



Waterford Mennonite Church | Sept. 27, 2020

buzz

Fall Worship Series

In October and November, our worship services will include a seven-Sunday series called “But Jesus ... Walking in the footsteps of a subversive Savior.” In it, we will examine many ways that Jesus did unpredictable and unexpected things, even things others of his day called “inappropriate.” In a time this fall, swirling with the pressures we feel from COVID-19, a national election, effects of climate change and racial injustices, what does it mean for us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus? Over and over in the Gospels, when circumstances would suggest Jesus should do a certain thing, he does something entirely different. So we will ponder the implications of following a Savior such as Jesus, in difficult and unpredictable times.

After this series, on November 22, J.D. Smucker will facilitate a special worship service giving us a preview of the new hymnal Voices Together, which we should have received by then. (Yes, it will be ironic if it turns out we celebrate and explore a new hymnal while not actually having it in our hands.)

The following table describes the theme of each Sunday (naming the subversive action of Jesus), as well as preacher and other special elements in worship:

Date	Theme	Text	Preacher	Special elements
Oct. 4	Embracing	Luke 5:12-16	Neil Amstutz	World Communion Sunday
Oct. 11	Rebuking	Luke 9:51-56	Cindy Voth	Journey Program blessing for Ursula Hess/Mary Hochstedler
Oct. 18	Bending	John 8:2-11	Katie Misz	
Oct. 25	Having not	Luke 9:57-62	Neil Amstutz	Special MCC Centennial offering
Nov. 1	Lingering	Luke 2:41-50	Terry Zehr	All Saints Sunday; God's Work Among Us – Stephen Ministries
Nov. 8	Staying silent	Mark 14:60-62	Cindy Voth	
Nov. 15	Answering	Luke 4:1-13	Neil Amstutz	
Nov. 22	<i>Voices Together</i>	Many	None	

COVID Listening Survey

On behalf of Waterford pastors and Ministry Leadership Council, I want to thank you as a congregation for your responses to the Listening Survey we asked you to respond to a few weeks ago. I am happy to report that 52 people responded to the online survey, 12 of you came to the in-person sharing circles on the lawn, and 7 chose to participate in the Zoom room. Ten people total served as listeners on behalf of Waterford leadership in the sharing circles and on Zoom.

We are grateful for the many statements of support for the cautious approach we have taken in light of COVID-19 realities, especially since few of us anticipated that we would still be dealing with the pandemic in late September. The creativity, variety of those assisting in worship, and themes of our live stream worship received many affirmations. Many of you also expressed appreciation for your SS classes and the ways you have found to relate by Zoom or in backyard clusters. Also apparent was the challenge, fatigue and loss felt by many due to isolation from friends and family. Counsel offered included requests and encouragements to find ways to meet safely in intergenerational groupings for fellowship. There were concerns expressed about the need to prepare ways to use our church facilities in the fall and winter chill not far around the corner.

We want to assure you that MLC, pastors, Worship and Family Life Ministry Teams take your responses seriously as we continue to work at ways to be church with the pandemic uncertainties. As we consider creative options ahead, we anticipate naming a COVID Advisory Team soon to advise us as leaders in our planning.

Again, thank you for your prayers and care for one another and for our pastors.

Rachel Stoltzfus,

Ministerial Leadership Council Chair, on behalf of Ministry Leadership Council

Thank You's

Waterford,

Thank you so much for your love and support over the past months as we've grieved the loss of my mother. The cards, garden decorations and meals have been a reminder of the care and comfort here to help me navigate through this new stage of life.

Blessings,

Emily (& Micah) Hunsberger

We appreciated the words, cards and prayers that you shared with us as we mourn for our grandson, Jacob. Your support for us and our larger family helps.

Lucille and Arnold Roth



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· Terry Zehr

Pastor of Senior Ministries

· Cindy Voth

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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be sent to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

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Opportunities for Fellowship

Here are some ways you can connect and fellowship with others from Waterford in the upcoming weeks!

Fellowship on the Church

Lawn – Sunday, September

27th from 3:30-5 p.m. bring

your lawn chairs and face-

masks and come visit with

each other.



Evening Fellowship over Zoom

– Tuesday, October 6th from 6:30-8 p.m. to catch up

with others from the congregation.

October Sunday Morning Zoom Fellowship times.

You can join others from

church from 9:00-9:15 a.m. and/or from

right after worship service for 15 minutes,

around 10:30-10:45 a.m.