical text. We also eagerly look forward to a special morning worship service for Pastor Velma’s ordination (most likely in July). We believe that God is at work within and around and among us here at Waterford and we are excited to spend the summer together exploring ways our lives can intersect with biblical characters.

—Cindy Voth, Pastor of Community Life,
on behalf of the Pastoral Team

Teachers for a Year Update

Thank you to those who have stopped by the table in the foyer to talk with us about teaching for a year. We have some interest and commitments, but we still have several positions to fill! We are looking for teachers, assistants, and substitutes.

We want to encourage creativity in filling these roles! Think about being a part of a two-person or three-person team for one class. This would allow the teachers for this class to have additional support and ideas because you can work together on plans or issues that arise. Other benefits of this approach: you would have some time in your own Sunday school class the weeks you aren’t teaching, you might not need subs when you can rearrange schedules, and, the most important part, there would still be consistency of teachers throughout the whole year for the kids.

There are additional forms at the participation station that you can fill out and return to Mikki Bowman. We hope that you take time to think about this and give it a try!

—Children’s Cluster: Mikki Bowman, Family Life Interim Coordinator, Ron and Vicki Weirich, Family Life Ministry lay ministry partners, Amanda Stoltzfus, and Kent Myers



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Fellowship and Communing Together

On April 13, Waterford Senior Adult Ministry Team and several others from Waterford joined our Greencroft residents in celebrating communion. The following afternoon, we joined in a communion service with three of Waterford's members who reside at The Courtyard. Each of these was a service of singing familiar hymns, hearing the reading of John 10:1-5 and Isaiah 53:6-7 passages, listening to a short meditation by Pastor Velma Swartz and partaking of the bread and cup in remembrance of Christ.



(From L to R) Owen Miller, J.R. Graber, and Mary Helmuth were among those there for communion.

The two communion services were especially meaningful for me. One of the residents commented that she did not feel like coming, but went contrary to her feelings and came because she wanted to honor Christ—a testimony of her love and dedication to the Lord. In one of the services, as we finished singing the familiar hymn, "Blessed Assurance", one of the residents continued singing, expressing the joy in her heart. I was truly blessed by fellowshiping with these dear brothers and sisters.

—Sharon Burkholder

An invitation from CPT

Would you like to learn more about Christian Peacemaker Teams and their activities up close and personal? Look at the brochure on the Missions bulletin board next to the library. The invitation is to participate in a 7-14 day trip to one of the places where CPT is involved with local partners in peacemaking work. Prayerfully consider if this is something you are called to do. Please talk to one of the pastors or to MSMT lay partner, Eldon Stoltzfus. If finances are the problem, let talk about the possibilities.

—Eldon Stoltzfus, lay partner,
Missions and Service Ministry Team

Thank You

I would like to sincerely thank you once again for supporting me during my year of service in Honduras. I greatly appreciate all of your prayers, financial support and words of encouragement.

Most recently I thank you for sending down the Waterford learning tour group. I also appreciate the contribution from the Mission and Service Ministry Team, which made it possible for me to join them in all of their activities during their week in Honduras. It was a blessing to spend time with my parents and friends from our congregation. I hope that they bring back a better understanding of MCC's work in Honduras as well as new questions about international development.

I am enjoying my time building relationships, serving, and praising God here in Honduras, but am also excited to see all of you in a few short months. Peace and blessings to all of you!

—Jesse Amstutz

Thanks to all of our hard-working teachers and sponsors!

Teachers: Lyz Zimmerman, Char Stoltzfus, Becky Yoder, Gabrielle DeVito, Jennifer Beck, Rachel Brenneman, Becky Bateman, Amy Schlamersdorf, Deb Yoder, Marge Gingerich, Lorna Claassen, MaryAnn Wieand, Lorene Miller, Veronica Berkey, Jama Brookmyer-Graber, Kent Myers, Janette Amstutz, Cynthia Kauffmann, Angela Stoltzfus, Gilberto Perez, Mark Yoder, Kay Miller

MYF Sponsors: Benji Hurst, Gordon Bontrager, Cynthia Bontrager, Laurina Graber-Ditzler, Bonnie Miller, Kevin Miller

JYF Sponsors: Melissa Chupp, Gary Chupp, Christa Graber Kauffman, Andrew and Ruth Hartzler

Venture Club sponsors: Melanie Hire, Jennifer King, Shawn Stutzman

We appreciate your dedication to our kids and youth! Teachers and sponsors, stop by the table in the foyer on May 1st to enjoy some treats!

—Children's Cluster: Mikki Bowman, Family Life Interim Coordinator, Ron and Vicki Weirich, Family Life Ministry lay ministry partners, Amanda Stoltzfus, and Kent Myers