

# *buzz*

## Moving Toward Repair

Acknowledging land and Indigenous Peoples has become a regular part of opening statements during services at Waterford Mennonite Church. This is an opportunity for us to show respect for all of God's Creation and to be reminded of the many injustices that occurred as white settlers began to occupy this land. Land acknowledgements don't relieve us of the responsibility to seek justice. Acknowledging the land and the peoples who lived here for centuries is an opening act of reorientation in our fractured history. It is important for us as a congregation to discern reparative actions that move toward justice.

Several Nurture Hour classes have studied the issues related to the Doctrine of Discovery and we have had sermons that focused on these injustices. The Seekers class decided to respond to the learnings by attending the Pokagon Band's powwow in Dowagiac, Mich., and interacting with leaders in the Language and Culture Department. The class raised money to purchase a portrait of Potawatomi dancers that will be part of a display at WMC.

The portrait of three girls from the Pokagon Band was taken by Sharon Hoogstraten, an artist and visual storyteller who lives in Chicago. She is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The members of this nation are descendants of the Potawatomi who lived in this area and were forced by the U. S. Army to march to Kansas in

1838 on what is known now as the Trail of Death. You can find more of Sharon's photographs on her website -<https://www.hoogstratenphotography.com>.

The portrait is of the Rapp sisters – Selpfie (8), Lilly (6) and Mimika (10) in regalia handed down in their family. They assisted in creating additional parts of their dance regalia. Sharon Hoogstraten took this photograph in 2015. Work will be done over the coming weeks to determine the best way to display the portrait in the church building.



The WMC Endowment fund granted money in 2020 to purchase one of the eight portraits that are on display in the gallery at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. These portraits are also part of Sharon's portfolio called *Dancing for My Tribe*. Sharon has expressed gratitude to me for the

support from WMC.

It is important to find additional steps in repair of broken relationships with the Indigenous People in our region and within North America. The Coalition for Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery has just released two new resource for congregations to use as an impetus for reparative actions. The Land Acknowledgement Guide and Stories of Repair resources are available at -  
<https://dofdmennon.org/2021/05/27/release-of-new-resources>.

—Luke Gascho

## Welcoming Spaces 3.0

### Facilities-related Straw Polls

For those of you who were at the May 16 Congregational Meeting via Zoom, here are the results of the facilities-related “straw polls”:

- Building a pavilion: Thumbs up, 76%; Thumbs down, 14%; Not sure, 10%
- Exploring renovating the south bathrooms: Thumbs up, 89%; Thumbs down, 6%; Not sure, 6%

Although a straw poll on the fellowship hall was not taken, we heard encouragement in the comments urging the fellowship hall to continue being a priority. At the Ministry Leadership Council meeting on May 18, we noted the encouraging balance in the Welcoming Spaces account along with strong opportunities for additional giving. MLC decided to expedite construction of the pavilion with hope to be able to use it yet this summer. Besides the strong 76 percent positive straw poll, another important factor for moving forward is the increased opportunity for its use this summer and years into the future by congregational celebrations benefiting everyone, especially youth and children. If you would like to offer assistance through an ad hoc “Pavilion Group” for planning things like electricity, a possible platform, a rear wall, deciding on tables/chairs and a storage room inside the shed, please contact Jan Oostland or Aaron Lehman.

The delay in fellowship hall renovations is primarily due to the need to assess the type and location of classroom dividers, which were about two-thirds of the total cost in our earlier estimates. To best determine these, MLC agreed we need time to settle into new routines with our Sunday school classes and large gatherings after not using the space for more than 14 months. As we do this review, we will be seeking ways to gather congregational input into both the fellowship hall and bathroom projects. In the meantime, if you have suggestions and comments about either, please pass those along to Lyle Miller at [lylegmiller@gmail.com](mailto:lylegmiller@gmail.com).

## Thank You To . . .

### ...The COVID Advisory Team

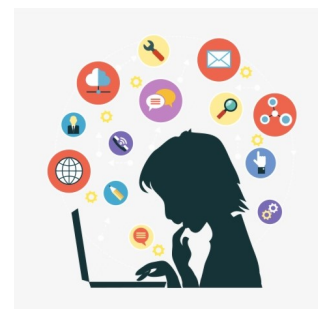
Since October 2020 Waterford Mennonite Church has had a team working behind the scenes to help us set protocols for our behavior in relating with one another and our use of church facilities in light of the COVID pandemic. Cynthia Bontrager, Jeremy Kauffman, Katie Michalczyk, and Kent Myers we selected because of their medical, administrative and educational work across the generational spectrum. They not only wrote guidelines for us but worked to physically set up various indoor spaces for eventual meeting safely.

