

Waterford Mennonite Church | November 19, 2017

buzz

Worship Series Preview

As some of you are thinking about (or trying not to think about) the fact that the commercial Christmas season is upon us, well before we've celebrated Thanksgiving, does "Yes! Let it be!" express your inner response? Whether or not you bring yourself to anticipate the coming season with those words, that is the worship theme for our six Sundays of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, beginning on Dec. 3. The series emphasis this year is drawn from Mary's response to an angel in Luke 1:38, where she says, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

In the series, we will explore the nature of Mary's response (and our own) to God's surprising plan and activities in this world. Perhaps Mary is not as meek and mild as you may have thought. An alternate expression of this theme will be the prayer that we will be invited to make to God: "Bring it on, God!"

There will be at least two unique visual elements you may look forward to in this series. First, our own Lydia and Jeremiah Voth will have even more in common with the baby Jesus this year. Not only do all three have birthdays on Dec. 25, but they all have earthly daddies who are good woodworkers. So without giving too much away, our children can look forward to learning from and seeing a carpenter at work during children's time in Advent. Secondly, there will be coloring pages for everyone, not just the children, included as bulletin inserts this year. Adult coloring books are becoming quite a craze, and there will be thematic images of Mary for you to color in as you worship. We might even make a larger display from these completed pages. So don't forget to bring your colored pencils or markers along to church in December. You're never too old to color!

Worship ministry team is also looking for persons willing to light the Advent candle[s] during the Advent/Christmas season, beginning December 3

through January 7. There is no speaking involved. This would be only for whichever service you plan to attend, on one Sunday. Please sign up at the participation station today or by the 26th.

There are three more things for special note in this season:

- The annual children's Christmas program will be at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday the 10th, with finger foods to follow.
- Due to when Christmas falls on the calendar this year (on a Monday), we will not have an evening Christmas Eve service on Sunday the 24th. A choice of two worship services that morning will probably be enough for most families, given other special family gatherings that usually happen. But some of the special elements of our traditional Christmas Eve service (lit candles, a rhythm of Scripture, carols and silence) will still appear in our Sunday morning worship on the 24th.
- Our Christmas brunch will still happen during the nurture hour on Dec. 31, when we have our full Christmas worship service. Bring it on, God!

Thank You

Thank you for the pretty flower plant that Len and Loanne brought to me after my shoulder replacement surgery. So far it's going well but I haven't started the tough therapy yet! I'm learning to do a lot with my left hand!

—Karen Sommers

Thank You

Thank you to the church for the lovely plant you gave to us in memory of my mother's death. And, thanks for all the many kindnesses extended to us during this difficult time!

—Carol and Gary Shetler



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

- Karen Hostetler
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- Janet Shoemaker
Coordinator of Administrative Ministries
- Mel Claassen
Business Manager
- JD Smucker
Worship Coordinator

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; 574 903-9158
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

Prayer Partners

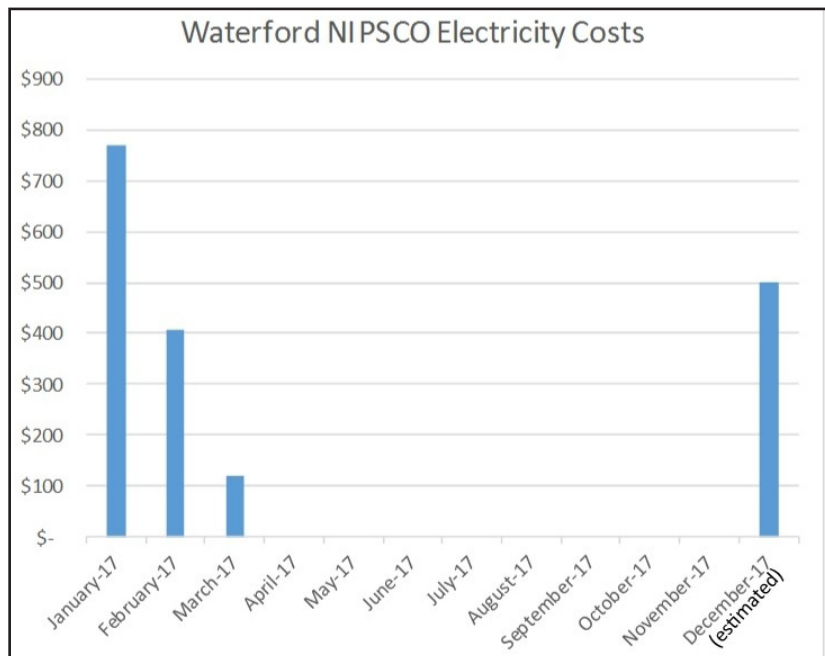
Hello again Waterford. In September I began a new nurture hour format entitled “Prayer Partners”. My initial vision was to provide a space for men to share and pray as a bookend to the Praying Companions class for women. In the months of September and October I found a number of people outside the nurture hour rooms that were interested in praying with me, both men and women.

At this point I feel that perhaps my call for the nurture hour time is to be available to pray with anyone who needs prayer on that particular Sunday, including men, women, and children. I will head to pastor Velma’s office at the beginning of nurture hour and will pray there with anyone who needs prayer that day. If you would rather just tell me your prayer request, you can email it to me during the week at andrewrh@goshen.edu or you can stop by Velma’s office at the beginning of nurture hour and pass along your prayer request before heading to your class.

It has been a blessing serving and worshipping with all of you and I look forward to the opportunity to pray with you.
—Andrew Hartzler

Solar Energy Production and Savings

The Solar Array continues to produce clean electricity, saving money. Over the past year, we have produced over 59,000 kWh of power. For eight consecutive months, Waterford hasn’t purchased a single kWh of electricity from NIPSCO! As we enter the short days and dreary skies of winter, our Solar Array will continue to turn God’s precious sunlight into power.



Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund Committee met on October 19 to review the four applications we received this fall. The committee had a working distribution amount of \$4450 and awarded the following amounts:

- Goshen Resident ID card: Elkhart County HOPE Network of the Center for Healing and Hope \$1,000
- Current Habitat Home Build: Habitat for Humanity of Elkhart County \$2,800 (covers cost of the roof)
- Purchase of Additional Building Space: The Window, Inc. \$550
- Support for Ministries of Mennonite World Conference: Mennonite World Conference \$100

Please feel free to contact one of the Endowment Fund Committee members to learn more about these exciting projects.

April 1 will be the due date for the next set of proposals. Applications can be downloaded at www.waterfordchurch.org under resources/endowment fund application and can be submitted to Jeff Miller.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share resources with others to help build the Kingdom of God.

—WMC Endowment Committee: Neil Amstutz, Tim Burkholder, Dave Hostetler, Jeff Miller, Kathy Myers, Jon. Wieand