



Waterford Mennonite Church | March 29, 2020

buzz

Return from Ecuador SST



The Goshen College Ecuador Study-Service Term group returned early to the US this past week due to the Coronavirus. Andrew and Ruth Hartzler were leading the group, and they, along with Isa and Gabriel (who was part of the college group), also returned as summer SST has been cancelled. Although all commercial international flights were banned in Ecuador, they managed to get out of the country on charter flights. Welcome back to all those who were on SST this winter. The Hartzlers are currently quarantined in an apartment at Goshen College.

Adding a Personal Touch

The methods of slowing the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in the temporary closing of several businesses and a loss of income for many in our community. The need for assistance with food and groceries has likewise grown. Thanks to the generous giving to the Jubilee Fund by you, the congregation, WMC has a supply of Kroger gift cards available to give to those who approach us with a request for help with the purchase of groceries. We will continue gifting these cards, although the church doors are closed to reduce face-to-face contact. So

during this season of increased need, we would like to attach the cards to a soup mix in a quart jar, adding to their nourishment in a more personal way.

Would you consider creating several of these soup kits? Mission & Service Ministry Team recommends layering the following in a quart-sized canning jar:

- 2/3 c. dried pinto beans
- 2/3 c. split green peas
- 2/3 c. dried great northern beans
- 2/3 c. black beans
- 2/3 c. dried kidney beans

See **Soup Mix** on page 4

Another way of connecting minds and spirits:

Because it's so challenging to feel connected as a congregation these days, pastoral team is announcing a new spiritual practice we will be offering for the spiritual sustenance of all of us, in between Sundays – **online Anabaptist prayers, via Zoom.** We plan to use the Anabaptist prayer book called *Take Our Moments and Our Days* as the basis for regular morning and evening prayers for anyone who wants to log in, in real time. Some of you are already familiar with this resource. These prayer times, with a common format and set of words, will be led by all four pastors in turn, and will last 25-30 minutes.

In the coming weeks, we will offer these Anabaptist prayers in two particular patterns:

- For the week of March 30 to April 4, these prayers will be offered on Tuesday March 31 and Thursday April 2, at both 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. This will help us first give it a try via Zoom, and set the pattern for Tuesdays and Thursdays which we plan to return to later in April.
- For Holy Week and the first week of Easter season, these prayers will be offered daily, both morning and evening, at the same times. This will run from Monday April 6 through Saturday April 18 evening. Specifically:
 - * Pastors Neil and Terry will lead the morning prayer times, and Pastors Cindy and Katie the evening prayers. Please know these are not set up to be prayers for “older vs. younger people” or for gender segregation. Y’all come to any of them!
 - * The Holy Week prayers are specific to the events of the lives of Jesus and the disciples in that tumultuous week. They will be different every day.
 - * The Easter week prayers will also be different each day, centered around biblical stories and reflections from the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now some practicalities:

- As with other Zoom meetings, you will need a Wifi connection, computer, tablet or smart phone to fully participate. But even people with just a landline phone can still hear and be heard by dialing one of the phone numbers given in the emailed invitation.

- It will be most meaningful for everyone to have access to *Take Our Moments and Our Days* in some format.
 - * There are two printed versions. We will start with the version covering from Advent through Pentecost. Some of you already have it, and we encourage you to let the church office know if you have any extra copies to share with others. The church also has about a dozen copies which can be lent out. Again, contact the church office if you want to borrow one of these, and to arrange how we can get it to you. Or just order one for yourself online.
 - * There are also electronic versions of the resource available.
 - There is a free downloadable app for Apple or Android, which I use frequently on my phone. For our joint times, you could look at the prayer book on your phone while also hearing the spoken prayers. Or you could Zoom the prayers on a different device. On your phone, simply search among apps for “Take Our Moments and Our Days.”
 - You can also purchase a digital copy (for Kindle etc. for 9.99 at <https://store.mennomedia.org/Take-Our-Moments-and-Our-Days-Volume-2-P493.aspx>)
 - In order to join it, everyone on the church’s email list will receive an email with the Zoom links or other connecting options. (If you are reading this from an email you received directly from Waterford, you’re already on that list. If you want to be added to that list, please contact Janet in the church office)
 - * Due to scheduling issues in the Zoom software, the invitation links you receive for next week’s Tuesday/Thursday prayers will be different from the links for the 2 weeks of daily prayers. In first few weeks, we will email these out to you each week.
 - * Eventually, the active links to our Anabaptist prayers will also be posted on the homepage of the church website, and on Waterford’s shared FaceBook group.

See **Connecting** on page 4

December-March in Santiago Atitlán

Part of a letter from Sophie Miller

I have been living in Santiago Atitlán, specifically in Cantón Panabaj, working with Utz' K'aslimaal, an organization aiming to preserve Indigenous life through their ecological campus and spreading understanding of Indigenous issues by welcoming foreign University groups.

