



Waterford Mennonite Church | February 3, 2019

# buzz

## Welcoming Ramp Construction Begins

Thanks to the generosity of approximately one-fourth of the congregation (so far), we are able to begin construction on the ramp leading to the sanctuary platform.

Through Jan. 27, 50 households have made contributions or named an intention to give to the Welcoming Spaces 3.0 project, representing about a quarter of our approximately 200 households. With those gifts, the Facilities and Finance Ministry Team has approved moving forward with the ramp.

We are aware of an event in early summer for which we have hoped to have the ramp completed. Our original plan had been to install the ramp after Easter, but the schedule for Mast Construction has opened up to allow us to begin immediately. On Saturday, January 26, several volunteers moved items out of the visuals closet to new locations and others did additional preparation work. Thank you to those people!

The ramp will replace the current closet in the northeast corner of the sanctuary. The project will also include creating a platform for the piano and musicians at the level of the first step. About two-thirds of the rise will be along the north wall, with the remaining one-third along the east wall. The ramp's slope and railings will also meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

We anticipate the project will take about four weeks to complete, so there will likely be visible signs of the construction during worship. Thank you in advance for your patience.

We are excited that when we are done, folks in wheelchairs, those using walkers or canes, and others needing support to walk will be able to safely reach the platform, creating a more welcoming environment for those with physical limitations as they join others in the

opportunity to be involved in leading worship.

Thank you for your contributions to the Welcoming Spaces 3.0 project.

*–Lyle Miller, Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator*

## Baptism Exploration Interest Meeting DATE CHANGE to February 24

We will have an informational meeting for youth and adults age high school and up on February 24 (not February 17 as earlier published) 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 in the room in the fellowship hall that is found by walking through the kitchen at 9:30 a.m.

*–Katie Misz*

## It's Time To Apply For Mennonite Education Funding For The 2019-2020 School Year!!!

MEF applications will be e-mailed out this week for Waterford Mennonite Church students attending Mennonite schools next school year (4th grade - college and seminary). Applications are due February 28. Applications can be turned in to the church office mailbox or emailed to [karen@waterfordchurch.com](mailto:karen@waterfordchurch.com). Please contact the MEF committee with any questions.

*–The MEF committee: Scott Richer,  
Helen Bowman, Gordon Bontrager,  
Glenn Reinford, Katie Misz*



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#### Staff Team

##### Administrative Ministry

- Karen Hostetler  
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- Elvina Schmidt  
*Bookkeeper*
- Janet Shoemaker  
*Coordinator of Administrative Ministries*
- Andrea Golden  
*Business Manager*
- JD Smucker  
*Worship Coordinator*

##### Facilities Ministry

- Jan Oostland  
*Facilities Manager*
- Courtney Shetler  
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- 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*

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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## Bridgebuilders Class Profile

Our class is mostly made up of people in their 30's and 40's with school age children, ranging everywhere from pre-school to high school. We meet in a room in the children's wing, which probably has to do with the number of children that are part of our class.

Our group is a pretty easy-going group that likes to laugh a lot, but we aren't afraid to have serious conversations when we need to. If you were to visit, you'd likely have cheerful conversation with a lot of jokes and deep conversations in the same week. We are currently using the Builder this quarter, but try to alternate between the Builder and other book studies.

Our class gets together for fellowship fairly often. Once a year we do an adults only retreat at one of the local camps. In the fall, we have a Sunday School camping weekend at Amigo park. During the rest of the year, we try to have get togethers on a monthly basis, but with our busy schedules it doesn't always happen. Some of the gatherings we've done over the last year are game nights, 4th of July gathering to watch fireworks, a day of water games, going to GMS/GHS theater events, chick-flick movie nights and many others.

We stay connected with an email list for people in our class. We try to have someone

send out prayer requests and notes from Sunday School every week so that people who cannot attend can keep up with what is going on in class. We have helped most members of our class move from one house to another at least once over the years. We regularly set up meal schedules and deliver meals, provide child care and support to people in our class who need help.

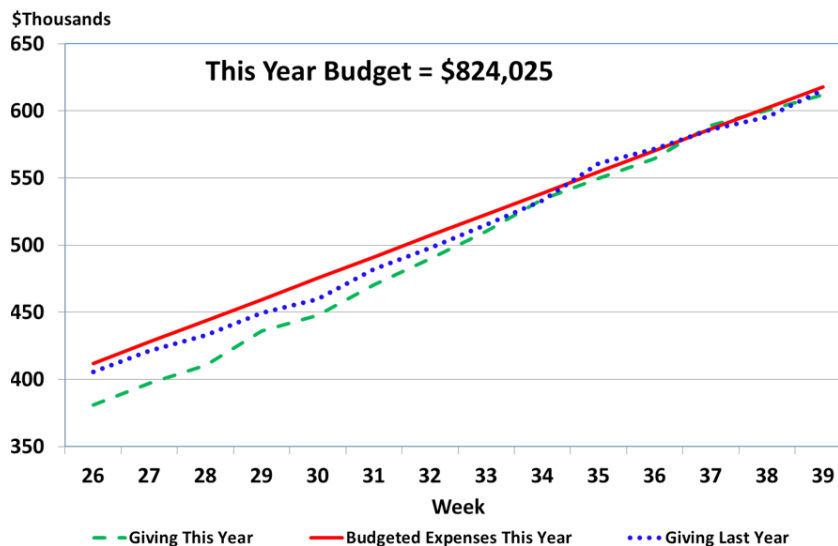
Several members of our class are on different church committees (including, MLC, MEF, and Children's Ministry). We also have class members who lead music, run sound during worship, are Sunday School teachers, mentors, ushers and spend time in the nursery. In addition, our class is responsible for a good percentage of the kids in the children's wing during nurture hour.

## Welcoming Spaces 3.0: Experiencing God At Work

We have experienced God at work in our lives and at Waterford through bones that regrow, caring friends and experiencing the wonder of Bible stories with our 3rd grade students. As we seek to "welcome everyone to faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ," our hope for Waterford is that people with different opinions can continue to dialogue with one another.

—Murray and Helen Bowman

### Waterford Mennonite Church Cumulative Total Giving



Thank you for your generosity over the past weeks. As a result, at the end of January, year-to-date giving toward the Waterford budget stands at \$611,844. We are close to YTD giving through January a year ago of \$615,471, and also close to the YTD expense budget of \$618,019. Your continued generosity will help fund the full expense budget for Waterford for the church fiscal year which ends April 30, 2019.