



Waterford Mennonite Church | November 25, 2018

# buzz

## Help Provide Relief and Hope To Those In Need



Waterford Mennonite Women is asking the congregation for help to assemble Mennonite Central Committee **Relief Kits** during the Advent season. MCC provides valuable supplies to families whose lives have been disrupted by

war or disaster and this year the need for these kits is great. Last year, 24,530 relief kits were shipped to Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea), Iraq, Ukraine, Syria, Lebanon, Haiti, Burkina Faso and Canada.

### Kit contents (NEW items only)

- 4 large bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- Shampoo (1 or 2 bottles, totaling more than 20 oz; place in a resealable plastic bag)
- 4 large bars laundry soap (Fels Naptha, Sunlight, or Zote brands)
- 4 adult-size toothbrushes (in manufacturer's packaging)

- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 29 in x 60 in)
- 2 wide-toothed combs (6-8 in)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40, assorted)
- Sanitary pads (THIN; 1 or 2 packages, minimum 28 pads total)

You may choose to contribute a complete kit or bring items towards filling a kit. There are lists and individual item slips on the Relief Kits information table in the foyer. **Please bring your donations to the church on or before December 30.** During a dedication time on the 30th, WMC children will be asked to carry all donations to the platform and symbolically place them in a canoe for their journey to families in need around the world.

Donations will then be taken to the MCC Depot in Goshen, where each kit will be packed in a new five-gallon plastic pail for shipment.

If you prefer to give to MCC directly, you may do so at <http://donate.mcc.org>.

### **Nurture Hour Workshop Offered TODAY**

**What:** "Simple tools to increase your generosity amidst tax reform."

**When:** Sunday, November 25, during the nurture hour.

**Who should attend:** Folks of all ages and giving levels.

**Led by:** Lyle Miller, Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator and Everence Stewardship Consultant

## How Much Is All This Gonna Cost?

From time to time over the past few months, I've been asked how much the Welcoming Spaces 3.0 projects are going to cost. The most accurate answer is, "We don't know."

That's not because we've not done our homework. Rather, it's recognition that the timing and how things evolve combine to make it impossible to know in advance what the final cost of a project will be. When thinking about our three highest-priority components, for example, the parking lot would not be completed until next spring, so we cannot yet get a final estimate. As we've considered the potential cost of remodeling the entire fellowship hall, we've decided to focus on the north half (including the dividing wall), but some of the specifics are still to be determined. The specifications for adding a ramp are likely the closest to completion, but they, too, could change slightly as we move forward. In addition, we are inviting ourselves to consider helping other congregations provide Welcoming Spaces for their gathering and worship times (see *Creating Welcoming Spaces Far From Here, Too* on page 3).

Finally, while these are the highest-priority components of our project, other changes in our physical spaces could help us become more welcoming: the south half of the fellowship hall; other items related to physical accessibility; landscaping and exterior signage; energy efficient lights; and other items you may still be thinking of.

We've not yet worked to create estimates on the other items because they still need to be prioritized and processed, but based on what we know at this time, a current estimate for the highest-priority projects (including the tithe component) is still around the \$250,000 discussed last spring.

But that's not the goal.

The goal of this project continues to be to invite us to **grow in generosity as a thankful response to God's goodness in our lives and in ways that help us as a congregation to "welcome people to faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ."** We hope that each household will consider how – grounded in generosity, revealed in prayer, and living in faith – we might respond with the resources that have been entrusted to us. (And we are already thankful for the more than a dozen households which have already made a gift (or

two) or communicated the amount of a future gift!) If, along the way, we receive enough money to do two, three, four, or even 10 projects on our list, great!

We also recognize that this project begins in the second half of a fiscal year in which giving has decreased slightly from the previous year. It's our hope that the growth in our generosity will not detract from, but perhaps even enhance our giving to the ongoing mission and ministries of Waterford Mennonite Church.

In mailboxes next week, you will be receiving an invitation to give to this project. In your prayer life, in your meditation, and in your conversations with others, we encourage you to continue thinking about how you've experienced God's generosity and how God might be calling you to grow in your faith, including your generosity.

–Lyle Miller,  
Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator

## Koinonia Sunday School Class

The Koinonia Sunday School class, meaning "Fellowship" in Biblical Greek, is composed of 15-20 people between 25 and 40 years of age. We are an outgoing collection of people who enjoy walking together on our life paths. During SS class time, we share our joys and sorrows, engage with topics relevant to daily life in Goshen and the World. We are currently studying John Paul Lederach's book *Reconcile*, and have often worked through books, the quarterly and group discussion topics. Relationships, family, work, children, faith and accountability are at the forefront of who we are as a class.

