



buzz

Mission Sunday Reminder

As noted in last week’s Buzz, our Mission Sunday worship service on Feb. 7 features video segments from our brothers and sisters at Benin Bible Institute (BBI), since we could not have a Beninese delegation visit us last fall. On our annual Mission Sunday, we usually receive a special above-budget Mission Offering. This year’s Mission Offering will be divided as follows:

- 50% to the Emergency Fund of Goshen Ministerial Association, assisting local persons with needs such as for rent, utilities and medical
- 50% to the New Generation Scholarship Fund for the theological training of new BBI faculty members. This is currently supporting studies in Christian counseling for Eric Noukpliguidi, who appears in our worship video

Please be sure to note “Mission Offering” on checks you send in, or in the “Other” line when using our online giving option. Because we worship remotely now, if you read this after Sunday morning Feb. 7, you can still watch the worship video after the fact (linked later at church website) and make your contribution later.

Mission Sunday helps us recall the work of God’s mission around the world, which we at Waterford support in many ways beyond what BBI does. Attached is a table showing Waterford’s current church budget which Mission and Service Ministry Team oversees. You can see that this year we will send out \$100,000 of support to missions and agencies outside ourselves, in addition to ministries many of you also support privately and channel through the church. Thank you for helping meet very practical needs now in our community, and formation training needs of future Christian leaders in Benin.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz, for Mission and Service
Ministry Team

2020-2021 Full Year Budget

Mission & Service Ministry Team Activities

Local Outreach	1,200.00
Benin Bible Institute Activity	5,000.00
Short-Term Service	500.00
Mennonite Women	800.00
HOPE Team	250.00
Post Service College Fund	600.00
Miscellaneous	300.00

Total MSMT Activities 8,650.00

MSMT External Support

Mennonite Central Committee	2,809.00
Mennonite Mission Network	
General	18,495.00
Benin Bible Institute	18,760.00
Ross Richer support	4,280.00
Mennonite Education Agency	2,660.00
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	4,261.00
Christian Peacemaker Teams	2,229.00
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference	26,600.00
Amigo Centre	5,122.00
Corinthian Plan-Ministry cmprnt	2,750.00
Menno-Hof	468.00
E3 Amigo Centre/Goshen Middle School	376.00
Elkhart County HOPE Network	852.00
Elkhart County Jail Chaplain	1,077.00
Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network	1,498.00
Habitat for Humanity	730.00
LaCasa	1,873.00
Center for Healing and Hope	2,229.00
Peace & Justice Support Network	394.00
The Window	487.00
ADNet	936.00
Africa InterMennonite Mission	627.00
Center for Community Justice	487.00
Other	0.00

Total MSMT External Support 100,000.00

Deep Calls to Deep: Worship and practices for Lent

It was a year ago in March when our world of worship and church as we knew it shut down due to COVID-19. That was four weeks before Easter, in the midst of the season of Lent. Whether or not we had committed to any fasting discipline, we were all plunged into an involuntary world of losses and isolation. Many of us have been forced to know ourselves and those around us much more deeply than ever before.

This year's Lenten worship theme, *Deep Calls to Deep*, is drawn from Psalm 42:7 and invites us to continue that journey of growth, discovery and letting go. As the Mennonite Church Canada writers of these materials noted, they considered this Lent 2021 as not only "... a time of reopened grief but also a season for renewed questioning of what we have discovered to be the deepest and truest parts of our lives and our journeys with God."

As we move toward the cross and empty tomb of Jesus Christ, each week will bring us varied calls: to deep relationship, deep commitment, deep wisdom, deep healing, deep growth, deep hope, and deep living. Along the way, there will be several activities and opportunities we're offering for more deliberately going deeper ourselves on this journey. We invite you and your household to engage in as many of the following options as will be meaningful to you:

Response ritual with stones: Each Sunday's worship will have a response ritual to do at home, using a small stone drawn from a bowl or vessel. We invite you, before Feb. 21, to prepare a bowl containing 6 stones for each person in your household. Keep the stones small, although large enough to be able to write on them with a marker.

Lent-at-home guide: This printed resource from Mennonite Church USA provides families with children (and other adults) special activities and rituals to do at home to mark each week of Lent through Easter. For families with children and youth, this will be part of a Lent-at-home kit to be delivered to their homes by the Children's Cluster. For others, this guide is accessible at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/lent-at-home/>

Ash Wednesday Zoom service: Using the Lent-at-home guide, together via a Zoom call we will

have a simple service for all ages, reconnecting us to God's sustaining creation, particularly in the form of earth, fire, water and air. This Zoom service will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17. The Zoom Link will be in the Life Beyond Waterford email on Feb. 5 and 12.

The Lent-at-home kits for families will contain the simple elements needed for this service. Others can find the list of simple elements to prepare at home ahead of time, through the Lent-at-home URL above. For those who can't get out to gather elements like soil or bubble liquid, there will be some extra Lent-at-home kits available inside the church main doors, for as long as they last. These kits for adults will have printouts of the Lenten Guided Prayer (see below).

Lenten Guided Prayer 2021: Courtesy of Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada, we offer a set of weekly guided prayers and practices that go along with our worship series *Deep Calls to Deep*. These materials, suitable for individuals or small groups, will be emailed out to the congregation weekly, beginning Feb. 12. A limited number of paper copies will be available inside the main church doors beginning Feb. 5. If you have trouble opening the attachments or need to arrange for a paper copy of these devotionals, please contact Janet in the church office.

Flowering the Cross: Also included in all Lent-at-home kits will be a special paper cross for each family, as a daily visual reminder of Lent.



