



Waterford Mennonite Church | June 3, 2018

buzz

Conversation Starters

“If at the end of every day you were granted an extra hour to do anything you wanted, how would you regularly spend that hour?”

“What dessert do you think you could eat for a lifetime?”

“What are two of your deepest hopes, aspirations, or dreams?”

“Which of our dates have been some of your favorite? What made them so memorable?”

“What’s the silliest advice your mother ever gave you?”

This summer, during our shared sabbatical journey, all are invited into the intentional time and space of strengthening our relationships with God, ourselves, others, and all creation. In this Buzz you will read of various opportunities to embrace this intentionality within each of these realms.

Perhaps you are wondering just how you might go about strengthening relationships with others in your life. This could be with your friends, Sunday School Class or small group members, spouse, parents, siblings, children, grandchildren, etc. Beginning today there is a resource table in the foyer that is filled with various “Conversation Starters.” They come in various formats from books, to chat packs, to card decks, to a Couples Retreat Board Game. The italicized questions above are just a sampling of some of these questions that are meant to spark conversation and build connections with another.

All are invited to make use of these resources over the course of our shared journey. Simply stop by the resource table and check out an item to use in the upcoming week. Take it home, on your vacation, to your small group gathering, your dinner party – then pull it out and let the fun and engagement begin! Many

of the resources may be utilized for a wide range of relationships. Other resources are geared towards married relationships, or within a family system. At the resource table you will find a list that describes which resources are most appropriate for which relationships.

Luke and I used such resources during our dating days and in our early years of marriage. Now my family and I have been using such conversation starters for the past couple of years. We routinely pull them out at dinner (or on road trips) and take time to randomly select a question and then take turns answering them. We also have started a group text with our extended family and pose several questions a week via this technology. These conversation starters have led us into conversation topics, memory reflecting, and hopes sharing that we would not have naturally entered.

So, be sure to stop by the table throughout this journey and check out a resource to help deepen your relationships with others! My family and I will be taking some of these resources to use on our parallel journey. You just never know what questions will be asked, where the conversation will go, and what new connections will be made or deepened with those in your life!

–Cindy Voth, Pastor of Community Life

Adjusted Office Hours

In Cindy’s absence, Mariah Martin’s office hours will be Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you need to get in touch with her, the fastest means of communication is via text or phone call. If there is an emergency outside of office hours feel free to call. Mariah’s cell number will be listed on the back of the bulletin each week.



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
· Mariah Martin
*Interim 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

Wetlands Prayer Walk

One of the many exciting aspects of a Lilly Sabbatical grant is the inclusion of the congregation while the pastor is gone. Money from the grant Cindy wrote has been allotted for creating a Wetlands Contemplative Prayer Walk. Dave Hostetler has been busy building the posts for the seven stops along the walk. Each stop will open to reveal a short directive that may offer the reader a chance to draw near to God through nature. Each will suggest considerations in hopes of heightening one's imagination, and that through reflection and prayerful pursuit of

God one might gain insights into self and the world.

The walk has seven stops, but there will be no particular order, nor is it necessary to visit all the stops. Dave and I plan to install the posts this weekend and the walk should be open by June 9th. It is hoped that as one becomes involved with nature throughout the walk, one may see with wonder, respect and humility God's creative works in the open spaces of Waterford's wetlands.

—Loanne Harms

Supporting Pastor Katie's Ministry

As we head into the summer, we want you to be aware of two particular ways that Waterford is supporting Katie Misz's ministries as Pastor of Family Life:

- A few months ago we appealed to the congregation to give toward an Everence matching grant through the Lilly Foundation, for pastors' debt reduction. We are happy to report that people from Waterford gave \$3870 toward this project, which was matched by \$3000 from Lilly. Hurray for tangible ways to strengthen pastors' ministries!
- Another way we are standing by Katie's ministry is in a letter of request for ordination that was recently sent from our Ministry Leadership Council to Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. As the two years of Katie's ministry licensing expires in September, this will extend her ministry licensing while the regular process continues toward ordaining Katie for pastoral ministry through the Conference. We anticipate that this process may result in a joyful service of ordination sometime this fall, after Pastor Cindy's return from sabbatical.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz, on behalf of
Ministry Leadership Council

Open Retreat Space

June 7 through September 6

Have you dreamed of having a personal quiet space to explore your relationship with God??? Or perhaps you've never thought of that, but would like to sample a brief quiet retreat. For many of us there is no area in our home that we've been able to set aside.

As we begin sharing Cindy's sabbatical journey, a space will be available here at Waterford Church, Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for those seeking a quiet place to sit with God. A small circle of chairs will be in the front of the sanctuary on the right side as you look toward the pulpit. The chairs will adjoin a table holding several items, which may help enter the quiet. Nearby will be prayer guides for those who want to sit with photos, poetry, questions or quotes to help with contemplation and staying centered.

From 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. each Thursday, various leaders will be present for a time of what we hope will be a sampling of group contemplative prayer. We are praying we will be drawn closer to God's Holy Mystery and to one another in new ways . . . May you feel welcome.

—Rebecca Ramer