



# buzz

---

## COVID Advisory Team (CA Team) Update

As promised last week, we are announcing the appointment of the COVID Advisory Team (CA Team) members. Since each individual's background, expertise, and experience includes caring for the well-being of various ages, including senior adults and children, we include their vocation here. Cynthia Bontrager, as medical director with United Health Care, serves as the chair. Other members who have agreed to serve are Jeremy Kauffman, Independent Consultant with Mennonite Health Services, currently working as an interim nursing home administrator; Dr. Katie Michalczyk, Family Physician with Goshen Family Physicians; and Kent Myers, Principal of Concord Intermediate School. Links to church leadership within this team include Cynthia Bontrager serving on Ministry Leadership Council, and Jeremy Kauffman on the Worship Ministry Team.

The CA Team have already met for the first time this week and have begun to focus on the task of forming recommendations based on current CDC, state and local health department information. Their goal is to recommend the safest ways for people to meet inside the church facilities, taking into account the size of groups, various ages, and appropriate activities. This might also include which parts of the building would serve specific purposes. The first advisory priority will be for non-worship gatherings as cold weather forces us inside.

The CA Team recommendations will then go to the Ministry Leadership Council which will consult with pastors and other ministry teams. MLC carries ultimate responsibility for this decision-making.

Please continue to pray for the COVID Advisory Team, MLC and pastors as they confer together to make decisions faithful to our calling to be church at this time.

—Rachel Stoltzfus,  
on behalf of Ministry Leadership Council

## An Attitude of Christian Mutual Aid

As noted elsewhere in this issue, our COVID Advisory Team members have now been named, and the Team has already begun its work. I invite the congregation's prayers for them as they share their time and expertise in service of the church. I also invite us to consider how our personal and churchwide practices in the COVID-19 era could be a contemporary application within the spirit of the Apostle Paul's arguments in 1 Corinthians chapters 8 to 10. In that letter to the Corinthian believers, Paul admonishes those who consider themselves "strong" to voluntarily make accommodations within church fellowship for the sake of the spiritual well-being of their brothers and sisters in Christ. The following quotes from 1 Corinthians (NIV) appear especially poignant for U.S. churches when deciding about regathering in the midst of a pandemic:

*Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. (8:9)*

*Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall. (8:13)*

*"I have the right to do anything," you say – but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything," – but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. (10:23-24)*

Having drawn this analogy, let me add a few significant caveats for comparing Paul's first

*See **Mutual Aid** on back...*



**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*
- JD Smucker  
*Worship Coordinator*
- Andrea Golden  
*Business Manager*
- Mikki Bowman  
*Director of Children's Ministries*

**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 sent to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

Janet Shoemaker,  
Interim editor  
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

## Mutual Aid (cont. from front)

century food instructions with our twenty-first century dilemmas about gathering in person: First, in our attempts to condense and simplify our communications, let us resist using labels to describe people. Paul's particular words that may sound like labels to our ears are not so much the point here today as is the principle of mutual aid and valuing the good of others. Secondly, let us also remember that establishing reopening practices with the safety of vulnerable people in mind is not something that only benefits those persons. With some infections coming through indirect secondary levels of exposure from an infectious individual, even those of us at low risk for complications from COVID ourselves do not know when we are unwittingly passing it along to someone else or if we will be one who develops complications from COVID. May we all grow in our capacity of mutual aid while celebrating the gift and value of each member of the body.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz

## WMC folks enjoyed visiting on the church lawn Sunday afternoon, September 27.

Right: George Thompson and Byron Yoder.

Below, clockwise from left: Christa Graber Kauffman, Jordan Kauffman, Matt Bateman, Becky Bateman, Cindy Voth, Rachael Hochstedler and Bob Hochstedler.

Photos by Michelle Lehman

## Offering Envelope Option

With the onset of COVID, many of you began giving online. Others of you are sending or dropping off your offerings to the church—some in the numbered envelopes and some not. As a result, there are a lot of unused offering envelopes out there.

Although we don't know what 2021 will look like in terms of public gatherings for our congregation, we are now at the point where we order new offering envelopes for the next calendar year. Rather than just automatically giving out boxes to everyone who doesn't give online, we are requesting that you let Elvina Schmidt know by Nov. 15 if you would like to continue receiving the numbered envelopes or not. If you began online giving because of the pandemic, or your patterns of giving have changed enough that you make little use of the envelopes and don't care to have them, please let her know your preference for next year.

You can contact Elvina at 574-533-5642 ext. 103, or [bookkeeper@waterfordchurch.org](mailto:bookkeeper@waterfordchurch.org).