In addition to SS time together, we are involved at Waterford as ministry team members, lay ministry partners, youth sponsors, music leaders, Pastor, teaching children's SS classes, putting together the Christmas program, Healthcare Resource Members, facility maintenance efforts, etc... Outside of church, we enjoy eating meals together, fellowship on Sunday evenings, supporting each other's hobbies, and assisting each other in times of need.

The Koinonia class is awesome – according to the latest polls. If you don't believe it, stop by the back of the fellowship hall and see for yourself!

–Aaron Lehman, On behalf of the  
Koinonia Sunday School Class

## Creating Welcoming Spaces Far From Here, Too

You have seen multiple articles from Lyle Miller relating to Waterford's generosity and to some of our facilities needs. In the spring we introduced the congregation to the main concepts in the Welcoming Spaces 3.0 campaign (WS 3.0), but since then church leaders have come to realize the potential for our generosity to tangibly benefit people around the world, and not just ourselves and those who come into our space. **We are proposing that we as a congregation "tithe" the funds that we raise in WS 3.0**, so that churches and church ministries beyond ourselves can grow and have improved facilities.

With the support of the Facilities & Finance and Mission & Service Ministry Teams, we specifically propose that a tenth of the funds raised in this campaign be split to support two kinds of bricks-and-mortar ministries around the world: 1) **The Join Hands program** of Mennonite Men, and 2) **A Shipibo Mission Center** for ministry with Christian leaders of the Shipibo indigenous people in the Amazon jungles of Peru. Here are some brief descriptions of these ministries, followed by a summary of plans for how Waterford will be informed of and given the chance to vote on this tithing proposal:

Mennonite Men is a denominational ministry of Mennonite Church USA, which includes the Join Hands program. This program provides \$40,000 grants to assist churches to buy or build their first church facility. These North American church plants are often for congregations primarily composed of immigrants and people of color, although some grants have also assisted churches in other countries.

In addition, a new ministry opportunity came to the attention of Mission and Service Ministry Team in September through Rebeca Rivadeneira, a friend of Waterford member Pat Lehman, whom she met when serving as a Goshen College SST unit leader in Peru. Rebeca and her husband Roger Marquez, who is indigenous Shipibo, have a heart and vision for mission among Roger's own Shipibo people. Roger and Rebeca have a house in the city of Pucallpa, Peru which they envision using as a lodging and training center for local Christian leaders from Shipibo villages. But the house needs structural repair and remodeling for such use. Waterford's support would allow this work to proceed via Peruvian workers.

We propose that our WS 3.0 tithe would be split 50-50 between these two projects, up to the estimated \$9,100 cost of the work on the Shipibo Mission Center. Tithed funds beyond that would all go toward the Join Hands Program. These proposed tithes were not part of the presentation in May which the congregation approved for initially proceeding with WS 3.0. So here's what is planned for the church to learn about and vote on these proposals:

- December 2 in worship services will have God's Work Among Us time presented by Steve Thomas, Director of Mennonite Men organization. He will describe the Join Hands program and its impact.
- In December 9 worship services, Pat Lehman from our congregation will share, as God's Work Among Us, about the Shipibo Mission Center, her familiarity with it, and the impact it would have.
- On December 16 there will be time for a brief congregational vote following each worship service. The vote will be for approving a "tithe" of WS 3.0 funds raised, with tithes supporting the two ministries above.

We encourage you to listen closely to these two presentations, in order to see if they help you, too, catch a vision for how our facilities upgrade could also mean facilities upgrades for other Christians around the world.

–Pastor Neil Amstutz, for Facilities & Finance and Mission & Service Ministry Teams

## Thank You

Waterford Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful jade plant you gave me in the passing of my mother. When I look at it, I'll remember that we are not on this journey alone. Thank you for thinking of me in this time of grief. Your thoughtfulness means a lot.

Many Blessings,  
Cindy Gross

## Thank You For Helping With The Comforter Bash!

Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in the MCC Great Lakes Comforter Bash in Goshen. More than 400 people knotted 396 comforters over the two days of this fun-filled event. Thanks to you, people around the world will not only be kept warm but can go to sleep knowing that someone cares about them. Stay tuned for information about next year's Comforter Bash!

–Jennifer Steiner, MCC Great Lakes



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- Mel Claassen  
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##### Facilities Ministry

- Jan Oostland  
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- Courtney Shetler  
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- Irma Perez  
*Custodian*

##### Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz  
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- Katie Misz  
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- Velma Swartz  
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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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## Happy Thanksgiving!



Scared Turkey