In light of Elkhart County’s recent decreasing case incidence and increase in vaccinations of those 12 years old and up, MLC has approved releasing them from this responsibility which was ongoing and often intense, asking them to be periodic consultants now as needed. Thank you to each of these gifted people who have given of themselves during the difficult era of COVID.

### ...Our Faithful Tech Gurus

If you have attended our recent outdoor Sunday morning worship, you have seen Bob Hochstetler, Colin Berkey, and Shawn Stutzman as they worked to manage the sound and stream video for online viewing. What you have not seen is the “REALLY behind the scenes stuff” Shawn and Colin did for over a year when we were not together: Editing

countless raw video clips to appear shorter and more seamless; and researching, ordering and setting up new booth equipment and an all new digital outdoor sound system. In case you are concerned about whether we have acknowledged their time and expertise, we do thank them for their work with a stipend.





## Thank You

### Char's Class

Her class has been known as the 2's class, the Wee Wonderer's class, or just simply "Char's class." As you walk into the nurture wing, you would know Char's class by the happy sounds of chattering little ones, the occasional cry of missing a parent coupled with sounds of reassurance, the telling of Bible stories with special care and attention to each character, and delighted voices singing songs like *Jingle Jingle Happy Bells* and *food, food, food, thank you God for food*.

The truth is, our first experiences of God's love come from warm and consistent caregivers. This is the first (and arguably most important) stage of faith development. Without regular consistency and love, we must go back later in life to re-learn of



God's abounding and never-ending acceptance of us. Fortunately at Waterford, we have had the gift of a steadfast teacher who has committed herself to communicating the love of Jesus to the littlest ones among us.

Char Stoltzfus has served God as a Sunday school teacher for 57 years, along with serving as Minister to Children for 10 of those

years. After so many faithful years of dedication, she is retiring her post with the Wee Wonderers. While Char would not condone special attention, we cannot help but pause to thank and celebrate her.

Char, you have left an incredible legacy and your church family is so grateful for how you have served God among us. You have communicated God's love by showing each child how much she/he matters. Because of you, we the children and grown-ups of Waterford, have been introduced to the loving arms of Jesus. Thank you for your commitment, your time, your energy, and your love.

—Pastor Katie, On behalf of the Waterford children's cluster



## Mission

### Poor Peoples' Campaign Mass Digital Event, Monday June 21

Drew Hart, a theologian who draws from Anabaptist and Black Prophetic theological traditions, writes approvingly of the Poor Peoples' Campaign in his most recent book, "Who Will Be a Witness?" Hart appreciates the "very specific ethical and political goals related to poverty, education, justice and prison systems, ecological devastation, military spending, and livable wages" (p. 324). Hart encourages Christians to get involved, to take public stances for justice.

The Poor Peoples' Campaign will be holding a "Poor and Low Wage Workers Digital Mass Assembly" on Monday, June 21, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This is for anyone who wishes to support the Poor Peoples' Campaign. You can register for this online event at

[3dreconstruction.org](http://3dreconstruction.org). I hope that a number of Waterford members will livestream this event!

—Rod Hollinger-Janzen

## Community Life

### Pastoral Search Report

The Search Committee for the Pastor of Senior Ministries met on May 6, 7, 19 and 28, and on June 2. As reported to the Congregational Meeting May 16, we had narrowed our search to one candidate. Since that time we have met twice with him and are enthusiastically recommending him to the pastors and church leaders. He will be meeting with pastors and church leaders in coming weeks. Please continue to pray that God will lead us all as we continue the process for calling a Pastor of Senior Ministries.

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

### Membership Transfer Out

Mandy Schlabach has requested the transfer of her church membership from Waterford to Shalom Mennonite Fellowship in Tucson, Ariz. A member here since 2010, she was active in many youth activities. After completing college, Mandy married and moved to Tucson where she had lived part of her childhood. Ministry Leadership Council acted to approve this request earlier this month.

### New Address

Merv Chupp's new address in Goshen is:

190 The Willows  
Goshen, IN 46526

His cell phone remains (574) 536-8885

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· Elvina Schmidt

*Bookkeeper*

· Janet Shoemaker

*Coordinator of Administrative Ministries*

· 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*

· 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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