

buzz

Farewell from Stanley and Ursula Green

On June 5, 1993, in a U-Haul truck and a passenger van, our family of four drove over the San Gabriel mountains on a trip that was to last four days. Behind us was southern California that had been a place of learning, ministry, the birth of our second son, James, and making a home for eight years. In our rearview mirror, the foothills that rolled down to the Pacific Ocean were filled with so many cherished memories

for our family. Ahead of us were the deserts of California and Arizona before the road rolled across the corn and soybean flatlands in the midst of which we would find a new home. The road was unfamiliar and the future somewhat uncertain. Stanley was journeying toward an assignment as the new President of Mennonite Board of Missions, Ursula to a two decades long career in loving and teaching children.

Here, too, Lee and James would grow from boyhood into becoming adults. Arriving in Goshen on July 9, 1993 we dropped off our furniture and continued the trip to Philadelphia for the General Assembly of the Mennonite Church (Old). Back in Goshen a couple weeks later, we established our home on Mount Vernon Avenue in Colonial Farms and began the search for an address that would become our spiritual home. We had many recommendations and invitations about churches where we could settle. We were intentional, however, in determining to visit as many churches as possible before settling on the place we would call our spiritual home. It was a way we could introduce ourselves to the congregations from which support came for the work of missions and listen and learn of the hopes and dreams of people for what God was stirring in them regarding mission. Our visits began and ended at Waterford Mennonite Church after a near neighbor invited us to his church.



We ultimately made it to thirteen churches. By our thirteenth visit, our kids had had enough of feeling like strangers and outsiders, so when we next visited WMC, they declared they were done visiting and announced that WMC was it. So it was, twenty-seven years ago, that WMC became our spiritual home. Not long after, following a binational installation in Kitchener, Ontario for Stanley in his role, WMC hosted a northern Indiana service of blessing for the assignment.

We have appreciated opportunities for nurture and ministry that we experienced at WMC. Ursula enjoyed the privilege of ministering in song and serving on the worship team. Stanley was honored to speak on several occasions. We hosted our 25th wedding anniversary celebration at WMC, Ursula's 50th birthday and celebrated Stanley's 40th anniversary of

ordination to the Christian ministry. Stanley was grateful for WMC's big pots when once or twice a year he cooked a gratitude meal for staff at MMN. In recent times we have been blessed by the companionship and spiritual support of praying friends – Ursula with the Praying Companions and Stanley with a men's accountability and prayer group (Luke Gascho, Jeff Miller and Jon. Wieand). We recall with delight the warm expressions of love and care we experienced from so many in the congregation and will miss the friendly smiles, warm hugs and gracious gestures of goodwill we experienced from so many at WMC. We built a new home fifteen years ago in Larimer Village and during these last few weeks have been stripping its spaces of the accoutrements which have served as holders of the memories of our time here. On 1 June, 2020

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WMC'S
2020 High School Graduates



Gabe Goertz

Next year, I am planning on attending either the University of Notre Dame or Goshen College. I will be majoring in mathematics and minoring in music, but that's all subject to change since there are so many options! I can't wait to see where God takes me!

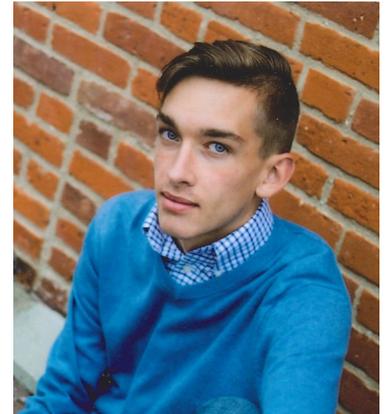
I would like to thank everyone at Waterford, especially Katie, for welcoming me into this community as a high school senior. Many of my fellow MYFers have been here for years and years, but everyone has done such a great job of making me feel like part of the church as a new member. I've had so many new experiences here and I'm so happy I found Waterford. I miss seeing everyone in person!



Andrew Smucker

I will be heading to Goshen College next year to study Business and Music.

Thank you to my Sunday school teachers I've had through the years, people that have helped me grow in my faith. Thank you to Mark, my mentor, for helping me along the way, also.



