



# *buzz*

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## Can we talk about that at church?

After trying our hands last spring in Sunday School classes with PIN training (Positions, Interests, Needs), this fall we're returning to Conversations That Matter. Specifically, you'll get a chance to engage with others about our political conflictedness ... and about our stories about alcohol use. Our two CTM sessions this fall will again be done World Café style, around small tables in the sanctuary. What's in store:

- **Wednesday October 9, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Our political conflictedness.** What do you feel conflicted about in today's political context in this country? What issues or positions are complicated for you to reconcile with your faith? This is not about debating who's right or wrong politically, but about naming the struggles that our own political opinions and Christian beliefs present to us. For parents of JYF and Venture Club students, please stick around for some stimulating conversation after you drop off your kids that evening.
- **Sunday November 24, afternoon or evening time TBD – Our stories around use of alcohol.** It's a poorly kept secret that times have changed in Mennonite churches in the past two to three decades pertaining to alcohol consumption. While teetotaling is still a common presumption in public and in most of our church conversations, social drinking has become more acceptable in some circles among Mennonites. If you haven't known this, ask your children or grandchildren. Still, for various reasons, we struggle to acknowledge this or talk about it. This CTM session will not be a platform for moralizing or defending positions. We will simply allow each other the safe space to briefly tell our own stories pertaining to alcohol use and respectfully hear others' stories. Our personal values and beliefs may come out in the process, but

the storytelling is the point.

—Conversations that Matter Planning Group  
(Neil Amstutz, Christa Graber Kauffman, John Kaufman, Aaron Lehman, Rose Shetler)

## Burkholders Returning to Alberta to Retire

Due to a variety of circumstances, we have decided now is the time to fully retire in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. We are beginning this process by placing our home on the market immediately. We are privileged to have family here and in Alberta, so we have short term options for a place to stay if our home sells quickly. This will allow us time to make careful plans for our move sometime later this fall. In the meantime, we have been gifted with a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip to the West Coast and back to Alberta traveling September 28 - October 19.

We are blessed to have a supportive congregation and would invite your prayers for us over the next months. In addition, please be in prayer for the Gift Discernment Ministry Team that will be working to find someone to complete Tim's term as congregational chair. He will commit to carry out these responsibilities until a replacement is found or the time has come to move.

Blessings, Tim & Sharon Burkholder



Katie Misz reads a letter to the children of WMC from the children of Assembly Mennonite during children's time.



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· Mikki Bowman  
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*Worship Coordinator*

**Facilities Ministry**

· Jan Oostland  
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· Courtney Shetler  
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**Pastoral Ministry**

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· Katie Misz  
*Pastor of Family Life*  
· Terry Zehr  
*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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## More New Books in the Library

Armstrong, Jenny; *From Risk to Resilience: How Empowering Young Women Can Change Everything*.

Drawing on resources from the gender justice movement and from heroines of the Bible, Armstrong offers a stirring call to action, with practical ways that churches and individuals can help girls around the globe thrive.

Claiborne, Shane; *Beating Guns: Hope For People Who Are Weary of Violence*.

Victims and perpetrators of gun violence tell their own compelling stories, offering hope for change and helping us reimagine the world as one that turns from death to life, where swords become plows and guns are turned into garden tools.

Gonzalez, Karen; *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, The Bible, and the Journey to Belong*.

A riveting story of seeking safety in another land. Find resources for welcoming

immigrants in your community and speaking out about an outdated immigration system. Find the power of Jesus, a refugee Savior who calls us to become citizens in a country not of this world.

King, Timothy; *Addiction Nation: What the Opioid Crisis Reveals About Us*.

Through stories, theology, philosophy, and cultural analysis, King examines today's most common addictions and their destructive consequences. In stark yet intimate prose, he looks not only at the rise of opioid abuse but at policy, pain, virtue, and habit.

Marsh, Charles; *Can I Get a Witness? Thirteen Peacemakers, Community Builders, and Agitators for Faith and Justice*.

Discover here the compelling stories of thirteen pioneers for social justice who engaged in peaceful protest and gave voice to the marginalized, working courageously out of their religious convictions to transform American culture.

## Installation of Pastor Terry Zehr, Sunday, September 22

Dan Miller, IN-MI Conference Pastor, presents questions of commitment to Terry and his wife, Cheryl.



Pastor Terry Zehr crashes the "Esthers Convention" at The Groves, in Greencroft. Pictured from left to right: Esther Deal, Esther Farmwald, Esther Helmuth, Terry, Esther Stutzman, Esther Cender and Esther Rose Graber.