



buzz

A Word of Blessing For Graduating Mentor-Mentee Pairs

One important aspect of faith formation at Waterford is the opportunity to have a mentor. Youth are invited to have a mentor around sixth grade. The goal is to have another adult to talk to and know our youth. As a church, we recognize that so much of identity formation happens through relationship with people of different ages. Some mentor pairs connect very regularly in person, some over technology, some only as needs arise. Depending on the pair, there is flexibility on how this relationship will function, and many have found these relationships to be very meaningful. Each year, there are quarterly gatherings (some years a little more or less often) offered for pairs for an established space and time to reconnect. Once the youth graduates from high school, the mentoring expectations are released, and it is up to the youth and adult to check in with one another if and when they want to, recognizing a shift in relationship happens in young adulthood. As we come upon a new year, it is time to recognize our pairs who are graduating the program:

Alex Berkey + Len Harms

Anthony Moser + Gary Shetler

Carter Stoltzfus + Leonard Shetler

Clay Stoltzfus + Glenn Reinford

Christina Herrmann + Jo Ward Selman

Teresa Ross Richer + Fancheon Resler

Miranda Pfahler + Denise Diener

Tyler Daniels + Matt Bateman

Samantha Stoltzfus + Amanda Stoltzfus

See **Mentors-Mentees** on back

Behind the Mask

It is good to be back worshipping at Waterford again. This past summer I spent my Sunday mornings at Sunnyside, Belmont, Harvest, Shore, Clinton Frame, North Goshen, and East Goshen congregations. I experienced a wide range of worship styles and COVID precautions. Some congregations had people positioned to welcome me when I entered the front door, and others I could slip in and out without talking to more than one person.

As I returned to Waterford again last Sunday I felt like I was a visitor looking in at times. I have been given the gift of reflection, thinking about where I have been and where I am headed. I will continue to lament singing with a mask on, as I have been given the taste of singing without one on at various churches this past summer. At the same time, last Sunday I experienced the joyful praise of singing through our masks, and it reminded me that it is not a recording, or a small group of singers that creates the music, but the entire congregation.

We now have a new collection of songs, and a congregation to sing them together. We have an opportunity to sing them every Sunday. I encourage everyone to crack open *Voices Together* every Sunday and browse through the book. Song leaders are encouraged to sing new songs along with the time-tested familiar ones. New songs can invite us to move ahead into an uncertain future with hope. They can challenge us, uplift us, remind us, and guide us. And the beauty of this, is that we do it together.

—JD Smucker, Worship Coordinator

Mission

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale

The Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale will be held September 24 & 25 at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds. Are your donations ready? Please contact Carolyn Kauffman (574-304-7172 or cdkauff@gmail.com) for pickup or with any questions.

You can follow Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale on Facebook or <http://www.mennonitesale.org> to keep informed.

Donations, plus hundreds of volunteers help make this sale possible. Waterford has had an integral part in making the Relief Sale a success. We want to welcome any new Waterford attendees to join us in this effort! Our congregation has been in charge of three different areas:

SAUSAGE TENT:

Ken Otto will be chairing the booth this year. He is hoping to find some younger workers who will learn the workings of the booth and eventually take the chairperson responsibility. Sausage is fried for sausage sandwiches and sausage for the Saturday morning breakfast. Approximately 20 volunteers, working two-hour shifts are used throughout the weekend. Volunteers' primary job is to arrange cut links of sausage in the baskets to be fried. Someone else does the frying. The work is not heavy.

DAIRY BAR:

Aaron Lehman and Alan Zimmerman chair this booth. Menno tea, pop, water and ice cream are sold. Approximately 20 – 24 volunteers, working two-hour shifts are used throughout the weekend.

POPCORN:

Kevin and Lorene Miller provide leadership for this booth, which sells various Yoder Popcorn products to take home as well as freshly popped for eating at the sale. Additionally, children and parents roam the Saturday auctions, selling popcorn and drinks. Approximately 12 adults/youth and 8 – 10 children are needed to work in two-hour shifts throughout the weekend. Please consider if you would like to volunteer for one of these areas. If you have questions, talk to one of the chairpersons. Sign-up sheets will be on the Relief Sale table September 5.

—Carolyn Kauffman, WMC Relief Sale
Coordinator

Community Life

Mentors-Mentees (cont. from front)

Maddie Chupp + Janette Amstutz
Isabella Hartzler + Lorene Miller

Thank you to the mentors who have faithfully walked these formative years with their mentees, and thank you to mentees for the ways you have faithfully walked with your mentors. May God continue to bless you with relationships that provide wholeness, challenge, and joy for many years to come.

With gratitude,

Pastor Katie Misz and Len Harms
(Mentor program coordinator)

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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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