

# buzz

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## Back by Popular Demand: Holy Humor Sunday

Last year some of you couldn't wait for Holy Humor Sunday, and others of you were pleasantly surprised when this unorthodox Sunday did not take the church to hell in a handbasket.

This year our Holy Humor Sunday at Waterford will be on April 8, following a tradition that many churches mark on the first Sunday after Easter, when God played the greatest joke ever on Satan. This will be a Sunday to celebrate the healing power of laughter amidst our new life in Jesus Christ. We anticipate still encountering our holy God in worship, but, in recognition of God's sense of humor, we also plan to not take ourselves too seriously.

Here's what's on order (without giving away all our secrets):

- We start by inviting everyone to come to church wearing a funny hat or some silly clothes. Leave decorum (and your Sunday best) at home. If you already look funny, you'll be better able to receive "funny."
- Highlight of the morning will be the Waterford Clean Joke Contest, with our Top 10 Jokes submitted from the congregation itself. (See separate article in this issue.)
- Our preacher will be Philip Habecker, Waterford member and teacher in Concord Community Schools, who doesn't let the seriousness of life stand in the way of his students' education.
- Our worship leader Veronica Berkey, and song leader Nick Stoltzfus, will keep us on our toes.
- In addition to the joke contest, younger children can expect to contribute (and share) some of their favorite knock-knock jokes in worship. Children's Cluster will help them with this.

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## Elective Class: Study of *The Great Spiritual Migration*

What does your faith trajectory and journey as a Christian look like? Are there questions in your mind about the way Christianity is practiced in North America today? Is there hope for the church in the midst of a polarized society? An elective class will explore these kinds of questions by studying Brian McLaren's most recent book, *The Great Spiritual Migration*. Luke Gascho will be leading this series in eight sessions from April 8 through May 27, 2018.

Brian McLaren argues that Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun. McLaren challenges readers to stop worrying, waiting, and indulging in nostalgia, and instead, to embrace the powerful new understandings that are reshaping the church. In *The Great Spiritual Migration*, he explores three profound shifts that define the change:

- Spiritually, growing numbers of Christians are moving away from defining themselves by lists of beliefs and toward a way of life defined by love.
- Theologically, believers are increasingly rejecting the image of God as a violent Supreme Being and embracing the image of God as the renewing Spirit at work in our world for the common good.
- Missionally, the faithful are identifying less with organized religion and more with organizing religion—spiritual activists dedicated to healing the planet, building peace, overcoming poverty and injustice, and collaborating with other faiths to ensure a better future for all of us.

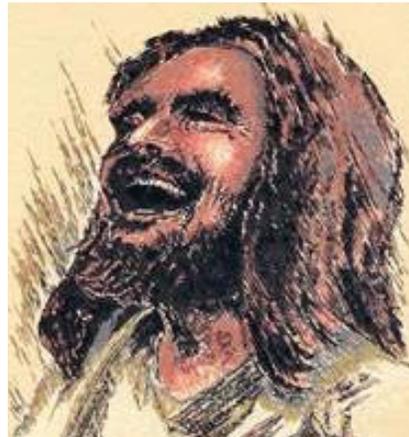
Warning: Some parts of this study may be disturbing! Be prepared for unsettling and honest conversations.

The church will subsidize the purchase of the book. Please sign up at the Participation Station and indicate whether you need a book.

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May God's Spirit enter deeply within us, while helping to expel our heaviness with the lightness of laughter and the goodness of God.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz,  
for HHS planners Ruthie Saunders,  
Chris Judson, Amanda Stoltzfus,  
Veronica Berkey and Philip Habecker



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## Clean Joke Contest

In the spirit of Holy Humor Sunday at Waterford on April 8, we will be holding the Waterford Clean Joke Contest 2.0. Here is your chance to get involved:

- We are soliciting jokes in advance from all ages. This can also include other humorous artistic expressions like limericks, haikus or memes. A stellar panel of Waterford attenders will select the “Waterford Top Ten” to be revealed in the worship service.
- Deadline for submissions is Sunday, March 25, 2018.
- Send submissions to [csjudson@gmail.com](mailto:csjudson@gmail.com)
- Rules for jokes are as follows:
  1. Jokes must be G-rated
  2. Jokes must not insult other people or God
  3. The panel of judges will have the final word on joke acceptability

## Change of Address

Martha Heath has moved to Greencroft Healthcare, Room 140.

## Thank You

On behalf of Jill, Anusha, and Navya, we want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers as they experience the loss of their father and husband. We ask that you continue to hold them in the light in these next days and weeks as they say goodbye to their home in Sudan and their beloved family community. Jill and the girls will arrive in the states Thursday, March 15. They will be in Goshen to await the birth of Anuraj and Jill's third child who is due the middle of June. Plans beyond that are indefinite.

With gratitude,  
Steve and Emily Landis

## Endowment Fund Reminder

Applications for The Waterford Mennonite Church Endowment Fund will be accepted until April 1, 2018. As a reminder, the fund exists to further the ongoing mission of the church by providing a vehicle for above-budget gifts to be invested for the church's work. A complete copy of the Endowment Fund Guidelines can be found under the big bulletin board or at [www.waterfordchurch.org](http://www.waterfordchurch.org). Please feel free to talk to one of the committee members if you have any questions and submit the applications to Jeff Miller.

## Books Available

The pastoral team has just recently completed a study of the book *Blessings for Leaders: Leadership Wisdom from the Beatitudes*, by Dan Ebener. The author “weaves an understanding of [the Beatitudes] with insights drawn from his experience developing faith-filled leaders in churches, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.” There are several copies of this book available for anyone interested in exploring the issue of being an effective leader and creating leaders as a person of faith. Please let the office know if you would be interested in such a resource. Contact Janet at [office@waterfordchurch.org](mailto:office@waterfordchurch.org) or 574-533-5642.