



Waterford Mennonite Church | March 1, 2020

buzz

White Privilege

As a follow-up to the Agape Class' worship leading in our worship services on February 2, it is helpful to share some writing from the Goshen College student-produced publication, *The Record*. In the January 23, 2020, issue of the newspaper, Executive Editor Megan Bower included her reflections about "white privilege." Given that the Agape Class members are all older than age 65, we thought it would be refreshing to have some thoughts from a much younger person on the topic of "white privilege."

Bower dives right into the heart of the matter. "The problem I have with the term 'white privilege' is the reaction it can cause from those it is referring to. I can think of two clear examples where I have experienced a peer complaining to me about how they are fed up in hearing the term 'white privilege'."

She continues: "They express to me how they've worked hard to get where they are today and how being privileged has nothing to do with it. And there lies the problem. Stating that someone has white privilege isn't saying that they haven't worked hard in life and that everything's been handed to them on a silver platter. It's acknowledging the struggles and difficulties that they've been able to avoid facing due to the color of their skin."

"My thoughts on this were summed up perfectly in a tweet I saw earlier this week. The tweet read, 'It's a shame that #WhitePrivilege is such a widely misunderstood concept. It does NOT mean you're racist. It does NOT mean that your life has been easy. It does NOT mean that you don't face struggles, too. It means that your life isn't made harder by the color of your skin.'"

Then, Bower has a striking perspective: "Personally,

I don't regard white privilege to be an insult. I see it as a fact — a statement. My life has never been made harder by the color of my skin. In fact, I'm sure there are times I have benefited from it. Yes, I have faced struggles in life, but none of them have ever stemmed from my race."

Bower concludes with a challenge to us all. "So, to those who instantly feel their anger and frustration building when they hear the term 'white privilege,' I would advise you to relax. Take a step back and try to understand what the term truly means. Challenge yourself to recognize your privilege in everyday life. And if you still struggle to understand what it means to have privilege, I would recommend searching for the video *Life of Privilege Explained in a \$100 Race*."

[Extensive quoting of Megan Bower's column was done with permission from Ms. Bower and *The Record*.]

Ash Wednesday



Bill Minter and Mel Claassen, Gretchen and Becky Bateman applied ashes to each other's foreheads during the Ash Wednesday service.

Gelassenheit Class Retreat

Amigo staff member Cheryl Mast (kneeling) leads a group on a nature/history walk on camp trails last weekend during the class retreat at Amigo Centre.



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 Hostetler
Secretary
· Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
· Janet Shoemaker
Coordinator of Administrative Ministries
· Andrea Golden
Business Manager
· Mikki Bowman
Director of Children's Ministries
· 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
· 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.

Janet Shoemaker,
Interim editor
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

Volunteer needed

The Prairie View Committee for Waterford's participation in the Support Our Schools Program needs someone who would oversee the organizing of food for the various events at the school. In the past this has been a meal at the beginning of the year, sometimes a meal during parent/teacher conferences, a staff appreciation snack event in February, and possibly a breakfast for some Latinx families in May. Contact Len Harms, if interested.

More Ash Wednesday

Below: Mark Daniels and Sophia Kauffman helped prepare the pancake supper. Below right: Layna Stoltzfus, Susanna Stutzman and Hannah Classen marked each other with ashes in the sign of the cross.



Endowment Fund Reminder

Applications for The Waterford Mennonite Church Endowment Fund will be accepted until April 1, 2020. As a reminder, the fund exists to further the ongoing mission of the church by providing a vehicle for above budget gifts to be invested for the church's work. A complete copy of the Endowment Fund Guidelines can be found under the big bulletin board or under the Resources tab at www.waterfordchurch.org. Please feel free to talk to one of the committee members if you have any questions and submit the applications to Jeff Miller.