



Waterford Mennonite Church | March 15, 2020

buzz

Coronavirus: Caring For Each Other in a Time of Uncertainty

We have been hearing much about COVID 19, or the coronavirus, that has now reached the United States. If you are like me, you may have noticed a sense of fear residing in you concerning what we have been hearing.

If you have also been listening to health officials who are familiar with this and other viruses, you know the importance of care for oneself and others by being conscientious with how we interact with our environment around us.

Over the last 13 years of my life I have become keenly aware of the importance of strong immune systems and the implications for young, old and those in between who are more susceptible, who have a harder time fighting off these viruses that come, especially during the cold and flu season.

We can do two things right now. One is to live with and into the reality that God is present with us no matter what the future holds. We do not need to live in fear. God is with us. And where God is, fear does not need to take root. And second, to live with and into the reality that we have been given the knowledge as to how we might care for one another as we care for ourselves with practices that will help us to be together in this moment of time.

I and the other pastors would ask that you avoid physical contact with others; for example, not shaking hands or giving hugs. You are encouraged to engage in other practices of greeting whether it is putting your hands together as if you were praying a blessing on another, or just a verbal greeting. It is going to feel weird for a while and not real satisfactory as do all new things. But I hope that as we do this we

will smile and laugh as we welcome one another. For it is a joy to gather and laughter is a sign of the power of resurrection over the fears that are a part of living in this world.

There is plenty of soap and water in the bathrooms with which to wash your hands and there are bottles of hand sanitizer placed around the foyer if you would like to use those as well.

I pray that we will see this as a way of caring for one another, our sisters and brothers, young and old in the body of Christ. For as we pay attention to our practices and care for ourselves, we are also caring for one another. So may God bless us in the days to come.

Modified statement read by Pastor Terry during the March 8 worship services.

Thank You

We are so grateful our father, Francis Schrock, was a part of such a caring community at Waterford Mennonite Church. The outpouring of love from you at his death was a wonderful comfort to us as a family.

We thank you for your visits (before and at his death), the meal at the funeral home and the memorial meal at the church, the plant, and the cards to express your love for our father. His memory will live on.

—In love, The Francis Schrock family

Cancellation of Conversations That Matter

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the Coronavirus, CTM Planning Group (Neil Amstutz, Christa Graber Kauffman, Aaron Lehman, John Kaufman, Matt Bateman) has chosen to cancel tonight's Conversations around Lent.



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

Supporting MCC's Migrant Work

Last year, we collected migrant detainee kits for Mennonite Central Committee. In a thank you note from Eric Kurtz, MCC Great Lakes Executive Director, he says, "For many migrants, after months of inhumane treatment, the detainee kits provide a tangible expression of love and a small recognition of their dignity as humans. As they transition to life outside the detention center, receiving a kit can be a healing step in their ongoing journey."

MCC is no longer asking for detainee kits, but would like to invite our continued support in additional ways:

- Learn more about realities on the US/Mexico border by joining the next Borderlands learning tour on May 17-23, 2020. To sign up or explore options for a learning tour for your congregation or group, contact Juan Sebastián Pacheco Lozano (JuanPacheco@mcc.org). More information is available at mcc.org/gl-borderlands-2020.
- Give a financial donation to help asylum seekers get legal help (donate.mcc.org/cause/welcome).
- Contact your elected officials; urge them to protect asylum seekers and focus on policy solutions that meet humanitarian needs and address the root causes of migration. The MCC Washington Office can serve as a resource for contacting elected leaders.
- Pray for comfort, courage and wisdom for migrants, border patrol members, MCC partners, elected leaders and all involved in responding to this crisis.

March is Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month

(Anabaptist Disabilities Network is providing churches with a monthly bulletin insert which we will be including in the Buzz. Look for a different topic in one issue a month.)

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is the result of abnormal brain development (often before birth) and the severity varies from person to person. It primarily affects muscle tone, gross and fine motor functions, balance, coordination, and posture.

- Secondary conditions may include an inability to chew, inability to swallow, breathing difficulties, bladder and bowel control issues, and communication difficulties.
- Associative conditions may include intellectual impairment, epileptic seizures, hearing impairment, and vision impairment. Not everyone with CP has all of these conditions.

Welcoming people with CP

A primary way to include people with CP is by making the physical space accessible. Some folks with CP may use a wheelchair and some others may use devices to assist in walking. Ensuring that your church building meets ADA requirements is the first and most helpful step to take in being welcoming to people with CP.

Only half of people with CP have an intellectual disability, and even if they do, it may be mild. It's important not to make assumptions about cognitive abilities based on physical impairments.

Secondary and associative conditions vary widely with CP, so those needs should be addressed on an individual basis. Get to know individuals with CP in order to know both their needs and the gifts they have to share with the congregation.

Anabaptist Disabilities Network