

Waterford Mennonite Church | January 27, 2019

buzz

Solar Panel Update

Have you found yourself lying awake at night wondering if Waterford's solar panels are happy and healthy? Of course you haven't. But fear not. I'm going to tell you about them anyway!

They are happy and healthy and producing the energy that we thought they would.

What we did:

In the summer of 2016, Waterford installed 180 solar panels and associated equipment. The goal of the system was to reduce Waterford's carbon footprint while paying for itself with utility savings.

What has it meant for us:

As of the end of 2018, the solar array has produced over 130,000 kilowatt-hours of power. This saved the church \$18,000+ in two years. We have been able to take the money budgeted for purchasing electricity and use it to pay for the solar array. Our budget hasn't changed, but instead of paying NIPSCO, we're paying for our panels! At the current rate, we should pay off the solar panels in 6-7 years.

What has it meant for the planet:

Another way of looking at the results of our efforts: we have saved 65 TONS of coal from being burned. This is approximately the amount of coal it would take to fill the prayer room. Whether that seems like a lot to you or not – I'm glad we fill it with prayer instead!

Did you know:

In case you didn't see this in the news a couple months ago, NIPSCO's new 10-year-plan calls for the elimination of coal and replacing it with renewable energy sources. The efforts of Waterford Mennonite Church and many, many more people and organizations like us have profoundly changed the landscape of energy production in America. Renewable energy is now recognized by even NIPSCO as less costly than oil, gas or coal over the long term.

—Aaron Lehman, on behalf of the Solar Panel Task Force: Mark Bowman, Josiah Ditzler, Daniel Graber, Lyle Miller, Jan Oostland, Georg Blaurock, the Sun, and the many other volunteers who made this happen!

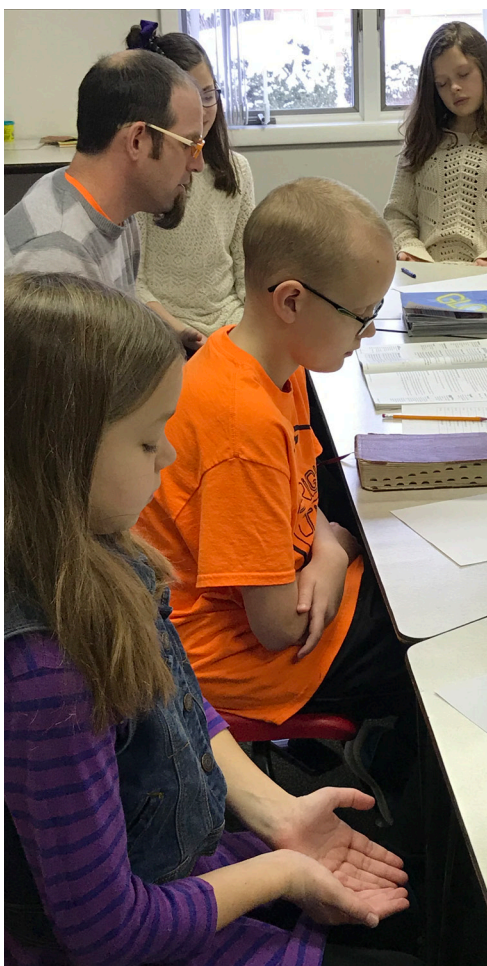
Welcoming Spaces 3.0: Experiencing God At Work

I am thankful for the gifts and leadership of the pastoral team and the supportive way they work together, for ways the gifts of children and youth are shared and encouraged, and for the widening of our vision through the Benin and Ecuador partnerships. I have experienced God at work especially in our worship together, through Stephen Ministry and through the spirit of serving one another that I have encountered at Waterford. Awareness of an increased focus on contemplative practices has also been meaningful for me.

