



Waterford Mennonite Church | October 22, 2017

buzz

Fall Mission Sunday Plans

Our Fall Mission Sunday is coming on November 19 with our guest preacher Sarah Thompson. Sarah is no stranger to Waterford, having grown up here while attending Bethany Christian High School, from which she graduated in 2002. A graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, and of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, she recently completed nearly four years serving as Executive Director of Christian Peacemaker Teams, a nonviolent movement that places teams at the invitation of local peacemaking communities that are confronting situations of lethal conflict. A close friend of the late peacemaker MJ Sharp and a diligent champion of justice and active nonviolent faith, she has been a featured speaker at Mennonite churches and colleges. She was visible as a member of the prayer team at this past summer's Mennonite Church USA convention in Orlando.

Sarah's message with us in both services will be from Revelation 6:1-8, drawing on the apocalyptic moment we are living in and on themes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's "Beyond Vietnam" speech. During the joint nurture hour in the sanctuary, Sarah will share interactively with us, more specifically from the work of Christian Peacemaker Teams. Our annual fall mission offering (received in addition to the regular offerings) will support the following three ministries:

- One-third to the Emergency Fund of the Goshen Ministerial Association, providing assistance for housing and other financial needs of local residents
- One-third to Christian Peacemaker Teams
- One-third to Elkhart County HOPE Network, assisting vulnerable local immigrants, from its location with Center for Healing and Hope.

You are invited to bring plenty of food for the congregational fellowship meal after the second service, which will be hosted by the Sojourners Class.

Cindy Voth Sabbatical Covered Through Lilly Endowment, Inc. Grant

Ministry Leadership Council is pleased to confirm that Waterford Mennonite Church is one of 28 congregations in Indiana selected to participate in the 2017 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations, which is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Established by the Endowment in 1999, the program's grants allow congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from their ministerial duties and responsibilities. Waterford's participation in this \$50,000 grant is for pastor Cindy Voth's planned sabbatical leave during the summer of 2018, in accordance with the congregation's policy for sabbaticals.

Ministers whose congregations are awarded the grants use their renewal experiences to engage in reflection and renewal. The approach respects the "Sabbath time" concept, offering ministers a carefully considered respite that may include travel, study, rest, immersive arts experiences and prayer. Recognizing that ministers' families are subject to the stress and demands placed on pastoral leaders, the program encourages pastors to involve their families in renewal activities. Congregational needs during the minister's renewal experience also are considered. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used to fund interim pastoral leadership during the pastor's retreat, as well as for renewal activities within the congregation.

Closer to Cindy's sabbatical leave, which begins in June, she will provide more detailed information to the congregation about this exciting news: The theme for this sabbatical; her own renewal plans; activities and pastoral coverage here in the congregation, etc. For more information about this Lilly Endowment grant, please see the full news release posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. *—Ministry Leadership Council*



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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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Calling All Survivors—Reminder

Thank you to those who read the previous Buzz post and contributed your words and reflections for the upcoming Child Safety Sunday. We would still like to have a few more submissions. If you have survived physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse or neglect, we are inviting your wisdom and input for an upcoming worship service on November 12. We invite you to write or type anonymously, and carefully place your response in one of the pastor's mailboxes. It would be most helpful to receive submissions by November 5. The questions to prompt your response are:

- What is it like to try to heal and be restored?
- What are the challenges in the healing journey?
- What are ways the church has let you down in this journey? What are ways the church has supported you?
- When you read the passages Ezekiel 47:6-12 and Revelation 22:1-7 how can you help others understand the river of life?

Thank you for walking this journey with your community. —*Pastor Katie Misz*

Ecuador Learning Tour Information Session

Are you interested in joining a Learning and Fellowship tour to Ecuador in 2018?

The Ross Richer family will be returning to the rain forest to accompany indigenous pastors and community leaders for another six-month term in December.

You are invited to join us on a two-week "Learning and Fellowship Tour" in early March or a ten-day "Mission Adventure Tour" during the first week of April 2018 (Spring break).

We will connect with believers in a South American context while exploring one of the most biodiverse places on earth. What does it mean to follow Christ in the Amazon Basin? Come find out!

Attend an Information Session at Waterford Mennonite Church next Sunday evening, October 29, at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about these opportunities.

Traveling to Benin

Thursday, October 26, we will fly to Benin Africa. It is two eight-hour flights, which from my experience is a test of endurance in itself. Several good books should help to remedy that problem. Some sleeping pills may help as well.

I have enjoyed meeting and interacting with our Benin guests when they have visited so it will be good to see them in their world and points of reference. I hope to join my brothers and sisters in worship, friendship and community building. New cultures always offer new learnings and I want to take in all that is available. Not knowing the language and culture will put us in a vulnerable place, which can be very uncomfortable but also a good time for learning. I want to be a gracious receiver and hope not to embarrass myself too much. I'm so grateful to know we will have an interpreter to help us understand each other.

I look forward to hearing and learning about the challenges and dreams our Benin friends have. I wonder how we will encourage each other. I wonder what the growth will be.

Thank you to Waterford church for making this trip possible. —*Velma Swartz*

Mentors/Mentees

On November 12, at 8:00 a.m., there will be a carry-in breakfast in the fellowship hall for mentors and mentees. Mentors will be bringing the food (mentees will bring food at the January breakfast). Each pair will be asked to spend a short time by themselves to work on a yearly evaluation, and then they can interact with other pairs. This is one of three such events planned for this year. Also, each pair can consider if they would like to partner with another pair (or work by themselves) to plan a summer or other event for your age group: 6th, 7th and 8th grade; 9th and 10th grade; and 11th and 12th grade. —*Len Harms*