

Waterford Mennonite Church | November 10, 2019

buzz

Next Conversations That Matter – Alcohol and Us

As noted in Sept. 29 Buzz, our second gathered time for Conversations That Matter this fall will be on Sunday, November 24. In that CTM session, we will be telling and listening to each other's stories/experiences regarding alcohol. Again, this is intended simply as a safe space to briefly tell our own stories, be heard and listen well to others' stories, rather than as a platform for moralizing or defending positions. We recognize this will take courage for some of us to participate, while others have been eager for this conversation. Conversation time is set for 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

If you have a painful story to tell about how alcohol has impacted you, this session is for you. If you don't understand why American Christians seem so hung up on the subject, this session is for you. If you are one who tries to avoid restaurants that serve alcohol, this session is for you. If you brew your own craft beer, this session is for you. If you worry that youth and children today underestimate the devastation that alcoholism causes in individuals and families, please attend this session. If you lament the awkwardness and secrecy you observe in church circles regarding social drinking, please attend this session. Because we so often hang out with people in our own age groups and social circles, we hope to have people here from every Sunday School class at Waterford.

We look forward to your helping us be church together, even when we don't all agree regarding a very practical, tangible matter.

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



Voices Together 2020: Old and New

Sometimes people ask me, "What is your favorite song in the hymnal?" Answering this is like someone asking me who my favorite child is. I have three children, and my love is spread out to all of them. There are some occasions when I am very proud of a single child. But this does not diminish my love for my other two children. There are so many song choices in our songbooks at church. On any given Sunday one may fit better than another, or the circumstances of the week may motivate me to want to lead one over the other. I am excited for a new hymnal coming in 2020. The opportunity to discover new songs, and to retain the friendship and love of "older" songs is something to look forward to. Just as a parent has enough love for every child, we can also embrace the new and appreciate the old, as we get to know the songs in Voices Together.

—JD Smucker

Soup and Sweets

It's that time of year again! This year's proceeds from the soup and sweets sales will go toward the MYF Ecuador trip which will take place during spring break. Items to choose from are Chicken Tortilla Soup, Bazaar Soup, Chocolate Peanut Clusters, and Peppernuts. All items are \$8.00. You may place an order by visiting the table in the foyer from now until December 8. Items will be ready for pick-up at the church on Sunday morning, December 15. You may pay when you place your order or when you pick up your items. These make great Christmas gifts!



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
Business Manager
· Mikki Bowman
Director of Children's Ministries
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· Neil Amstutz
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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

A Senior Adult Reflection on Faith

Dr. Nicodemus, D.Th.* meets Jesus, S.O.G.** John 3:1-17

Dr. N.: We know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.

Jesus: Most assuredly I say to you unless one is born again, they cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Commentator: Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, believed to become a child of God, you had to be born a Jew or go through an intensive ritual to become a Jew.

Dr. N.: How can a man be born again when he is old?

Jesus: Most assuredly I say to you, unless you are born of water and the Spirit you cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Dr. N.: How can these things be?

Jesus: Are you a teacher of Israel and don't know these things? ... If I told you earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ... Now I'm going to make this simple. Even a child can understand and believe. God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

Dr. N.: What about those who have done terrible things? Can they be saved?

Jesus: God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world. Everyone who believes is not condemned, but one who does not believe in the name of the only Son of God is condemned already because they do not believe in the name of the only Son of God. This is what it means to be born again.

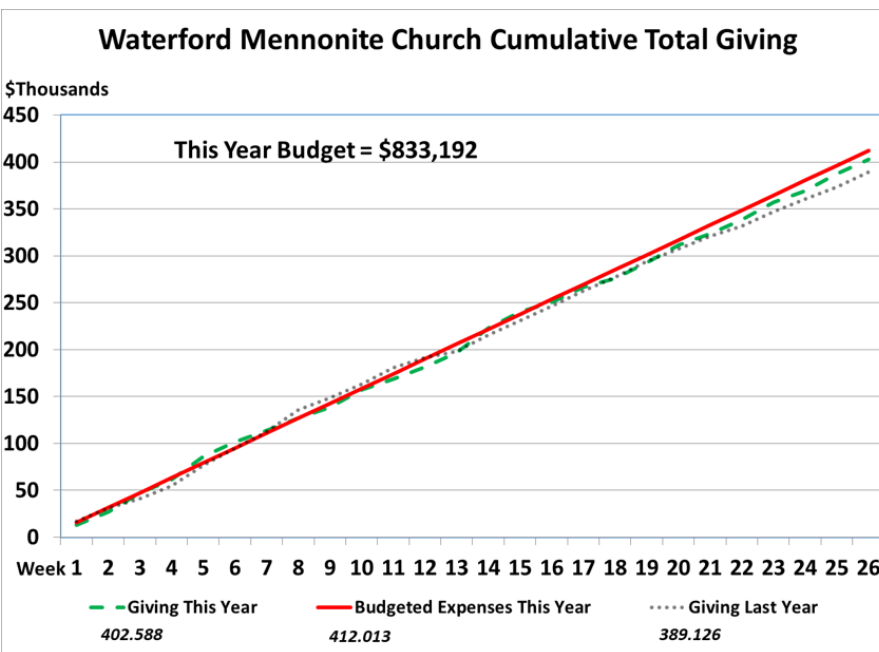
Nicodemus did not have a modern day Theology degree, but as a Jewish leader he was well versed in Jewish Law and Bible knowledge.

*Doctor of Theology, **Son of God

—Jim Christophel

Farewell Open House for Tim and Sharon Burkholder

The Agape class is hosting a farewell open house for Tim and Sharon Burkholder on Sunday, November 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. as they prepare to relocate to Alberta, Canada in the middle of December. All are invited to join our class in saying farewell and offering our blessings to the Burkholders. No other gifts are needed beyond your words of blessing.



Thank you for your generous giving so far this year. At the end of October, we are halfway through this fiscal year. Giving toward the Waterford budget totaled \$402,588 at the end of October. That compares to \$389,126 at the same time a year ago. The YTD expense budget at the end of October is \$412,013.