Nathan Oostland

After graduating from Bethany Christian High School I will be attending Eastern Mennonite University, with the hopes of being physically in Harrisonburg in the fall. I am majoring in Digital Media and Communication although I expect changes to that throughout my journey.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me here at Waterford. You have been my church family for 18 years and I appreciate all the ways I've been able to grow here. I am excited to start a new chapter in my life and appreciate your continued support.

Anna Myers

Thank you Waterford family for your continuous support, words of encouragement and love through my adolescent years. I cherish the memories I have from Bible stories with Char, moving through the stages of sheep to main characters in the Christmas play, spending time at Camp Amigo, going on MYF trips, and being baptized in the church pond. My church family has been there supporting me every step of the way and I will be forever thankful!

After graduation from Concord High School, I will be attending Goshen College to major in art and education. I am hoping to continue being involved in music and learn more about my Goshen community. I am also excited to experience cultures from around the world and how best to continue my journey with God by my side.



Levi Graber

After graduating from Goshen High School, I plan to attend Goshen College, majoring in History and minoring in Computer Science. I will also run Cross Country and Track. During the summer, I will continue to work at Martin's Supermarket.

MennoCon '19 was an awesome experience and I want to thank the congregation for being supportive of the MYF. I will continue to attend Waterford while I am in college.



Ben Wengerd

I am graduating from Goshen High School. This next fall I will be attending Triune University to study Sports Communication and to play football.

Thank you to my Dad, who has been raising two teenage boys. Thank you to Len and Loanne Harms for being like another set of grandparents for my brother and I. I can't express how much they've done for me and my family. Lastly, I'd like to thank the entire church. You have shown so much support for my family and I, especially through rough times these last four years and I really appreciate that.





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Embodied Spirituality: Connecting Spirit, Body and Mind

The enforced “pause” in many activities over the past several months is perhaps an opening to some people in our congregation who are looking for ways to deepen their relationships with themselves, others and God.

We would like to invite a group of interested persons to explore contemplative ways of connecting mind, body and spirit that can lead to growth in love, the heart of God.

The group we have in mind will meet via zoom on an evening that works for all participants for somewhere between 90-120 minutes per session. We will meet twice monthly over a four-month period. At each session, we will begin by briefly discussing a contemplative theological idea. We will then move to engagement with scripture in both mind and spirit through lectio divina (divine reading). Finally, we will explore a variety of ways to experience the connections between our minds, our bodies, our spirits and God's Spirit: we call this “embodied spirituality.”

This group will be led by Sheldon Swartz and Rod Hollinger-Janzen. If you are interested in participating, contact either one of us: sheldon@lifeda.com; rod@aimmintl.org.

— Rod Hollinger-Janzen

Thank You

Thank you for your kindness at this difficult time of our son John passing. Thanks also for your prayers, cards and flowers.

Inez (Culp) and family

Amish Meal Fundraiser Report

Thanks to all who helped with the Mother's Day (Eve) Amish Meal Fundraiser, whether in organizing, driving, or buying meals—apologies to those whose meals were delivered late and had to put into practice that fruit of the spirit: patience. The evening was a huge success with over 280 meals delivered and raising \$1,837 to support Carlos Ramos. Wilma, our Amish cook, was also overjoyed with the overwhelming response and shared her gratitude, “God is amazing. I didn't know how I was going to pay a large upcoming medical bill until you came along with this idea. The huge response will now cover my entire bill! God is so good.”

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some of those accoutrements (now boxed) will begin the reverse trek across the flatlands and prairies until we descend again from the San Gabriel mountains into the greater Los Angeles basin.

Our return journey to California, where we have a home in Lake Elsinore (one hour north of San Diego and one-and-a-quarter hours from L.A. in good traffic), is a journey toward retirement. Stanley will, however, be only semi-retired in the first several years, having accepted a half-time assignment as Conference Minister for the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference (a role in which he had served almost three decades ago). We look forward to reconnecting with old friends, to the mountains and the ocean that made the west coast feel so welcome those many years ago and the weather that had warmed our days when first we arrived on these shores. We lament that we leave without being able to hug or shake hands with so many of you who made the past 27 years so happy and fulfilling. Thanks and goodbye. We would be happy to welcome you if you're ever in southern California. Come visit.