



buzz

2017 Dwelling in the Word Series

This is now the eleventh year that Waterford has had an annual Dwelling in the Word worship series, in which we remain with a passage of Scripture from four to six weeks in order to go deeper with it. The first five years were all New Testament texts, but now four of the last five years have had us using texts from the Old Testament, including for this year's series from the third chapter of the book of Lamentations. This series, running August 20 thru September 10, will be titled "Lament: Catalyst for Hope."

So far 2017 has been a year of painful and polarizing events in the world, in our country, and even in churches. Although as Christians we are people of resurrection hope, even at celebration times like Easter, we recognize there are also always people experiencing agonizing and sometimes suffocating losses, making it hard to rejoice. It seems that hope and lament are constantly intertwined, and so it is in the book of Lamentations, which is not structured so as to neatly give us a happy ending. So the four Sundays of this series will indeed start us with the realities of deep lament and gradually move toward our hope in God. But we will work our way thematically, rather than sequentially, through the third chapter of Lamentations.

One feature you won't want to miss is the return of art before our eyes in worship. In 2009 when we dwelt with The Lord's Prayer, our own member and artist Mark Daniels created a painting inspired by this series, and he painted it live during worship, right on the platform! By the way, that painting is on display on the wall just outside the church's Prayer Room (Room 15). Mark has agreed to try something like that again, with a unique artistic twist. If you're curious, look up the word "diptych."

In order to help us enter a portion of Scripture that is difficult to enter easily or casually, we the pastors will need your help. Without stories of real lament

and finding real hope, this series may still feel distant and ancient to us. We invite you to be courageous enough to share a brief story of your own or that you're familiar with, of deep lament. Did you experience tragedy, catastrophe, hopelessness, depression? It can certainly be a story that ends with how God provided you with hope. But it can also be a story that is yet looking for the happy ending ... one that isn't yet resolved ... or even one in which you honestly struggle to see God and find hope, as much as you want to. This will not be a time to cast judgment on those who "don't have enough faith." If speaking in front of a crowd is too intimidating, we could interview you in advance. Or you could write the story out to be told by someone else, even anonymously to the congregation if you identify yourself to a pastor. We would like to share at least some of these 5 to 7 minute stories within this series, and especially on the last Sunday, September 10.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz

Welcome Baskets

Waterford Mennonite Women are again collecting Welcome Basket items for new-to-Goshen College international students. We appreciate your help filling these baskets. All items are to be new and gender-neutral. Colorful comforters are ready and will be beside each basket list on a table near the library, along with signup lists. Please have your contribution(s) on this table by Sunday, August 13 so completed baskets may be awaiting each recipients' arrival.

Students give back without money

When you're young, you often want to share with others but don't have an overflowing bank account. College student Elise Romero shared ways that students can still contribute to their community at everence.com/Give-back-without-spending-money.

MCUSA Orlando Convention

Despite the heat, the Waterford MYF enjoyed a fun and enriching week together in Orlando at the 2017 Mennonite Convention. The week consisted of seminars and worship, along with time to relax and to get to know each other better. Thank you to the congregation for your generosity and many donations that made this trip possible.



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