



Waterford  
Mennonite Church

August 29, 2021

# *buzz*

## **“Building the Church Back Up”: A Fall Worship Series**

Our worship series this fall is meant to help us look at the question, “What does it mean to be church?” Behind that is the wondering, “How do we build the church back up?” after significant disruptions and losses of people in our second COVID year.

To address these questions, we will turn to the book of Ephesians, a letter to a first century congregation in Asia Minor about how to be church, even in difficult times. The series roughly follows the order of the text in the epistle, with periodic breaks for special Sundays, such as “singing the salvation story”, World Communion Sunday, and our annual All Saints Day observance. Those attending will be given the chance to complete this sentence: “The church is

-----”, with those responses brought together later in the series.

Here are a few practicalities to note. Two of these Sundays are planned to be outdoors in and around the pavilion: September 12 and 26. The former is to avoid greater COVID transmission risk with an indoor service of mostly singing in a service which will also have a brief dedication for the pavilion itself. The latter will facilitate access to our baptismal pond. On those two Sundays, we will open windows and doors of the south fellowship hall, as an option for our older adults or those with mobility issues.

In preparation, we invite the congregation to read through the entire book of Ephesians before September 5. The following table summarizes elements of the series that are known at this time:

Theme	Text	Preacher	Date
Intro to book & the series Fill-in-blank exercise: “The church is ...”	1:1-10 1:15-23	Neil	September 5, 2021
<i>Singing the salvation story</i>		None	September 12
<i>God’s handiwork, made alive in Christ</i>	2:1-10	Cindy	September 19
<i>God’s big plan revealed</i>	3:1, 7-12	None	September 26
World Communion Sunday		Guest	October 3
<i>No longer foreigners &amp; strangers</i>	2:11-22	Neil or Deron	October 10
<i>Unity &amp; maturity in Christ’s body</i>	4:1-7, 11-16	Cindy	October 17
<i>Christian Living: “Walking in the way of love”</i>	4:17–5:2 [5:3-20]	Deron or Neil	October 24
<i>Christian households: Grappling w/ relationships &amp; gender roles</i>	5:21–6:9	JE & Katie Misz	October 31
All Saints Day observance		Cindy	November 7
<i>Equipped for spiritual battle</i>	6:10-20, 23-24	Neil	November 14

## Mission

### Amigo Centre Welcomes Volunteers for Storm Cleanup

While many of us in Goshen were sitting without electricity for a day or two after the August 9 storm, the area around Sturgis, Mich., was heavily damaged by fallen trees. Amigo Centre lost hundreds of trees—by one estimate, more than 500—two cabins, one cottage and many other buildings damaged. It will be months of cleanup--and they can't do it without volunteer help.

You, your family, small group or Sunday school class are welcome to volunteer for anywhere from a couple of hours to a whole day. Tasks include chain-sawing, clearing tree branches, raking trails, managing bonfires of smaller tree debris and more. The camp will be taking volunteers next week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Please contact Cheryl Mast at 574-538-9897 if you are interested in helping out.

The cleanup is under the Mennonite Disaster Service umbrella for liability purposes. Volunteering will mean filling out a form for MDS upon arriving at the camp.

At a recent Koinonia Sunday School class picnic, Eli Bowman drove the whole Lehman family around on a tractor ride. Like a pro!

## Community Life

### Welcoming Deron Brill Bergstresser

Pastor Deron's first Sunday among us will be September 5. In order to help him learn to know who we all are, we will be using name tags throughout the month of September. There will be peel off/stick on name tags, pens and markers at the tables outside the sanctuary doors with the offering baskets. You are encouraged to write your name on a tag and wear it.

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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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