



buzz

Dreaming and Discerning



Exciting things are happening at Waterford Mennonite Church and all are invited to participate in this time of dreaming and discerning as together we work toward a new congregational Directional Statement! During the past several months

Ministry Leadership Council and the Pastoral Team have spent time reflecting on the recent past at WMC, as well as inviting God's Spirit to guide our steps into the next three to five years. As we have gathered around tables we have discerned the beginnings of a new directional statement that would carry us toward 2022. The summary statement is:

We believe that God has created us to be in relationships with God, others in our faith community, in our local settings, and in God's beloved world. During the next five years we will seek to actively and joyfully engage in ongoing faith formation in each of these realms.

Just as a stone falls into water and sends out concentric ripples, we recognize how each realm impacts and informs the next. We begin with our Creator God at the center as the beginning point of transformation and then move outwards according to the way of Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit.

I offer a special thank you to Jordan Graber Kauffman who has captured the essence of this summary statement in an engaging artistic logo. The circles remind us of the four realms in which we desire to embrace faith formation and experience the strengthening of relationships.

During the month of September there will be weekly bulletin inserts to invite everyone (all ages encouraged!) to reflect on how we have already experienced growth in each of these realms. The backside of

the insert will then prompt us to embrace the true gift of dreaming! We are a thriving congregation and are being gifted with the space to dream of our future, and to discern what God's plans are for us here at WMC. We desire to hear from everyone their reflections and their dreams! We plan to capture this vital information in two ways. Each Sunday in September please come with several words to highlight from your weekly reflections by adding those words to the large posters in the foyer. Then we will gather around tables at our congregational meeting following the noon meal on October 1. During this time we will share updates from the August 29 meeting with MLC, Pastoral Team, and Lay Ministry Partners where these groups will also work at our new directional statement. In addition we will have time to share in table groups where we sense God is leading us into the future.

I invite you to joyfully and eagerly join the dreaming and the discerning as well as to commit yourself to be in prayer for this process. I am excited to see and hear together God's exciting plans for Waterford Mennonite Church!

—Cindy Voth, pastor of community life

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale

The 50th Annual Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale will be held September 22–23 at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds. That is less than two months away! Are your donations ready? Items for Quilt Auction need to be donated before September 1. Items for Online Auction – September 8, Faithful Giving Auction – September 11 and Children's Auction – September 22 by 6:30 p.m. Please contact Carolyn Kauffman (574-537-8716 or cdkauff@gmail.com) for pickup or with questions.

Donations plus hundreds of volunteers help make this sale possible. Waterford has had an integral part in making the Relief Sale a success. Our congregation has been in charge of three different areas:

continued on back

continued from front

Sausage Tent

Byron Yoder has chaired the sausage tent for many years! Sausage is fried for sausage sandwiches and the Saturday morning breakfast. Approximately 20 volunteers, working two-hour shifts, are used throughout the weekend. Volunteers' primary job is to arrange cut links of sausage in the baskets to be fried. Someone else does the frying. The work is not heavy. Byron is also looking for someone to co-chair this booth. Please consider if this is the position for you.

Dairy Bar

Aaron Lehman and Al Zimmerman chair this booth. Menno tea, pop, water and ice cream are sold. Approximately 20 – 24 volunteers, working two-hour shifts are used throughout the weekend.

Popcorn

Kevin and Lorene Miller provide leadership for this booth, which sells various Yoder Popcorn products to take home as well as freshly popped for eating at the sale. Additionally, children and parents roam the Saturday auctions, selling popcorn and drinks. Approximately 12 adults and 8 – 10 children are needed to work in two-hour shifts throughout the weekend.

Please consider if you would like to volunteer for one of these areas. If you have questions, talk to one of the chairpersons. Sign-up sheets will be available in early September.

Ecuador Mission: What's Next?

