



Waterford Mennonite Church | March 22, 2020

# buzz

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## Being Community in the Midst of Crisis

### Plans for worship in the next two months

“It’s gonna be an adventure!” Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever! That promise is something we will need to keep drawing upon, as so many of our daily and weekly routines these days have been completely undone by the effects of the Coronavirus. On behalf of the pastoral team, I want to give you a glimpse of our plans for worshipping and connecting with each other.

Over 120 different addresses across North America logged in to at least part of our March 15 canceled but live-streamed worship. Thank you to those who bore with us as we experimented with this attempt to somehow recreate a sense of our faith community in worship. We invite you to continue to join us for a 30 to 45 minute live streamed worship experience Sunday mornings at 9:30. We will use this opportunity to try some different elements and formats, since watching privately before a screen is significantly different than being physically present with others for the same event. In accordance with the 8-week-long guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about rescheduling events of 50 or more people, we hope to return to a single summertime worship schedule in the sanctuary in mid-May. More details will come closer to then.

In the meantime, we encourage adult Sunday School classes to explore ways of remaining connected while at a physical distance. Class shepherds and coordinators have received some guidance and suggestions from pastors in this regard. We encourage those of you in a Sunday School class to send your prayer concerns and requests directly to the class shepherd. If you have something you want shared with the whole congregation for prayer, please send it to Janet Shoemaker in the church office. —Pastor Neil Amstutz

### Sunday School at home!

Check out this website for a free downloadable multi-age Sunday School curriculum! It is from the *Shine On* curriculum that our Waterford kids through 8th grade use each week. The download includes a video and music. Follow the link to download (each Wednesday after 2 p.m.). Mikki Bowman will also be sending this out to families at Waterford. Let’s keep growing in faith together!

<https://shinecurriculum.com/shineathome/free-resources/>

### How to talk to kids about Corona Virus

Our kids pick up our fears and uncertainty during this time. The Fred Rogers Center has provided a helpful resource with tips for talking with your children about Coronavirus. Check it out here: <https://www.fredrogerscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FRC-COVID19-Response.pdf>



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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.

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## Looking for the truth about Corona?

MCUSA is keeping us up-do-date with accurate information and ideas for living our faith during these uncertain times.

[http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/resources-for-responding-to-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR0sGEVfy2u2IrlgRmGTRVP4BHZKOie8G9hRcFMBBo\\_FNHL\\_MaAhov\\_a1b9EU](http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/resources-for-responding-to-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR0sGEVfy2u2IrlgRmGTRVP4BHZKOie8G9hRcFMBBo_FNHL_MaAhov_a1b9EU)

## 500-year-old wisdom in dealing with a pandemic

WE'RE NOT THE FIRST! Five hundred years ago, Protestant Reformer Martin Luther wrote this when dealing with the second wave of the "Black Death:"

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

Luther's Works, vol. 43, p. 132 ("Whether one may flee from a deadly plague").

— Submitted by Lynda Hollinger-Janzen

## Thank You

Mennonite Mission Network has many partners around the world that we help to support. None of Mission Network's ministries would happen without congregational contributions to support these life-changing ministries. Waterford Mennonite Church's contribution of \$54,650.33 has enabled Mission Network to partner with more than 115 organizations around the world. Thank you for your prayers and generous contributions in 2019.

—Stanley W. Green

## Death of Todd Borntreger

Long-time attenders of WMC will remember Basil and Eva Borntreger and their children who were members here for many years before moving to Lebanon, Oregon. Their son, Todd, married to Amy, died March 13. His obituary is not posted yet, but you can find a condolence page at <https://hustonjostfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/4134281/Borntreger-Todd/view-condolences.php> if you would like to send a note or flowers. Let's remember Basil, Eva, Amy and their family at this difficult time.