



# buzz



## Seeking God's Ways: Worship and Practices for Lent

This year's Lenten theme is "Seeking God's Ways" which is drawn from Isaiah 55:8 – "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." Throughout the Lenten journey we will look at different paradoxes we find in scripture and in our own lives. As we dig into the lectionary texts we will find examples of how humans have often misunderstood God's intention or God's ways. For example, we think God offers one thing, when what God offers is actually quite different. You will see the reality of this paradox in the theme for each Sunday included below.

Lent is the season of the church that is set aside for prayerful reflection as we prepare to faithfully follow Jesus through the events of Holy Week. Therefore, during our worship services there will be time for prayers of confession as well as words of assurance of God's forgiveness and presence. The children (and adults!) can look forward to children's time with Krista and Revy. Young to older will be drawn into worship through our visual arts that Loanne Harms will be creating. We invite everyone to come to our Lenten journey with an open heart and mind to meet Jesus and to be transformed as together we seek God's ways.

Again this year we encourage everyone to utilize the resource, *Lenten Guided Prayer 2022*, made available from the Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada. This resource provides an opportunity to integrate prayer and scripture into daily life. As so many of the Biblical texts for Lent 2022 remind us, God's ways are often different and wonderfully surprising compared to our expectations and assumptions about God. You will be encouraged to delve more deeply into God's longings for us. These materials, suitable for individuals or small groups, will be emailed out to the congregation weekly, beginning Friday, March 4. A limited number of paper copies will be available at the participation station table beginning March 6. If you have trouble opening the attachments or need to arrange for a paper copy of these devotionals, please contact Janet in the church office.

A reminder that we will begin our Lenten journey on **March 2 with a 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service** in our sanctuary (it will also be live streamed). We will mark each other with ashes as signs not only of our mortality but also of forgiveness and new life.

More details will come later for special services during Holy Week. May we join together in prayer for this intentional time of "Seeking God's Ways."

—Cindy Voth for Worship Ministry Team

See page 3 for the schedule of worship themes, scriptures and preachers.

## Interim Pastor Frances Ringenberg to Begin Sunday



It is with joy that we welcome Frances Ringenberg as an interim pastor on our Pastoral Team! Pastor Frances officially begins on February 27 and is prepared to be with us for the next four to six months as we continue in our time of

discernment of pastoral transitions.

Frances will be 0.5 FTE and her ministry tasks will include preaching (also relating to Worship Ministry Team) and pastoral care (particularly to begin with for those ages 25-50). In the upcoming weeks those who are 25-50 will be invited to sign up for a time to meet with Frances to share your story and to offer your reflections and hopes for WMC.

Frances can be contacted by her email ([mfrancesvr@gmail.com](mailto:mfrancesvr@gmail.com)) or by her cell phone (574-621-2676).

Please join us in warmly welcoming Frances to our Waterford faith community!

—Cindy Voth, for Pastoral Team

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## Introduction to Pastor Frances

Life began for me in Upland, Ind., where my father was a professor at Taylor University. My parents and older brother and sister were immigrants from Latvia and I was the 'little American' born in this country. My mother died when I was nine and my father was disabled by a series of strokes when I was a junior in high school. Supportive Christian community was vital in my growing up years.

I attended Taylor University where I met my husband Ron. After he completed graduate work at Ohio State we moved to the Minneapolis area where our two sons were born. Next steps took us to Wheaton, Ill., where we connected with Lombard Mennonite Church and deeper connection to Mennonites. We both became involved in church leadership roles and I was drawn particularly into worship planning. While living in Wheaton our eldest son, Ross, developed a serious progressive neurological condition.

On my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday our small group strongly encouraged me to seek formal theological training. I received an MA in Biblical and Theological Studies from Wheaton College with credits from AMBS. In 2003, with a major life transition, we moved to Elkhart County where

Ron was employed at AMBS and I was able to earn a Masters of Divinity degree. In 2010 I joyfully became part of the pastoral team at Prairie Street Mennonite Church where I served until the end of 2019. In the spring of 2021 I was invited to serve as interim pastor for East Goshen Mennonite Church and later that year for First Mennonite in Indianapolis. The opportunity to do interim pastoral work is an unanticipated blessing.

Our son Ross with the strong support of classmates was able to graduate from Taylor and work at Everence for almost ten years before his increasing disability limited fulltime employment. Always seeking to maximize opportunity, he travelled with a friend to Scotland in November 2016 where he contracted an infection and died there a month later. Ron and I spent that month in Edinburgh at his bedside, again supported and blessed by Christian community.

Our younger son Joe is married and lives in Vermont with his wife Rachael and four young daughters. We take deep delight in opportunities to visit and grandparent. I also take delight in gardening, sharing plants and engaging our downtown Elkhart neighborhood.

## Worship Schedule for Lent

Date	Theme	Scripture	Preacher
March 6	From security to generosity	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Luke 4:1-13; Romans 10:8b-13	Lyle Miller
March 13	From fear to compassion	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35; Philippians 3:17-4:1	Cindy Voth
March 20	From earning to receiving	Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Deron Bergstresser
March 27	From exceptionalism to inclusion	Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Frances Ringenberg
April 3	From scarcity to abundance	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; John 12:1-8; Philippians 3:4b-14	Frances Ringenberg
April 10	From power over to power with – Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Luke 22:14-23:56; Philippians 2:5-11	Deron Bergstresser
April 17	From certainty to openness – Easter	Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Katie Misz

## Youth Snow Camp at Amigo

Eighteen MYF and JYF youth and seven sponsors attended snow camp the weekend of February 19.





This year, sponsors and youth actually got to enjoy some winter activities in the snow, including cross country skiing and tobogganing, along with indoor games!



### Waterford

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· Katie Misz

*Pastor of Family Life*

· Deron Brill Bergstresser

*Pastor of Senior Ministries*

· Cindy Voth

*Pastor of Community Life*

· Frances Ringenberg

*Interim Pastor*

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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