



Waterford Mennonite Church | May 20, 2018

# buzz

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## Your Opportunity to Help a Dreamer!

During the immigration information sessions that were held at Waterford last Winter, the most common question asked by attenders was “What can I do to help immigrants in my community?” A close follow up was “How can we help Dreamers?”

Here is a great opportunity to help Latino Dreamers and the Goshen community, and to learn to know some Goshen College Latino students. Goshen College has taken the lead in providing education and development resources for First Generation Latino students. Latino students attending Goshen College have a much higher graduation rate than other Indiana schools (71% vs 36-46% for other colleges), and most impressively, 90% of Goshen College’s Latino graduates since 2008 have stayed in Indiana (the majority in Elkhart County), contributing to the local and state economy.

The third annual Latino Scholarship Dinner will be held at 7 p.m. On Friday, June 1, in the Fellowship Hall of College Mennonite Church. The WMC HOPE Team is hoping a few Waterford people will combine funds and sponsor a Waterford table at the dinner. This festive event will include music, fine dining and comments from community and college leaders. The “stars” of the evening, however, will be local students and alumni who will share inspirational stories of what college has meant to them as well as their career dreams.

If you are interested and want more information, please see Bill Swartzendruber, or go to the HOPE table in the foyer, where you’ll find a Sponsorship Invitation letter from the dinner co-chairs, President Stoltzfus, Rebecca Kubacki and Isaac Torres, and a list of sponsorship levels. At the Contributor level each seat is \$100; and a full table for 8 is \$700 (\$87.50 each).

Goshen College has set the ambitious goal this year of raising \$100,000 for scholarships of \$2,500 each

for students of Latino heritage who have financial need, have maintained satisfactory academic standing and agree to provide service to the Latino community (such as mentoring Latino high school students or volunteering to help immigrants). This is a direct and very satisfying way for you to welcome the strangers among us while benefiting Goshen College and the Goshen Community.

## Deepening Relationships in Open Spaces

We are just two weeks away from beginning our shared sabbatical journey! We have all been created for relationships, and they are essential to each of us. At the same time we can easily acknowledge that relationships take work, time, and energy. Sometimes relationships are painful or messy. Other times relationships are sources of joy or contentment. During our shared sabbatical journey we will all be exploring ways to intentionally strengthen our relationships with God, ourselves, others, and all of creation.

June 3 will be our kick off Sunday when all the fun and excitement begins! On this day we will begin our summer worship series on healthy relationships as we look at the story of Jacob at Bethel (Reminder: worship at 9 a.m., nurture hour at 10:15 a.m.). Within our worship service we will have a prayer of blessing for Pastor Cindy and her family as they prepare to embark on their adventures apart from us. Also within worship we will be receiving our notebooks to be used to collect our reflections and memories during our shared journey.

Our joint nurture hour for June and July will also begin on June 3 as the Koinonia Class will spend the hour getting to know our children ages 4 through 7th grade, and vice versa. It will be a fun and engaging setting to strengthen relationships within our faith community.

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Following Nurture Hour there will be a Fellowship Meal Picnic hosted by Agape and Koinonia. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets and a side dish and/or salad to share. Adult Nurture Ministry Team will be providing brats and hot dogs (and fixings), as well as brownies and ice cream for dessert.

I am praying for us all as we embark on this adventure together! May our God of love guide us as we consider ways we are being called to strengthen our relationships with God, ourselves, others, and all of creation. I am excited to hear the stories we will have to share when we gather again in September!

—Cindy Voth, Pastor of Community Life

Some of those from Waterford who have previously visited Benin met with Colombian missionaries, Felipe Preciado and Diana Cruz. Felipe and Diana shared during both services about their upcoming term with Mennonite Mission Network at La Casa Grande in Benin.

## Here in This Place; WMC Worship Survey

May 27 will be the third worship survey and the last for now. The questions for May 27 will be the following:

1. Do we ask too much of our volunteers when we have two worship services? (Those involved in music, worship leading, children's story, audiovisuals, that participate in both services.) Are you a volunteer in worship? If so, in what capacity?
2. How is personal comfort or convenience a deciding factor in which service you attend? In what way?
3. How do we do in the following areas?
  - lighting (can you see well?)
  - audio (can you hear speakers well?)
  - reading the screen (for music or responsive reading)

Thank you for your responses. This is helpful information for the Worship Ministry Team.



### 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

