

buzz

Welcome to the Yoder's

Hello! We are Jon (Jonathan) and Leanna Yoder. We are both retired from Everence in Goshen, Ind. We met at Everence when Jon became a financial adviser there, and was assigned to the same congregation that Leanna was attending and for which she was the MMA advocate. We live near Bristol, after building our house during the first year of our marriage in July 2007.



Both of us retired in 2018. Jon has had a business with his sister, Joanne Yoder, boarding and leasing horses since the early 1990's. Jon's part in the business is making hay and putting the large round bales out for the horses, and the other maintenance that comes with caring for 20 or 30+ horses. It is now a full-time job for him. Leanna stays busy taking care of the house and lawn, and recently learned a new skill of baking sourdough bread.

We enjoy traveling when we can get away. Since retirement, we traveled to New York City in 2018. Then in 2019 we returned to a favorite ranch in Arizona, and also took a long anticipated trip to Alaska. Wintertime pastimes are 1000-piece puzzles, reading, and binge-watching British TV series.

We attended Southside Fellowship in Elkhart before visiting Waterford. We appreciate the warm welcome we received here from familiar faces and even those who didn't know us before. We look forward to getting to know you better as we have more opportunities for interaction and fellowship.

Lose Your Mind; Find Your Soul

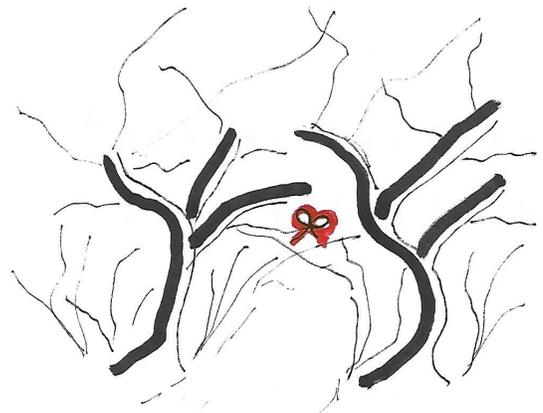
In the church service last Sunday someone quoted John Muir: "Into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul."

During these past months of distancing and staying home I have found myself drawn to the wetlands and woods around Waterford for solitude and healing, a place where I can "lose my mind and find my soul." I have sat in the woods for a few minutes or for an hour, listening to nature, water, and silence (and traffic on Route 15) and after a long, cold winter I now hear birds calling once again.

With permission, I've prepared a small space that I call my "prayer cell," and I offer it to anyone who wants to use it for prayer, meditation, contemplation, conversation . . . or just a quiet place to rest.

It's not hard to find. Walk down toward Baptism Pond, and when you reach the bottom of the hill, look to the right. You'll see a red ribbon tied to a twig above an opening in the bushes. Enter there, turn right, then left, and you are there. Some short logs are placed for seating, or bring a chair or stool. I hope you find peace, blessing and communion with the Spirit of Creation as I have.

—Bill Swartzendruber



Thank you

Thank you to the church for the nice plant, cards and phone calls after the death of our son-in-law.

Vance and Karon Weaver

Thank you so much for all who remembered my birthday with calls, cards and flowers.

And thank you to those who came out in the cold weather to sing happy birthday to me. What an awesome way to be remembered when you turn 99.

Inez Culp

To the Waterford Mennonite Church family,

The recent death of Mary Graber, mother to Douglas Graber, mother-in-law to Nancy Graber, and grandma to Laurina Graber-Ditzler, Christa Graber Kaufman, and Daniel Graber, marked the end of a long journey with dementia. We will now focus on remembering the good times of interaction: working on a sewing or knitting project, gathering at the piano to sing hymns, or caring for the horses. We are very appreciative of the response of individuals, couples, families, and the pastoral team members at this time of memorial and loss of the matriarch of the family, the last of her immediate family, uncles, aunts, etc. I grew up in the midst of Mom's care, and also in the sphere of influence in this circle of family members which surrounded us in the community where I will forever say I am from.

Douglas Graber

The Hazards of Winter



Thank you to Steve Landis, Aaron Lehman and Jan Oostland who cleared snow and ice from the church roof February 23 to stop a leakage of water in the hallway below.

Thanks also to Douglas Graber for re-attaching a section of gutter at the church, loosened by heavy ice.



Photos by Neil Amstutz



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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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