



Waterford Mennonite Church | March 17, 2019

# *buzz*

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## Seekers Class Holds Candlelight Vigil

On March 10 Seekers Sunday School class held a candlelight vigil in solidarity with Indigenous People and others who were about to meet in New Orleans to protest the possibility of overturning the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) which currently states that Native American foster children should be placed in homes of Native Americans. In preparation for their vigil, they watched a very powerful video at [The Heart of ICWA: Becky](#). To learn more about the threat to ICWA, see Sarah Augustine's article, "*The next step in assimilation*" at *The Mennonite* online – [https://themennonite.org/next-step-assimilation/?blm\\_aid=34851](https://themennonite.org/next-step-assimilation/?blm_aid=34851)



## Thank You's

Thank you for the kind words, cards, flowers, visits, emails, Facebook messages, rides home from school, prayers, Netflix recommendations, and delicious food during the Horning family surgeries in February. It was all very much appreciated.

Michelle Horning

Sheldon and I have been blessed with many cards, thoughts and prayers since my sister Carolyn died. You have given love and care and we are so grateful. Thank you for the ways you carry those who are suffering and grieving. We feel very blessed.

Velma & Sheldon Swartz

## WMC Endowment Fund Applications – Spring 2019:

Applications for the Spring 2019 Waterford Mennonite Church Endowment Funds will be accepted through April 21, 2019. Applications can be found in the information rack beneath the bulletin board or online at the church website. Please submit all requests to Jeff Miller – Endowment Fund Chair. The committee will meet in late April to review new requests, and distributions will be made mid-May.

Last fall the following distributions were made:

WMC Senior Adult Legacy Videos – \$1,000

WMC Godly Play Ministry – \$1,000

WMC Conflict Transformation Workshop – up to \$1,000

Feel free to contact one of the Endowment Fund Committee members with any questions.

—Dave Hostetler, Lyz Zimmerman, Jon. Wieand, Tim Burkholder, Neil Amstutz, and Jeff Miller, chair

## Disabilities Lunch

On Sunday, March 24, anyone with a disability is invited to share a light lunch in the fellowship hall and to share stories regarding how church does and does not work for you. We want to hear what things are already in place that you appreciate or depend on and we also want to hear about additional accommodations that you would find helpful. If you are someone who has a direct support person, please invite that person to stay for lunch as well.

We anticipate having future opportunities for others touched by disabilities (such as parents of a disabled child, siblings of someone with a disability, etc.) so this time is really focused on what those of us **with disabilities** experience. (While we believe that everyone has some type of disability, we're really focusing on those of us with a diagnosed disability at this point.)

Please RSVP to Bonnie Miller at [bonniefm4@hotmail.com](mailto:bonniefm4@hotmail.com) or 534-0446 by Friday, March 22 to ensure we have enough food for everyone.

—Karen Pfahler (WMC Disabilities Advocate) and Bonnie Miller (ADN Board Member)

## Speaking About Persons with Disabilities

What a great way to celebrate disability awareness month by dedicating our new ramp. I am so thankful for Waterford that we are striving to be an all-inclusive church. It was awesome to see people walk on the ramp. As I was one of these people, I had joy knowing that people can get on the stage safely. I saw this article on a facebook feed and thought that it was helpful. I wanted to bring it to you. I hope that it is helpful to you also in using person-first language.

### WORDS TO AVOID

Disabled person

Low-functioning

Normal/healthy person

Non-verbal

He or she has a problem with . . .

She's learning disabled

Retarded, slow, simple, moronic, defective, special person

### WORDS TO SAY

Person with a disability

Greater support needs

Person without a disability

Communicates without words

He/she needs or uses. . .

She has a learning disability

Person with an intellectual, cognitive, developmental disability

—Karen Pfahler, WMC Disability Advocate

## Library Committee

If you love to handle and read books like I do, and don't like to attend meetings like I don't, then please consider joining the Library Committee! That's right, a committee that doesn't have meetings! Well, I can't guarantee we never will have any, but they are rare. So due to a couple of our members letting me know that they cannot help as much as they used to, we could use two more members to help shelve returned books on Sunday mornings before and/or after services and Sunday school. We will also need help each summer with the yearly inventory.

If this sounds like a part of Waterford's ministry you want to contribute to, then please email me at [lwpfahler@gmail.com](mailto:lwpfahler@gmail.com) or see me at church. Thanks!

—Lee Pfahler, Library Committee Coordinator



## Ash Wednesday Service

On Wednesday, March 6, participants in the Ash Wednesday service marked each other with the sign of the cross on the forehead



or on the back of the hand,



and then cleaned off the ash residue in the sign of the cross on the large board . . .

. . .now displayed at the front of the sanctuary throughout Lent.



## Welcoming Spaces 3.0: Experiencing God at Work

Following the March 10 worship service, we received requests to share the litany of blessing for our sanctuary ramp. A portion of the prayer draws from a document, “The 5 stages,” a continuum describing attitudinal changes toward people with disabilities. The full continuum was included in the June 17, 2018, *Buzz*, and is available in the *Buzz* archive section of our church Web site. The five stages move from “ignorance” to “co-laborers.”

—Bonnie (Anabaptist Disabilities Network board member)  
and Lyle Miller (Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator)



### Waterford Mennonite Church

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#### Staff Team

##### Administrative Ministry

- Karen Hostetler  
*Secretary*
- 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  
*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  
*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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### On blessing the ramp...

Dear God, you have always invited us to come to you.  
You invited the blind and those that see.  
You invited the deaf and those that hear.  
You invited those who were unable or found it difficult to walk,  
and you invited those who can walk more easily.  
You invited us ALL to taste and see your goodness.

Today, we thank you for the ability to offer a new level of engagement in our worship services  
for those who have been challenged by our elevated platform.  
We thank you for those who have made financial contributions to the project  
and for those that physically made it happen.

And now, we offer a challenge to ourselves:  
Help us to take the next step.

In our worship services,  
in our congregational life,  
in our day-to-day activities,  
help us to move from accessibility to inclusion,  
to remember that accessibility is about who gets to be on the team,  
but full inclusion is about who gets to play.

For the able-bodied among us,  
help us move beyond ministry *to* those with disabilities  
to ministry *with and alongside* people with disabilities,  
so that together,  
we will encourage and equip each other, with and without disabilities,  
into every good work as we respond to your call in our lives.

Amen.