



Waterford  
Mennonite Church

April 18, 2021

# buzz

## Spring Worship Series Planned

As spring has arrived, the world is turning greener, and many of us are breathing in as much outdoor air as possible, a five-Sunday worship series will also draw us to God through biblical stories of breath and wind. Called “Breathe It In,” this series, running from April 25 through May 23, draws on themes from earlier Vacation Bible School materials. The series begins with how God’s own breath was used to create human beings, and concludes appropriately on Pentecost Sunday, with the gift of the Holy Spirit given to the church like the sound of blowing wind.

Here are the planned Scripture texts, themes and preachers:

Date	Text	Theme	Preacher
April 25	Genesis 2:4-9; 1:30	Breathe In Life	Cindy Voth
May 2	Ezekiel 37:1-10	Breathe in Hope	Neil Amstutz
May 9	Matthew 14:22-33	Breathe in Courage	Jane Ross Richer
May 16	Matthew 7:24-27	Breathe in Wisdom	Neil
May 23	Acts 2:1-6 and 38-42	Breathe in New Life	Cindy

## IMMC

## Conference Delegates Sharing

The theme for the IN MI Mennonite Conference delegates gathering this year was *Renewing A Vision*. For me renewing means more than just checking a box and doing things the same way they’ve always been done. Input from Mosaic Mennonite Conference (formerly Franconia Mennonite Conference) leaders, Steve Kriss, Danilo Sanchez and Marta Castillo, challenged us to embrace intercultural competencies. Often, we are *stretched* to explore areas of white dominance, but we often pull back when the tension gets too difficult or uncomfortable. However, being *transformed* interculturally will challenge our white dominance system and embrace new ways of being the inclusive church.

Changing traditions to be more interculturally competent could include conference staff living in urban vs. predominantly white areas, singing in other worshipping languages that might make us uncomfortable, changing leadership structures to make space for new voices, developing leadership programs for people of color, openness to adapting new approaches and educating ourselves on the landscape of justice.

What are we prepared to lose and what might we gain by transformation? Are we willing to move toward the inclusion of intercultural practices by changing structures from symbolically checking the box to allowing new voices of leadership and voting power to our sisters and brothers of color? How can Waterford Mennonite Church be transformed in the years to come?

—Joy Yoder, WMC Delegate

## Congregational Life

### Pastoral Search Report

The Search Committee for the Pastor of Senior Ministries met on April 7. The committee members reviewed the Ministerial Leadership Information Forms (MLI's) of three more people who have indicated an interest in the job. This represents a total of seven MLI's we have reviewed. Becky Horst indicated the conference office does not have more MLI's for us to review.

We are doing some additional work as individuals to prepare for our next meeting on Wednesday, April 21.

The Search Committee: Arnold C. Roth, chair; Rachel Brenneman, Esther Farmwald, Elmer Wyse; Neil Amstutz, Pastoral Team Leader; Ron Guengerich, IN-MI Congregational Coach; Becky Horst, IN-MI Search Guide

### Sunday Night Live

Waterford's first SNL was a time of reconnecting with others. Games and activities were provided for the children and a few other brave souls. Here Karen Thompson and Ethan Claassen work at building a buildzi tower.



## Special Request

### Update on Carlos Ramos

Those of you who knew Carlos Ramos remember that he had to have his legs and feet removed at the knee because of contracting bacterial meningitis. Periodically he needs to get new liners and new prosthetic feet. New liners will cost \$220 each with tax and new prosthetic feet will cost \$530 each with tax. We also continue to support Carlos monthly. To help support himself, Carlos was singing on the street but that is limited now with COVID.

Carlos lives in Mexico City and now has Mexican documentation which makes him legal in Mexico. He had been living in an apartment on the fourth floor. Since the building did not have an elevator, he moved to another apartment recently that is about 15' x 15'. It doesn't have a kitchen but does have a microwave and bathroom. Living now in downtown Mexico City, he has fairly reliable public transportation which is most helpful since he does not have an electric wheelchair. Carlos is a dog lover and rescued two stray dogs to keep him company. Although he realizes that it costs him money to keep both dogs, he doesn't have the heart to get rid of either one.

If you would like to help Carlos purchase new liners and prosthetic feet, please send a check made out to Samaritan Trust to Karen Sommers, 1803 Oak Leaf Lane, Goshen, IN 46526. Donations are not tax deductible.

In appreciation,

David Gingerich and Karen Sommers

#### Waterford

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##### Pastoral Ministry

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· Katie Misz

*Pastor of Family Life*

· Velma Swartz

*Interim 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.

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