You are invited to attend an evening of listening, learning and renewal of commitments to support the mission and ministry of Jane, Jerrell, Sierra, Naomi, Teresa and Jordan Ross Richer. With the doors now opening to return for a second three-year term of service, we will hear of exciting new developments taking place in their calling to serve among the Cofán community in the Ecuadorean rain forest.

What: Ecuador Mission: What's Next?

Who: Jane & Jerrell Ross Richer and the Ecuador Ministry Support Team

When: Sunday, September 17, 2017

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Ice cream in the Fellowship Hall

6:30 – 7:45 p.m. Gathering and Presentation

Where: Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 S.R. 15

Goshen, IN 46526

574-533-5642

Agenda

1. Opening welcome
2. Greetings from Mennonite Mission Network
3. Reflections from Latin America by Luis Tapia
4. "Ecuador Mission: What's Next?" Jane & Jerrell will share their vision for the next three years of ministry among indigenous Christians in the Rain Forest
5. Invitation for Renewed Prayer and Financial Commitments
6. Closing Prayer



Men's Prayer Sunday School Class

Hello Waterford. I wanted all of you to know about the calling I have been feeling for some time to start a new Sunday School class. The format I am proposing is modeled in part after the Praying Companions Sunday School class for women that my wife Ruth attends.

The calling I have felt is to provide a place for men whose wives are serving during the nurture hour, single men, or men who just need prayer to join me on Sundays for a time of sharing and prayer. While there may be some men who will value participating in a time like this every week, I expect some will only be able to join us in-between other commitments they have during the nurture hour. There also may be others who join us on weeks when they feel a prompting to pray or to share something that is heavy on their heart.

The constant for this gathering will be me leading the time of prayer and reflection, but otherwise men are free to come whenever they are able to or in need of prayer. I will be in the designated meeting place every Sunday which for now will be in the room across from the Koinonia room. I am proposing to call this group "Prayer Partners" and as I mentioned previously, I view the group in part as a bookend to the "Praying Companions" class for women. I am open to suggestions for other names :). Please contact me with any questions at andrewrh@goshen.edu or 574-238-8735 or just join us on Sunday!

—Andrew Hartzler

Safe Spaces Trainings for Nursery, Children and Youth Helpers

The Family Life Ministry Team will be offering Safe Spaces trainings in September. All volunteers with children and youth who have not previously attended a training are required to attend. This is for mentors, nursery workers, Sunday School workers, Wednesday night sponsors, VBS volunteers, etc. Re-trainings are required every three years. There will be four options for attendance:

September 17 – 1st service (8 a.m.)

September 17 – nurture hour (9:30 a.m.)

September 24 – nurture hour (9:30 a.m.)

September 24 – 2nd service (10:45 a.m.)

All trainings will take place in the room right outside the kitchen in the fellowship hall.

Thanks for serving with the children and youth at Waterford!

—Pastor Katie Misz

Coming Soon to Children's Nurture Time

Many of you who are reading this have already demonstrated your recognition of the reality that church is not immune from the trauma of abuse of children and other vulnerable individuals. You have participated in discussion and training to be aware of the ways in which we at WMC are striving to be a hospitable and safe congregation. You have agreed that there are things to be done to make our space safe for all and have bought into the plan in place to be a safe congregation.

During the conversations that have come about during these trainings, it has been clear that giving children tools to help themselves should also be a priority here at WMC. So the Family Life Ministry Team (FLMT) has a plan to use Dove's Nest Ministry's curriculum to provide these tools. Dove's Nest is an MCUSA organization that provides materials without charge for MC congregations. FLMT has plans to use the curriculum for two Sundays in November. There are plans to have a representative from Dove's Nest here at WMC on August 27 to give our teachers a workshop to help implement the curriculum. The training time will include sample lessons.