—Liz Gingrich

Eat. Pray. HOPE. (again)

Waterford's HOPE team invites all to gather together who look for signs of hope during times in our country that feel dark and oppressive toward our immigrant and refugee neighbors. We will meet 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 30 in the fellowship hall. The focus of our gathered time will be on poetry (including parts of the Bible) and how it can express our pain and shape our hope. As part of this, resident poet JE Misz will share some relevant poetry, and you will have a chance to add your own poetic lines. We will enjoy "haystacks" together. Please bring food elements like tortilla chips, cheese, salsa, beans or sour cream. Taco meat, rice and veggies will be provided.

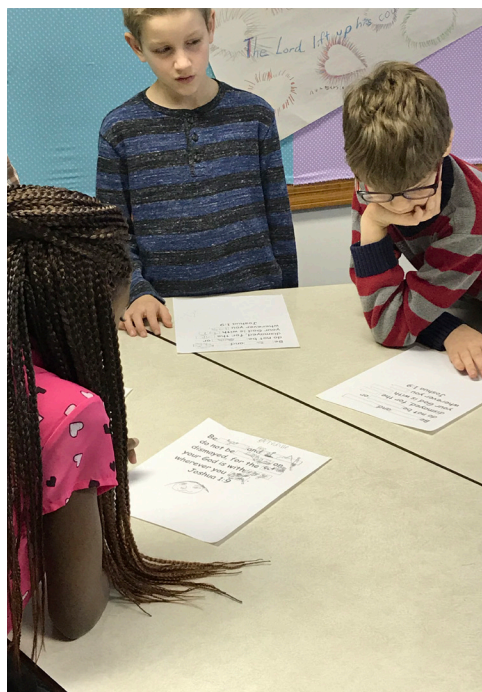


Is God Calling You?

Who says you need to be a pastor, teacher, perfect attender, have an elementary education degree, be natural with kids, or be perfect to tell God's story! These kids need wonderful volunteers like you who can tell stories about God's love! Children's cluster is looking for volunteers to be with our children during nurture hour next year. If you are interested, contact one of our team members!

—Children's Cluster:

Katie Misz
Helen Bowman
Mikki Bowman
Kent Myers
Amanda Stoltzfus
Luke Voth







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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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Have You Ever Had The Urge To Jump Into The Water At The Waterford Wetlands?

And no, I'm not talking about a polar bear plunge. It is, however, the time of year to invite you to think about baptism. Have you ever felt a nudge to be baptized? Unsure what it means, but intrigued about this ancient communal practice? Perhaps ready to take a step of faith? We will have an informational meeting for youth and adults, age high school and up, on February 17 during the nurture hour. At this meeting, we'll talk about what a baptism exploration class will look like for this coming year. You need not commit to baptism to take the class. In fact, we encourage you to take the class even if you are leaning towards not being baptized. Most have found it a good and helpful experience of growing their faith, whether they decide to be baptized or not. If you are in high school, please bring a parent along to the meeting. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the room in the fellowship hall that is found by walking through the kitchen.

—Katie Misz

Giving Plan Packets and Electronic Giving

Help us plan for funding the ministries at Waterford

Please be checking your church mail boxes next Sunday, February 3, for a packet of materials inviting you to return your best estimate of how God is calling you to financially support the various ministries at Waterford Mennonite Church. By returning your response card by February 24 you will greatly help our Ministry Teams develop plans to fund the ministries at Waterford for the upcoming fiscal year that begins May 1.

If you have not already done so, you are also encouraged to check out the option to give to Waterford electronically. The link to the Waterford electronic giving site is now available and may be found on the Waterford home page.

Thanks for your involvement in our congregation!

—Facilities and Finance Ministry Team

Thanks

Dear Waterford Mennonite Church family,

More than five years ago our mother was welcomed into the church family and we appreciate the support you gave during her decline in health – especially from Velma and the Senior Adult Ministry Team. Your kind words, cards, prayers and the beautiful plant are appreciated.

Gratefully,
The family of Lena Pettiford