See **Lent** continued on page 3

Introducing Bob and Karen Albrecht



Bob and Karen Albrecht moved to Goshen in May 2020 from Eureka, Illinois where they lived since their marriage. They met in La Junta, Col., where Bob was serving in Voluntary Service and Karen was an RN at the hospital.

Bob and Karen have been married for 46 years and have two children. Their daughter Anne, her husband Aaron and two boys live in Goshen and also attend Waterford Mennonite. Their son Mark lives in Lancaster, Penn., with his wife Jenn and four children.

Karen is from Kalona, Iowa, and graduated from the Eastern Mennonite College nursing program and worked as a nurse in hospitals and a doctor's office. She also worked for a chiropractor where she became interested in other forms of healthcare. She worked for eight years with Choice Books. Karen also volunteered at the MCC thrift store in Eureka where she managed the women's clothing section.

Bob grew up in Flanagan and Eureka, IL and is a University of Illinois graduate with a degree in Medical Technology. He worked at Eureka Hospital for 20 years before beginning a second career in Eye Banking. He retired in December 2018.

They attended the Roanoke Mennonite Church in Illinois where Elmer Wyse was one of their pastors. They served in various capacities at the church.

Bob and Karen have volunteered with MDS, SOOP in Tucson, Ariz., and Medical Ministries International in Nicaragua, to name a few. They hope to be able to continue service assignments when COVID settles down.

They both enjoy travel, music and singing, games and family. Karen enjoys reading and gardening while Bob enjoys woodworking.

Lent (cont. from page 2)

For each act of kindness we observe anywhere during Lent, we will decorate our cross with a flower – drawn, painted or glued on. All ages may take part in this activity, with additional paper copies of these crosses available inside the main church doors, for as long as they last. During Holy Week this activity will also go outdoors, as people may attach actual flowers to a large wooden cross on the church's front lawn (See separate article in next week's Buzz).

Waterford O-Lent-ics 2021: As teams of youth and sponsors, the MYF will be competing in their own Olympic-style tournament of Lenten activities called Waterford O-Lent-ics 2021.

More information about Holy Week observances will be coming later. May our hearts indeed be open for God to draw us deeper into the mysteries of God's love for us and God's call to us.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz

Thank You

Mennonite Central Committee, along with over 500 partners in 51 countries, offers sincere thanks to our friends and supporters at Waterford Mennonite for your contribution of \$7,062.50 during our 2020 centennial year. The [coronavirus](#) created challenges and opportunities for our partners, but your generosity allowed them to respond to the threat with creativity and life-saving resources. Thanks to your support, MCC has been able to assist those impacted by [twin hurricanes](#) destroying food and property in Central America; to respond to the devastation of the [port explosion](#) in Beirut, Lebanon, with food, relief supplies, rebuilding and trauma healing activities for people, many who had previously fled the trauma of the Syrian war; to walk with [uprooted people](#) around the world where food and gardening tools are helping feed displaced families. We offer [prayers for peace](#) – for our own communities and for our neighbors around the world. Thank you for offering hope and solidarity to vulnerable people through MCC in the name of Christ. —Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes

Supporting Prairie View

The Prairie View Elementary School support team is organizing a “Cheer and Appreciation Bag” for the teachers, classroom assistants, office staff, custodians, and cooks in February, and we are asking for your help. Anyone who wants to participate can bring small items to church on Monday, February 15 or Wednesday, February 17, between 9 and 12 o’clock. These can be any small items that teachers may enjoy, such as purse-size tissues, pens, candy, gum, granola bars, stickers, post it notes, valentines, etc. I checked with the EC Health Department and it can also include home-baked items that are individually wrapped, such as cookies, brownies, small rolls, home-made candy, bar cookies, pretzels, etc.

We need to assemble 100 bags, so we will divide the things that are brought equally among the bags. No one needs to bring 100 items. The bags will not be the same, but that adds to the fun. If you are bringing baked items and want them to be as fresh as possible, bring them on Wednesday as the bags will be assembled either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday and delivered.

If you are shopping, consider also buying a box or two of facial tissues for teachers’ use in the classrooms.

If there was ever a time when teachers need support and encouragement, we think this would be that time. Please consider supporting this project. Direct questions to Len Harms at lenharms@comcast.net or 574-238-5918.

—Prairie View Committee

Thank You

Thank you for the flowers and the support I received during my time of sorrow.

—Lenora Coyle and family

Please note: Lenora has moved to Waterford Crossing. Her new address is: 1212 Waterford Circle Apt 403 Goshen IN 46526

Help JYF Raise Funds for IHN

JYF is raising funds for Interfaith Hospitality Network. You can support them in this service project by purchasing a “Thinking of You” tray of homemade cookies and an artistic greeting card designed and created by members of the JYF. For a suggested donation of \$15, you can purchase one dozen cookies and a blank greeting card. You may purchase as many of these bundles as you wish! You may eat the cookies yourself, or you may gift them to bring others joy and let them know you are thinking of them. The JYF is covering the cost of cookie ingredients and cards. All money raised will be given to IHN.

There are three cookie options:

1. Monster Cookies
2. Gluten Free Monster Cookies
3. Chocolate Chip Cookies

The fundraiser began Tuesday, and orders will be accepted **through February 15**. Cookies will be available for pick-up on Saturday, February 27 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the church breezeway. To place your order, click on the link below and complete the Google sales form. Pictures of the scrumptious cookies can be viewed in the link.

<https://forms.gle/R2mdrq24hQYzRN4p9>

Thank you for supporting the JYF in their excitement of raising money for an important organization in our community!

If you have questions, please email Krista Daniels at nlatsirk@gmail.com.



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· 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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