

Waterford Mennonite Church | August 18, 2019

buzz

Dwelling in the Word series: “Speak into Being”

For at least eleven years now at Waterford, we have annually had a worship series that stays with a single Bible text for four to six weeks, allowing us to focus more deeply and less fleetingly on that passage. Last year in November we spent four weeks with the rich words of Philippians 4:4-9, in a series titled “And again I will say ...”

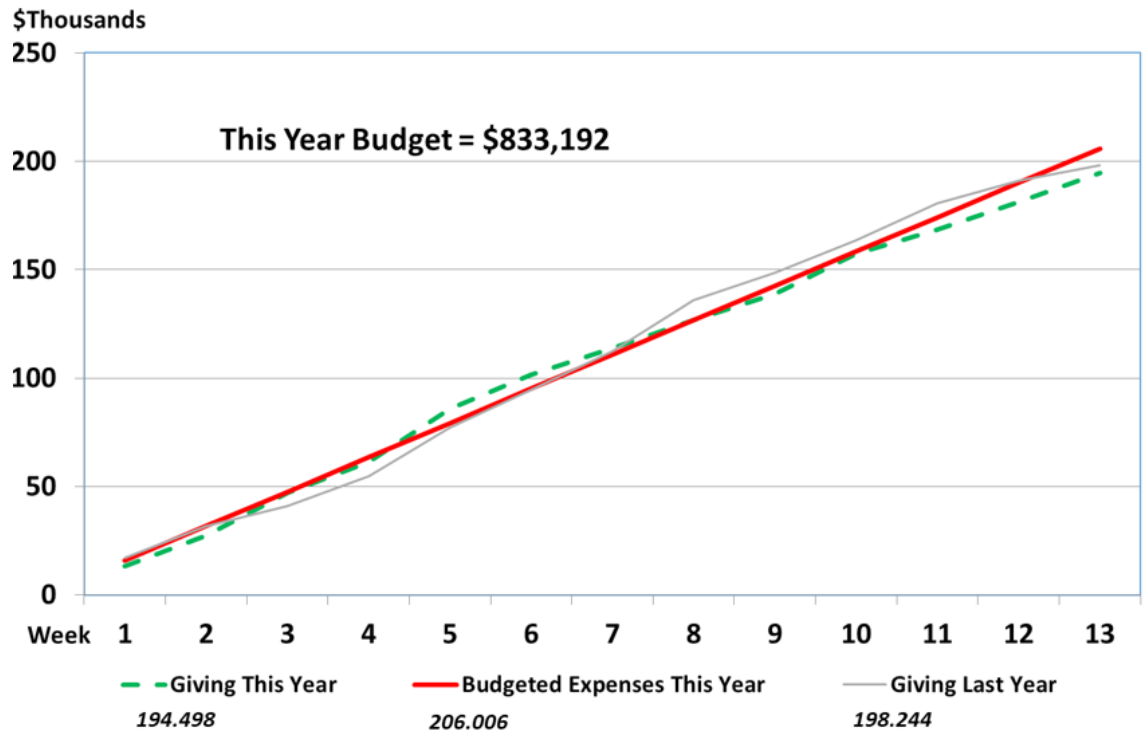
From August 18 through September 8, we will focus on blessings, as given from the mouth of Jesus. “Speak into being” will be the title of our 2019 Dwelling in the Word (DITW) series, drawing from the familiar words of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12. The Beatitudes are blessings, and most of the verses begin with “Blessed are ...” But what are blessings? Are they nice spiritual-sounding words that we toss to someone when we want to wish them well ... equivalent to “Have a nice day” or “It was good to see you”? Blessings in the Bible are immensely different and deeper in meaning than that.

The series title comes from teachings of Hesston College faculty Marion Bontrager and Michele Hershberger in their well-known biblical story materials. In the biblical world, blessings were believed to have an immediate effect. In ancient Hebrew thinking, the spoken word (davar) has power to speak something into existence. This is partly seen in the Genesis creation accounts, when God spoke the creation into being simply by the power of God’s word.

In this DITW series, we don’t want to simply learn about blessings. We intend to model, learn and practice them with each other. One of our aims as pastors for Waterford is to grow in our capacity to be people of blessings, with each other and to the world. Through the use of some artful “blessing cards” created by our own Mikki Bowman, we will have multiple opportunities to speak blessings into being with each other. Some details of the series follow below:

Date	Focus verses	Preacher	Other special elements
Aug. 18	Matt. 5:1-12	Cindy Voth	Blessings of: SS teachers; Bibles for Kgn/6th graders; Sophie Miller before Guatemala service
Aug. 25	Matt. 5:3-5	Katie Misz	Receiving individual blessings
Sept. 1	Matt. 5:6-8	Cindy Voth	Communion, and blessing others in the faith community
Sept. 8	Matt. 5:9-12	Neil Amstutz	Blessing others beyond the church; God’s Work Among Us in Shipibo mission in Peru (Pat Lehman)

Waterford Mennonite Church Cumulative Total Giving



Giving toward the Waterford budget totaled \$194,478 at the end of July. That compares to \$198,244 at the same time a year ago. The YTD expense budget at the end of July is \$206,006.

Celebration of Baptism, Sunday, August 4, 2019



Christina Herrmann

Joel Brookmyer-Graber



Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
 Goshen, IN 46526
 p: 574 533-5642
 f: 574 533-0879
 office@waterfordchurch.org
 www.waterfordchurch.org

Staff Team

Administrative Ministry

- Karen Hostettler
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- Janet Shoemaker
Coordinator of Administrative Ministries
- Andrea Golden
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- Mikki Bowman
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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.

Sophie Miller,
 editor; 574 903-9158
 buzz@waterfordchurch.org