



# buzz

## Worship

### Advent/Christmas Preview 2021

#### “Dare to Imagine”

In this second year of Advent and Christmas observed with a pandemic still not under control, it feels appropriate that the worship materials we're using this season were created a year ago under significant COVID restrictions. Although we have eased our way back into various forms of in-person worship at Waterford, we can still relate to the theme “Dare to imagine” in ways we never dreamed of only two years ago. We may find especially resonant this year these words from the Canadian writers of the worship materials as they longed for “... *renewed imagination in our lives and church lives. So much has been put on hold or turned upside down that we need to listen and respond to God's presence with new ears and renewed hearts and minds. As we begin a new church year, let's dare to imagine our path forward with God toward God's good dream for our world.*” (Leader, Fall 2021, p. 36)

This season of the year that feels so special to us will present unique challenges this year as we are “sort of coming out of” COVID, in terms of the special services and observances we usually have. Here are the special events or features to note for this Advent/Christmas season at Waterford:

#### Features

As the demand warrants it, we will continue the **options of worship** in the pavilion and in some designated rooms for “cluster viewing” of the

Sunday morning service live streamed from the sanctuary. Our Greencroft members can also continue watching Monday evenings from home.



Copies of a **special Advent “zine”** (from “magazine”) will be available in the foyer at church starting Nov. 28, in the form of a visually-oriented 8-page booklet. Connected to the weeks' worship themes, you are invited to take one to meditate on and use at home during Advent.

As previously announced in Buzz and in worship, families or small groups are encouraged to use our anticipated “**M & M's**” resource (Movies & Meditations). Watch a favorite Christmas movie with some devotional guidance and questions. Please contact Loanne Harms as soon as possible to add your own contribution to this resource, which will be uploaded to the church website.

With many children not yet attending worship in the sanctuary, our **children's time segments will be pre-recorded on video each week** with Revy who has been invited to help us prepare for Christmas!

See **Advent** on page 2

## Remembering Terry Zehr



Dear Waterford Congregation,

A year later, the presence of Terry remains in our memories. He made a strong impression on our Senior Adult Ministry Team. The following were a few comments made by our team included in sympathy to His wife and sons.

We thank Terry for his many contributions to our seniors and congregation. We sensed his love for people, his gentle way of engaging them, his ability to provide encouragement and express appreciation for their lives. His serenity in accepting the end of available treatment and his commitment to God's care was a welcome example for us. Each sermon he delivered spoke directly to us.

We again thank you for the gift of presence among us. We miss you and your smile.

— Barbara Landes, Senior Adult Ministry Team

## Advent (cont. from page 1)

### Events

With a traditional children's Christmas program being impractical with public health in mind, the children, youth and adults will be creating a "**virtual Christmas pageant**" through video segments done in advance. Please contact Katie Misz or Amanda Stoltzfus if you would like to contribute music. Sharing this experience together will be the majority of our Christmas worship service on December 26.

On December 21 at 6:30 p.m., we will adapt and share again a **Zoom "Longest Night" worship service**, as prepared last year by Sheldon and Velma Swartz and Merle and Mary Hochstedler. This may be helpful for anyone whose traumas or losses make it difficult to celebrate Christmas.

A **Christmas Eve Zoom service** is also being planned, with families in mind for its content. Starting time will be announced later. Come share Christmas Eve in your pajamas if you like! Zoom links for this and the Longest Night service will be publicized later.

There will be **no nurture hour on December 26.**

## Waterford is seeking an interim children's director

The Family Life Ministry Team is seeking an interim children's director to serve now through the end of the school year. We are looking for someone who cares about faith development in children, has administrative gifts, and enjoys working with a vibrant team. The main tasks for this interim position are to welcome children to the nurture wing on Sundays, be present as a resource for teachers as needed, and to chair the monthly children's cluster meetings. The role offers a small stipend to show appreciation for the value of this role in the life of the congregation. If you or someone you know would be a good fit for this role, please contact Helen Bowman or Pastor Katie.

## Finances

### Year-to-Date Giving Update:

Greetings from the Facilities and Finance Ministry Team. As we approach the end of 2021, FFMT encourages you to consider Waterford in your year-end giving plans. Year-to-Date giving at Waterford for our current fiscal year is lower than the prior year and below budget. The ministries that WMC supports both internally and externally can use your support. Thank you as always for your ongoing generosity to the ministries at Waterford.

— Facilities and Finance Ministry Team

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· Irma Perez

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*Pastoral Team Leader*

· Katie Misz

*Pastor of Family Life*

· Deron Brill Bergstresser

*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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## Community Life



MYF students and sponsors continue to enjoy bonfires for fellowship and spiritual conversation on Wednesdays at 7:00. Here students are enjoying the warmth of Brookmyer-Graber house. Would you be interested in hosting an MYF bonfire on an upcoming Wednesday night? Contact Pastor Katie to set it up!

Thank You

Thank you for all of the cards, emails, plants and prayers I received after the passing of my dad. I am deeply touched by the care and kindness shown to me by my church family.

—Janet Shoemaker