



buzz

Finding Ways to Worship Comfortably at Waterford Mennonite Church

Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) has been working with the Worship Ministry Team (WMT) to reflect on the results of the recent survey regarding one or two worship services. To refresh your memory, the results of the survey, from a total number of 211 votes, were the following:

1. Definitely prefers one service: 44 (20.9 %)
2. Prefers one, can live with two: 77 (36.5 %)
3. Prefers two, can live with one: 70 (33.2 %)
4. Definitely prefers two services: 20 (9.5 %)

While we have been following a pattern of two services September through May and one service June through August, the survey shows that more of us would lean toward having one service. Based on this, we did some work to see how we could make that happen. At the time we did the survey, we entered the month of August still using one service. Since the school year has been starting earlier and earlier in August, most of the families had already begun their fall routines and you may recall that we exceeded our capacity with one service for August. We received significant feedback that having 280-300 in our present space is quite distracting and uncomfortable for many of us.

During the joint meeting of MLC and WMT, we explored the idea of holding one service January through July and two services August through December. After analysis of attendance during January through July we learned there are at least twelve times that we would exceed our capacity which would again be uncomfortable. It seems that attendance would need to be around 240 for one service to be comfortable in our current configuration. **So, we have concluded that we need to retain the two-**

service pattern for August (previously September) through May and use one service over the summer months of June and July.

MLC will commit to monitoring this situation and explore ways to help lighten the load on worship planners and worship participants, including our pastors, as we continue with two services. We will also try to determine attendance thresholds that would call for us to reconsider our current space configuration to allow us to worship in a comfortable manner while we live into the first part of our mission statement where "...we Welcome everyone to faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ, ..."

–Timothy Burkholder,
Congregational chair
on behalf of MLC and WMT

The Honeycomb – A Delightful Opportunity

You are invited to an evening of storytelling and music on Sunday, Nov. 4, here at Waterford, starting at 7:00. Jeff Raught will present *The Honeycomb: Musings of a life in song and story*. Jeff is a storyteller at heart. Seated at the piano as a musician, or on stage as an actor, he brings his love of story to a unique artistic dimension.

The Honeycomb "will combine stories of life and faith and weave them into something we all can relate to. Stories about being a dad, a husband, a son. Moms, Dads, laughter and loss, beginnings and endings. Training wheels, marriage, divorce, dancing, memory loss, Alzheimer's, funeral homes, beach balls, flying on Ferris Wheels, the occasional fart. He even has the audacity to talk about things like death . . . An honest look at a life filled with laughter and tears, sometimes all at once.

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What Do “Welcoming Spaces” Look Like?

Over the past few weeks, these regular columns have focused on the spiritual practice of generosity as we lead into a conversation about spaces that are welcoming to both regular attenders and visitors. In the next several weeks, we will focus on the types of needs that could be addressed through your generosity.

When people arrive at Waterford on a Sunday morning, one of their first impressions comes from the parking lot. Over the years, this space has served us well, but significant repairs are needed as we approach our next maintenance cycle.

Over the years, the lot has been resealed on numerous occasions. Several years ago, resealing was accompanied by grinding down the surface in areas where cracks were particularly noticeable, followed by refilling the space with additional asphalt.



However, the number of significant cracks continues to grow, both in size and in quantity, and this approach is no longer practical (see photo). In addition, the cracks have created a safety hazard, particularly for those using walkers or canes. Even some shoes can easily get caught, causing people to stumble.

As a result, we would like to complete a more significant resurfacing, adding 1-2 inches of asphalt on the entire parking lot to fill the cracks and provide a smoother surface.

This project would serve the church well in several ways. First, it will save in future maintenance costs. The lot will still need regular attention and resealing, but future work will likely be less expensive, since we won't need to deal with significant cracks. This savings will allow resources to be used for other ministry activities.

Second, a smoother surface will provide a safer and more inviting first impression. Currently, the grass growing up through cracks, for example, creates an image of disrepair. This impression is most noticeable for guests who visit during the week, when the lot has few vehicles.

Third, a resurfaced and clean lot provides opportunities for intentional striping. Ideas named include identifying parking spaces for visitors, the addition of a prayer labyrinth, and lines for playground-type activities such as four-square and basketball. If you have additional ideas, give them to facilities manager Jan Oostland.

At an earlier point, we considered resurfacing the parking lot before winter. We have since found that the contractor is booked well into the fall and that the quality of the project is enhanced if it is completed during warmer weather. As a result, we would not complete this project until the spring of 2019.