The current campus consists of one completed adobe cabin, which is currently rented out, and an in-progress event house. Structures are made of a wood frame, a filling mixture of adobe and pine needles, an adobe mixture exterior, and repurposed glass bottle murals. Day to day, I've been able to work with many parts of this building process and have enjoyed being able to add my own creativity to the designs. I have also been able to volunteer with the organization ADECCAP, who works for the development of the town by making and encouraging organic fertilizer and running a tree nursery of coffee, pine, cypress, avocado, and some other local trees for reforestation and community use.



Filling in the wood frame of the event house with a mixture of adobe and pine needles.



Adding the final layer, a mixture of adobe and concrete (to avoid harm from the rain), to the bench I designed of glass bottles, adobe, and old kitchen tiles on a sand bag base. In the background is an unfinished wall of the event house awaiting a final adobe layer.

In the beginning of March, Utz' K'aslimaal hosted a group of American students studying abroad in Costa Rica. They were with us for a short, but very full, three days. This served to be one of my most impactful experiences in these three months as I learned alongside the students. In addition to introducing the students to the history of Santiago

and the life of the Tz'utujil Maya, we learned about the issue of water pollution in Lake Atitlán. Often called the most beautiful lake in the world, it is on the path to being ecologically dead due to chemical fertilizers and the limits of current waste management systems. We learned about potential solutions from both the government-backed water pipeline project and the Indigenous community leaders, who have very different views on how to handle the situation. Many similarities can be identified between this situation and oil pipeline projects in the US and Canada such as the famous Dakota Access Pipeline controversy. A few similarities include the lack of indigenous consent, the commercialization and profiting of indigenous land and water resources, and disregard of indigenous spirituality and

knowledge. This whole experience served as another reminder that similar situations happen in the US, Guatemala, and around the world. I have learned a lot while being in Guatemala, and while I most likely won't be here for much of my life surrounded by these exact situations, everything I've encountered here has an application to life at home in the States.

Find more about Sophie's host family, the Coronavirus in Guatemala and her decision to return home, in the full letter attached to this week's Life Beyond Waterford.

Change of Address

On March 15, Tim and Sharon Burkholder wrote that they have purchased a condo in Edmonton.

Their new address is:

#442 2741 55 St NW
Edmonton AB T6L 7G7

Soup Mix (cont. from page 1)

At the top of each filled jar, press in a spice packet (a snack-sized Ziploc or small parchment bag) with the following spices:

- 1/2 t. black pepper
- 1/2 t. paprika
- 1/2 t. dry mustard
- 1-1/2 t. minced onion flakes
- 1-1/2 t. salt
- 2 t. garlic powder
- 1 t. oregano
- 1/4 t. dried rosemary
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 bouillon cube

Close jar with lid and ring. The completed kits should then be delivered to the church office. Please arrange a time for your delivery with Janet in advance. The Kroger cards and the instructions for making the soup will be attached after their delivery to the church office.

If assembling these soup kits isn't for you, please consider purchasing and donating jars of peanut butter, which can also be distributed with the Kroger cards.

— Mission & Service Ministry Team
(Denise Diener, Deanna Beth Chupp, Ann Burkholder, Arnold Roth, Neil Amstutz)



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



Connecting (cont. from page 2)

Because of our Sunday morning live streamed service, the daily prayer times starting Holy Week will happen Monday through Saturday. After those two weeks of daily prayers, we will return on April 20 to the pattern of morning and evening prayers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I personally have found these morning prayers, when said together with even a small group of fellow believers, to be a good way to enter my day. For many of you, your schedule may work better to close out your day in this prayerful manner. Either way, we pastors hope this new spiritual practice will help us stay connected with each other in the congregation.

— Neil Amstutz, for the Pastoral Team

Note From Amigo Centre

“We are working on a plan and ideas about how our facilities could be used by family units or individuals. We’re choosing to waive our day use fee and inviting all to come and use our trails. Come and watch the birds or sit under an oak tree and listen. We’re also willing to entertain individuals who would want to volunteer. We’re trying to spend as little cash as possible at the moment but there is a huge pile of fire wood that needs to be split and stacked.

“We’ve had all of our reservations through the end of April cancelled. This translates to a loss of about \$45,000 of our operating revenue. We’ve cut way back in expenses and we’re making drastic changes to how we operate.”

*To read the whole statement which includes suggestions for how you can help Amigo survive this difficult time, click on this link:
[Amigo Centre and COVID-19](#)*

Photo at left: Volunteers for The Window, including several from WMC, put together haystack suppers for their fund-raiser last Thursday. Because of the ban on group gatherings, they served all of the meals carry-out this year.