

Waterford Mennonite Church | September 15, 2019

# *buzz*

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## **Visiting Benin After Fifty Years**

I remember well my first travel outside the United States Christmas 1970. I was a college senior, and I was going to Zaire (Congo) to visit Eldon. Being a minority white person for the first time and surrounded by indigenous African people newly free from colonial rule struck me immediately. Intrigued, I soaked in all I could though I understood none of the French or other languages spoken around me.

Amazingly, it was in 1969 the first Mennonites were invited to partner with African Initiated Churches in Benin. Imagine with me this long-term partnership initiated by visionary African Christian leaders. From the beginning mutuality and holistic witness was its goal! For many years while working at Mennonite Board of Missions and Mennonite Mission Network (MMN), I read and listened to reports of mission workers who were assisting at Benin Bible Institute, La Casa Grande, and responding to other needs. Benin has been in my prayers for many years.

Now nearly fifty years from my first introduction to the African continent, and after my MMN work experience, I am eager for this opportunity to visit Benin and the sisters and brothers who are partners with MMN, Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, and with us here at Waterford Mennonite Church. Having Lynda and Rod Hollinger-Janzen at WMC has enabled us not only to hear them speak about continued work by Beninese leaders, we've met and hosted visitors from Benin. What a privilege it is to be able to visit them!

I go as a believer in holistic mission partnerships, a learner of cultural differences and commonalities. I look forward to new sounds, smells and tastes. Although I still do not speak French, I hope to attune my ear and my heart to the daily experiences of our

hosts, joys and sorrows, prayers and praises. I will seek connection especially with women and children. I will seek to bless them even as I am greatly blessed.

As I go, I ask for your prayers, especially for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, for health to fully experience the hospitality offered, and safety as I push the limits of my achy knees.

— Rachel Lehman Stoltzfus

## **Juan Pacheco to Speak at HOPE Meeting**

Everyone in the WMC Congregation is invited to the next meeting of the HOPE Team and the Compañeros at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 22. We meet regularly to Eat and Pray together about immigration issues, and plan how we can Act to support the Immigrant Community. Our speaker this month will be Juan Sebastian Pacheco Lozano from the Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes offices. He is engaged with the local immigrant community as Peace and Justice Coordinator for MCCGL. Juan recently conducted the week-long Pipeline to Prison learning tour on August 4-9, and some of you may have met him at the Loss of Turtle Island exercise here on Sunday, Aug. 25. Juan will address us on how we can be directly and effectively involved in supporting the Immigrant community.

Since we are meeting at 4:00 we won't have a meal. We'll have popcorn available, and will furnish drinks. You are welcome to bring snacks to share.

We look forward to a good turnout for our speaker. Spread the word, bring a friend. Come and join the Compañeros in this important work. We need to act now to restore justice for immigrants.

— The HOPE Team



## Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15

Goshen, IN 46526

p: 574 533-5642

f: 574 533-0879

office@waterfordchurch.org

www.waterfordchurch.org

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*Bookkeeper*  
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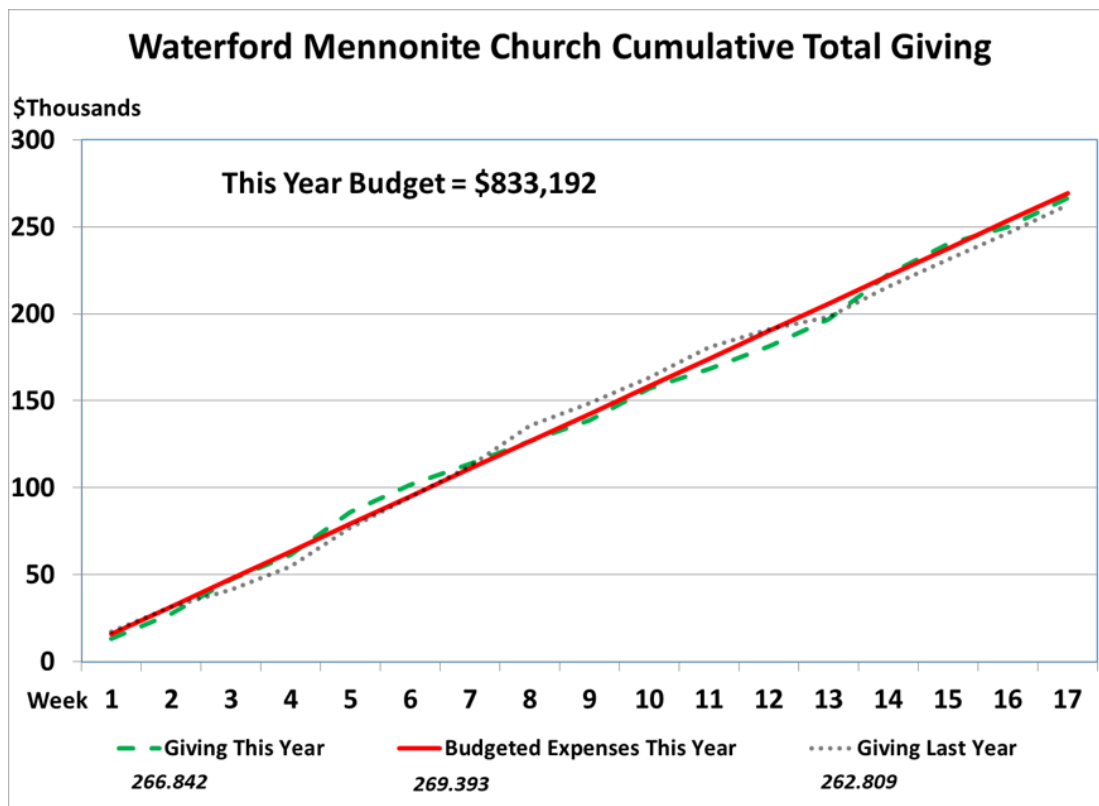
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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

Janet Shoemaker,  
Interim editor  
buzz@waterfordchurch.org



## Journey Forward Worship Series

For the four weeks from Sept. 15 through Oct. 6, our worship series will follow the contours of *Journey Forward*, Mennonite Church USA's church-wide renewal process of engaging in Scripture, story-telling and sharing how God is at work among us. For the 2017 Future Church Summit held in Orlando, MCUSA developed three *Renewed Commitments* that reflect core values of our denomination. Those core values also form the themes for the last three Sundays of this worship series. Some of Waterford's Sunday School classes were introduced to these themes last year as they used *Pathways*, the study guide for *Journey Forward*.

It is the pastors' hope that this worship series will both ground us in the larger picture of the kingdom of God at work, and help connect us to what our church denomination is valuing as we all seek to participate in that kingdom. Some details of the worship series follow below:

Date	Theme	Scriptures	Preacher	Other special elements
Sept. 15	Journey of Discovery: Who am I, where am I?	Ps. 24:1-6 Eph. 3:14-21	Luke Gascho	
Sept. 22	Follow Jesus	John 13:34-35 Matt. 16:24-26	Neil Amstutz	Installation of Pastor Terry Zehr
Sept. 29	Witness to God's Peace	Micah 6:6-8 Eph. 2:14-17	Cindy Voth	2 <sup>nd</sup> : Parent/child dedication for Jamie Lehman
Oct. 6	Experience Transformation	John 3:8 Mark 1:9-11 1 Cor. 11:23-26	Neil Amstutz	World Communion Sunday; Sending BBI delegates