–Lyle Miller,
Welcoming Spaces 3.0 Coordinator

Sabbatical Sharing November 11, 2018 – a Two-way Happening

Thanks to the Lily Endowment grant, Pastor Cindy Voth enjoyed her recent sabbatical experiencing “Open Spaces.” Not only that, it was set up so that we as a congregation could be mindful of our “Open Spaces” during that same time. We are looking forward to a more complete reflection on Cindy’s sabbatical experience during nurture hour on November 11. This sharing will happen in the sanctuary.

While we will be hearing additional information, reflections, and learnings from Cindy, it would not be complete without hearing from those in the congregation who chose to engage in a similar-themed journey. Remember how we were aided by some of the summer correlating pieces (i.e. sermon series, resource table items, wetlands prayer walk/sanctuary retreat space, examen journals, monthly fellowship activities, etc.)? We would like those of you from the congregation who have stories, journal entries or pictures to be shared alongside Cindy’s sharing to register your interest with Janet in the church office by the end of October. That way we can plan the nurture hour to include as many of these as possible in the general review of all that happened in the congregation on this shared journey. In this way we could realize the dream of this shared experience as envisioned by Cindy when she applied for the grant.

Thanks for digging into your memory banks,

–Timothy Burkholder,
Congregational chair

New Book Additions to Waterford Mennonite Library

Mystics and Misfits: Meeting God through St. Francis and Other Unlikely Saints by Christina Peterson. In *Mystics and Misfits*, Peterson discovers that community life is never really simple and that she needs resources beyond her own to weather the anxiety and exhaustion of trying to save a dying farm and a floundering congregation.

Plantation Jesus: Race, Faith, and a New Way Forward by Skot Welch. The authors detail the manifold ways that racism damages the church's witness. The book nudges readers to learn the history, acknowledge the injury, and face the truth. Only then can the legacy of Plantation Jesus be replaced with the true way of Jesus Christ.

The Pastor Wears a Skirt: Stories of Gender and Ministry by Dorothy Nickel Friesen. The author, an ordained Mennonite pastor, digs deep into the soul of a pastor with humor, pathos, and passion. Her memoir, a collection of short stories is based on true events. She hopes this book will help you see beyond the "Bible wars" and deepen your faith that God generously gifts women for spiritual leadership.

Disarming the Church: Why Christians Must Forsake Violence to Follow Jesus and Change the World by Eric A. Seibert. Seibert builds a biblical and practical case for living nonviolently in all areas of life and urges Christians to reexamine their most fundamental attitudes toward violence, warfare, and killing. Many nonviolent alternatives are discussed throughout the book, alternatives that can be used in a wide range of situations. This book offers hope that a better way is possible, one that has the potential to transform the church and change the world.

The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border by Francisco Cantu. For Francisco, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and a daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Cantu joins the Border Patrol. Plagued by a growing awareness of his complicity in a dehumanizing enterprise, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. He discovers the full extent of the violence the border wreaks on both sides of the line.

Congo Shadows by John B. Franz. Nick Warren, an

ex-Missionary Kid, returns to his Congo homeland during the 1964 Simba rebellion on a quest to find his long missing father. The search exposes him and three friends to the horrors and moral dilemmas of war, challenging their resilience and basic beliefs. Their journey ends in Stanleyville, in captivity along with 1,600 expatriates. Danger, surprises and new spiritual insights await them.

Introduction to Russian Mennonites: A Story of Flights and Resettlements—to Homelands in the Ukraine, The Chaco, The North American Midwest, Germany and Beyond by Wally Kroeker. Mennonites in Russia? Invited by Catherine the Great to farm the Russian steppes—in exchange for exemption from military service—Mennonite emigrants from Polish Prussia and The Netherlands made their home in Russia. Some remain today; many more eventually left for North and South Americas and Europe. Nearly all retain memories and stories from that place—unbelievable prosperity for some; unspeakable terror for many; church tensions; struggles between the landed and the landless; exquisite clock making, storytelling, music making, and food. The book includes dozens of historic and contemporary photographs.

Fledge: Launching Your Kids Without Losing Your Mind by Brenda Yoder. Your kids are spreading their wings. In *Fledge*, counselor, educator, and mother Brenda Yoder helps Christian parents navigate the many transitions of the launching years. Your job as a parent isn't over; it's just changing. *Fledge* will help you release your children into the future that God has planned for them.

