



buzz

Random Chats of Care

With the pandemic, people are experiencing all kinds of painful struggles—health crises, isolation, grief, stress, anxiety, job loss, financial problems, and more. With increasing number of COVID cases and cold weather, more people are feeling isolated. We all miss the encouragement of being with friends and family.

Pastors are working together with Stephen Leaders and Senior Adult Ministry Team to provide “Random Chats of Care”. In addition to their regular caring relationships, our Stephen Ministers will be calling people to see how they are doing – kind of like the chats we would have over coffee before Nurture Hour. They are interested in how you are coping and how your physical and emotional needs are being met. This is an extension of the care provided by our Pastors, and SS Class Shepherds.

Senior Adult Ministry Team has focused their outreach on those over 70 years of age who were not previously able to attend services in person. Since none of us are able to meet in person, more people are isolated. With more people involved making calls, more persons including all age groups, will be contacted. So when you answer your phone and a Waterford Stephen Minister asks “How are you?,” we really want to know!

The “Random Chats of Care” are intended to assure you that your church community cares for you.

—*Stephen Leaders: Mel & Lorna Claassen,
Liz Gingerich, Bill Minter*

Care for the Homeless

Kirk Martin is currently working at Oaklawn as a Recovery Coach, with a program called “Motels For Now,” set up as a temporary shelter for homeless people. It is what has replaced the “tent cities,” the homeless encampments, in South Bend. There is great need among these folks and Kirk is asking for donations of the items listed below. Any of these items will be greatly appreciated! Donation arrangements can be made directly through Kirk by calling (574) 218-5638.

ITEMS NEEDED

Blankets
Clothing
Winter Coats (a 3X-5X winter coat needed ASAP)
Hats
Gloves
Boots
Warm socks
Long Underwear
Food that can be microwaved, that doesn't need to be refrigerated



FAVORITES

Ramen Noodles
Bottled water
Cookies
Snack cakes
Boxes of individual size snacks

Prayer of Grief and Lament

by *Ursula Hess*

Dear God,

Our hearts are heavy, loaded with grief.

We cry tears that mean a hundred things at once, happy and sorrowful, desperate and hopeful.

We trust that you sort them out as you catch them, hear them, and answer them.

We cry for those left behind, for the lonely ones with hollows in their hearts. I ask you to comfort us, give peace, restore hope, and lavish us with love, connection, and belonging. In the depth of Jesus meet us with Yourself. You alone are our hope, our faithful connection, our peace.

We cry for the legacy Pastor Terry leaves behind, for the ways the world has been made different by his presence, for the memories that become both more beautiful and more painful on this side of death.

We pray that the work you have accomplished in his life will grow deeper, wider, and stronger in the days to come, uninhibited by a weak opponent like death.

We cry for the many others who have lost their loved ones, in our church and all around us. We are grieving, aching, and filled with sorrow. We want to ask WHY; it is often hard to trust that you have a purpose. But, you understand, you hear, and you are present with us.

We cry for the many ways the world has gone wrong. Our hearts are grieving with those who are hurting; for those who have lost friends and family; for those who have suffered such great tragedy at the hands of evil, of violence, of sickness and of failure to thrive. We are crying for lost memories and dreams. We are crying for the poor in the street, the homeless, the hungry, and the ones who live in fear. We ask that you would be their comforter, cover them with your love and grace, surrounding them in peace during this dark time.

We thank you that you alone are our Refuge, our Strong Tower, our Defender, and our Peace. We thank you that no matter what we face, you are still on the throne, you are still in control, and that no evil can ever stand against you. You have the victory. We ask that by your mighty power, you would bring down the forces of darkness, that you would thwart the plans of all those who plot to attack and destroy, that Your Light will shine in every dark corner. We know that only in you we are able to face dark and uncertain times. You give us hope and a future.

Thank you, Lord, that you are surely with us. Thank you that you care. Thank you that Your Presence is close and that you weep with those who weep. We need you. Your love will never fail.



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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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