

Waterford Mennonite Church | Sept. 6, 2020

buzz

A Two-Sunday Series

The worship services on September 13 and 20 are being planned around the theme of the current issue of race relations. The first service will be a lament about our complicity in not understanding, not hearing, and not taking seriously the pleas of the black community over many years. In the second service we will hear from four people at Waterford about a book or other media production that was influential in helping the initiation of a deeper experience in racial understanding for them.

The purpose of this article is to inform you that both services will have challenging questions presented that nurture hour classes may choose to discuss after participating in the service. Or they can be used more informally later when talking with friends.

The offering on the two Sundays, Sept. 13 and 20, will be a special offering for the Center for Community Justice in Elkhart to support their work in racial justice in our local community. You can give in two ways: mail a check to the church with CCJ in the subject line or donate online through the WMC website without setting up an account and password by specifying “other” fund and name CCJ as the description.

We invite you to prayerfully prepare for these services in which some of us may be challenged in our thinking.

— Len Harms

Endowment Fund Reminder

Applications for the Waterford Mennonite Church Endowment Fund will be accepted until October 1, 2020. As a reminder, the fund exists to further the ongoing mission of the church by providing a vehicle for above budget gifts to be invested for the church’s work. A complete copy of the Endowment Fund Guidelines can be found under the big bulletin board or at waterfordchurch.org. Please feel free to talk to one of the committee members if you have any questions and submit the applications to Jeff Miller.

— Endowment Fund Committee:

Neil Amstutz, Douglas Graber, Ruby Hochstedler,
Jeff Miller, Rachel Stoltzfus, Lyz Zimmerman

Thank You

Thank you for your gift of \$2,500 for the COVID-19 Congregational Relief Fund. The fund is a joint effort by Mennonite Disaster Service, Everence® and Mennonite Central Committee US to aid churches facing financial crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since launching the relief fund in April 2020, applications from churches across the country have been pouring in — especially from those serving racially or ethnically diverse communities. These churches are facing a multitude of needs, from reduced income to lost jobs, and supporting families in their midst to keeping their ministries going in order to serve those who most need hope.

Times like these remind us of how interconnected we all are, and your generous gift helps to support and hold one another up as a community, by helping churches facing financial hardships as a result of the global coronavirus emergency.

—Executive heads of MDS, Everence and MCC US

Additions to the WMC Library

Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded, by Phuc Luu. Author Luu re-narrates the life of Jesus to show how he made it his work to topple systems that privileged the few and disregarded the many, especially the poor and lowest. This book offers a counter-narrative to Western Christianity, which for centuries has legitimized colonization and violence to prop up the powerful at the expense of the masses. The author pulls from the tradition of his own experiences as a Vietnamese immigrant.

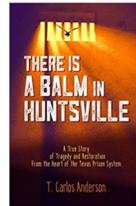


White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to Be White, by Daniel Hill. Hill is an active participant in addressing and confronting racial and systemic injustices. He shows you the

seven stages to expect on your own path to cultural awakening. This book gives you a new perspective on being white and will also empower you to be an agent of reconciliation in our increasingly diverse and divided world.

There is a Balm in Huntsville: A True Story of Tragedy and Restoration from the Heart of the Texas Prison System, by T. Carlos Anderson. Two teenagers

are killed in a tragic vehicular homicide one night in Texas. This true story, both sobering and hopeful follows the 19-year-old drunk driver's painful journey, as well as those of his victims' families. Eventually, the young prisoner becomes involved in some of the first victim-offender dialogues in the country and discovers restorative justice.



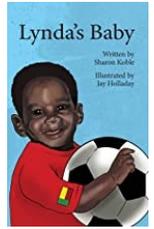
Speak Your Peace: What the Bible Says about Loving Our Enemies, by Ronald Sider. With candor and logic, Sider

takes on enduring questions about violence, non-violence, showing how the contemporary church in a warring world has largely set aside Jesus' call to love our enemies and traded its birthright in



Christ for a stew of nationalism and militarism.

Lynda's Baby, by Sharon Koble. This is a true story of our own Femi Hollinger-Janzen who attended Waterford during his growing up years. He was a boy born with a crooked leg who was abandoned at birth, adopted and became a professional soccer player. His journey is one of hope and healing and reminds readers that every life has purpose. Trust God for the impossible.



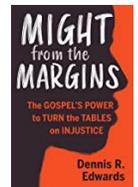
Who Will Be a Witness? Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance, by Drew Hart. Drew provides incisive insights

into Scripture and history, along with illuminating personal stories,

to help us identify how the witness of the church has become mangled by Christendom, white supremacy, and religious nationalism. Hart provides a wide range of options for congregations seeking to give witness to Jesus' ethic of love for and solidarity with the vulnerable. He calls the church to action, offering a way forward that is deeply rooted in the life and witness of Jesus.

Might from the Margins: The Gospel's Power to Turn the Tables on Injustice, by Dennis Edwards. This book is a

passionate affirmation of the power already present among marginalized Christians and a call to recognize and embrace this power for the sake of helping the church become more like Christ. The power of the gospel is often most visible among those who have been the least respected, including racial or ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, women, and people who have been displaced from their homeland.



Hester's Hunt for Home Trilogy: Three novels in one. Historical novels from Amish writer Linda Byler.



Waterford

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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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