Worthy: Finding Yourself In a World Expecting Someone Else by Melanie Springer Mock. In *Worthy*, college professor Melanie Springer Mock sifts through the shape and weight of expectations that press Christians into cultural molds rather than God's image. Mock offers life-giving reminders that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Set free from the anxiety to conform to others' expectations, we are liberated to become who God has created us to be.

A Plain Leaving (The Sisters of Lancaster County Book #1) by Leslie Gould. Fiction.

A Simple Singing (The Sisters of Lancaster County Book #2) by Leslie Gould. Fiction.



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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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The Honeycomb (cont. from page 1)

In The Honeycomb, he is showing us ways to not only store up memories, but not be afraid to take them out and look at them, both the good and the bittersweet. Those moments we savor that are both sticky and sweet. Just like a honeycomb.”

The show will run approximately 80-90 minutes. As a side note, Jeff accompanies “Ted and Company” in some of his shows.

He hopes that you find some surprises in the work he is doing. So let’s fly on the Ferris wheel, take our hearts on the tilt-a-whirl.... And let’s take this ride together!

–Velma Swartz

The Honeycomb Show

By: Jeff Raught

You’ll say my name for the very last time.
 I’m not worried at all.
 I know where I’ll keep the sound of your voice.

Safe in the old honeycomb.... Sweet honeycomb.

Our stories unfold, some we hold,
 Onto longer than we should, we know. We all know.

Your hands let go, your heart already knows.
 The rope burns will heal, with time....it takes time.

It’s easier said than done.
 You feel like a worn out cliché drying up in the sun.
 You think you lost? Maybe you’ve won.

I want to tuck some away,
 (but) not out of my reach.
 There when I need them
 For that day.....someday

When you say my name for the very last time.

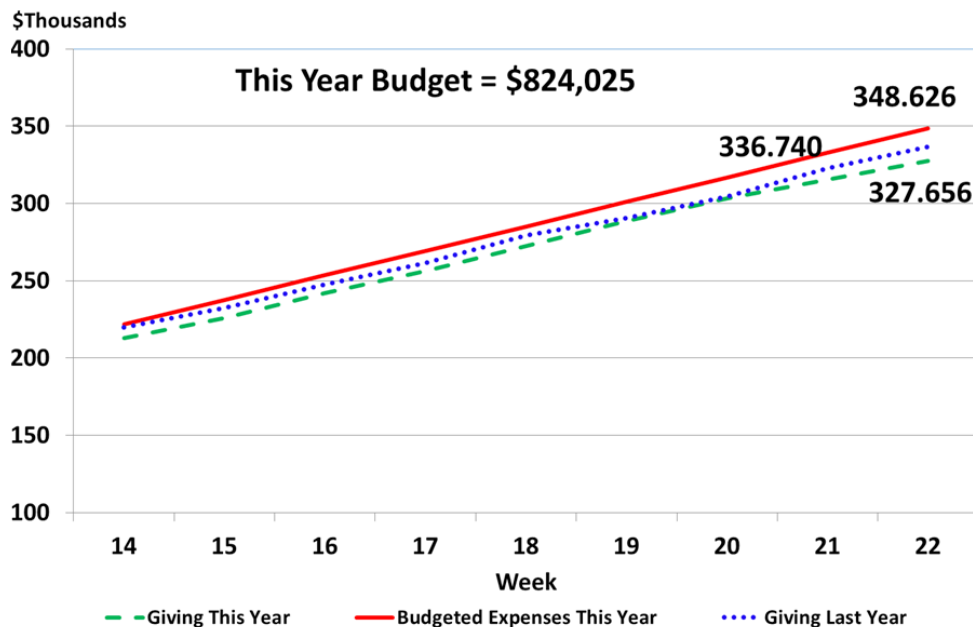
I won’t be worried at all.
 I know where I’ll keep all the things that you are.

Safe in the old honeycomb
 Sweet honeycomb.

Tree Planting

The Agape class will be planting a tree in memory of Dale Miller at 2 p.m. on October 21 in the front lawn of the church. All are invited to join in a time of remembering and honoring Dale.

Waterford Mennonite Church Cumulative Total Giving



Through the end of September, giving toward the WMC budget totaled \$327,656.

That compares to a YTD budget of \$348,626.

Giving toward the WMC budget at the same time a year ago was \$336,740.