A key concept of the Dove's Nest lessons is oft repeated, and is referred to as the child's Circle of Grace, which is also the name of the curriculum. This is defined as the spherical space around each individual as far as the arms can reach. Children are taught to know and honor this "circle" where God is always present. Children also learn that some feelings of discomfort about what happens in that space may be a prompting from God's spirit. Even from a young age, they are able to recognize those feelings and share them with a trusted adult.

Another article will be forthcoming that will provide more information about the Circle of Grace curriculum. Each year, a time will be made to do the lessons with our children, preschool – 12th grade. For our youth, the curriculum teaches middle and high school students about bullying, safe technology use, and building healthy relationships.

Also, this year, there will be a Sunday worship devoted to listening to and responding to the pain and trauma of victims of abuse. This is currently planned for November. Please feel free to ask questions you may have of any member of the FLMT.

With deep love for the children and families at Waterford,

Pastor Katie Misz, FLMT pastor;
Ron and Vicki Weirich, FLMT lay ministers



Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
p: 574 533-5642
f: 574 533-0879
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Staff Team

Administrative Ministry

- Greg Hire
*Coordinator of
Ministry Gifts*
- Karen Hostetler
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- Janet Shoemaker
*Coordinator of
Administrative Ministries*

Facilities Ministry

- Jan Oostland
Facilities Manager
- Courtney Shetler
Custodian
- Irma Perez
Custodian

Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz
Pastoral Team Leader
- Katie Misz
Pastor of Family Life
- Velma Swartz
Pastor of Senior Ministries
- Cindy Voth
Pastor of Community Life

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.

Sophie Miller,
editor; 574 534-0000
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

Anxiety as a Doorway to Vitality

Since fear is one of the most common human emotions, it follows that it can also be one of the most useful. Unchecked, anxiety limits the outflow of healthy emotional energy and restricts freedom to love, whether that is individuals or groups or nations. Noticed and used to deepen trust in that which is solid, dependable, and life-giving, it frees one to love (value everyone/everything) more and more fully, which is the greatest gift we can be given.

In this group we will learn to talk about, accept and embrace anxiety, however it is presently experienced in the myriad of ways it manifests, and use the sense of non-judgmental presence with each other to explore the paths towards greater release and freedom to live.

God is never anxious because God is Love, and there is no room for anxiety (fear) in love. The Body of Christ is meant to be a place where we can honestly own and face our fears and, with the support of each other, be transformed into passionate lovers of all that is good.

This group would meet for 1½ hours (7:00 – 8:30 p.m.) either the third Tuesday of the month or the third Thursday, Sept – May 2018. If you have interest/questions contact Sheldon Swartz before **September 10** by texting or calling 574-533-2812 or emailing at sheldon@lifeda.com.

Stephen Ministry Training Begins

August 30 marks the beginning of 50 hours of training for Helen Bowman, Rachel Brennehan, Anita Myers and Marge Gingerich from WMC; Marilee Schoolcraft from College Mennonite; Laverne Nafziger and Carla and Alan Weldy from Berkey Ave. Mennonite Fellowship. Pray for them as they commit themselves to learning the skills of this caring ministry.

Psalm of Corporate Lament

Angry, ugly crowds shout loudly,
Battling each other's ideology.
Caught in a tug-of-war,
Drowning in an ocean of hate;
Encouraged by the lack of justice
Factions thought long silenced
Gain ground and
Hiss bigotry, supremacy, and hate
In the atmosphere of violence.
Justice seems dead and those who
Knock on justice's door
Look into empty chambers of doom.
Our hearts grow heavy, and find
No place of ease. No place for change.
On all sides we find unrest, injustice,
Poverty, abuse, death, destruction. The
Questions circle in our heads;
our hands useless. We
Rely on you, O Lord, to save us; to
Save us from this
Troubling time.
Unleash your justice and let us
View your power and righteousness.
We know, even in the silence,
you hear us.
Xamine our hearts, and shower us with
Your grace, your love, and your peace.
We wait...not always patiently,
But we wait until the **end**...in halting
hopefulness.

—Anonymous