



Waterford Mennonite Church | August 26, 2018

# *buzz*

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## **Praying Companions**

Praying Companions is an intergenerational group of 3-10 women who are learning to “let go and let God.” Each of us has gone through challenging life experiences that have caused us to question where God is in our circumstances. Many of us struggle with the perception that the church is full of people who have their lives together. Since the lives we expected have crumbled under our feet, we wonder if we belong in the church. This Sunday school class dispenses with superficiality and creates a place to be real. Because we respect the confidentiality of what is shared in our class, we are able to drop our masks and pray each other through life’s challenges.

There is not a lot of structure in our Sunday school hour and attendance is fluid, because many of us travel often (for work or to keep up family relationships). We usually begin with a meditation, followed by exchanging our joys, answered prayers, and, yes, even miracles! We also tell each other about our challenges and fears. We stay engaged through the week with emails to report new twists and turns in our lives and share the joy of outcomes better than we could have imagined. We have had several weekend retreats with a resource person, book or theme and a more extended time of sharing and prayer. (We also laugh a lot.)

We welcome any woman who wants to join our class, whether it is just for one Sunday for sharing a burden you are carrying, or if you would like to spend more time with us – you will be received into a place of love and acceptance.

## **Thank You**

Thank you for another year of generosity in providing Welcome Basket items for three new Goshen College international students. These students agree to visit their gifting congregations sometime during their first semester so hopefully many of us will have opportunity to welcome them personally!

–Waterford Mennonite Women

Dear Waterford Church,

Thank you so much for your help and kindness during this time. We are so grateful that Mary had such a supportive, loving church family. The flowers were beautiful and enjoyed by all of us.

Sincerely,  
The Holsopples

To our sisters and brothers,

A big thank-you for your kindness and prayers, as my father, Les Shetler, entered into a new presence with our loving God on July 27. Thanks for your many cards and words of comfort and the beautiful plant given to us from our church family. Thank you also to the Agape Class for providing a meal for my siblings and their children. It meant so much to us!

–Gary and Carol Shetler, Courtney Shetler

## Baptism Sunday, August 19



### Waterford Mennonite Church

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#### Staff Team

##### Administrative Ministry

- Karen Hostettler  
*Secretary*
- Elvina Schmidt  
*Bookkeeper*
- Janet Shoemaker  
*Coordinator of  
Administrative Ministries*
- Mel Claassen  
*Business Manager*

##### 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  
(on Sabbatical)  
*Pastor of Community Life*
- Mariah Martin  
*Interim Pastoral Team  
Member*

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.

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Andrew Smucker, Cedric Brenneman, Miranda Pfahler, Samantha Stoltzfus, Teresa Ross Richer and Naomi Ross Richer make their baptismal vows before the congregation.



Pastors Katie and Neil pray over a newly-baptized Naomi Ross Richer.



Pastor Katie extends the hand of welcome into the body of Christ to Cedric Brenneman.



Josh Tyson leads singing by the baptismal pond.