



# buzz

## Sabbatical

### Katie and JE have places to be!

Hello Waterford,

We have had many people excited and curious with us about what is in store for this summer sabbatical. Your joy has been contagious and we are getting very excited to begin our sabbatical on May 11. I am spilling over with gratitude as I think of all the ways you are supporting us to make this break possible. It is an abundant outpouring of love and we receive it with delight.

As you may remember, I was awarded the Lilly Foundation Sabbatical grant which enables funding for travel for the purpose of rest and renewal. We decided to choose places that have mostly shown an abundance of caution with COVID protocols as that would feel life-giving to us if there were to be another surge while we are away.

May 11 – 22:	Prepare for travel
May 23 – June 12:	Hawaii for rest and exploration
June 13 – 17:	Big Sur, California for a mindfulness retreat at Esalen Retreat Center
June 18 – 29:	Yosemite National Park with Katie's family
June 30 – July 25:	Jerusalem university College class "Jesus and his Times"
July 25 – Aug 17:	Resting and reorienting after travel, celebrating our 10 year wedding anniversary

Our theme is "Spillin' the Tea: telling a more compassionate story." Our goals for this time are to:

- Practice mindful self-compassion to learn to be a little less self-critical
- Creatively engage with Biblical Storytelling
- Breathe deeply in God's creation to receive God's gentle care for physical and mental well-being

We invite you to join with us on this journey of compassionate storytelling. The Lilly Foundation grant also provides funds for the church to join in with our renewal. Here are some ways to spill the tea with us:

*Pick up a Spillin' the tea storytelling activity book.* These booklets contain simple and life-giving invitations for members of your household of all ages to practice sharing stories through poetry, coloring, journaling, scripture, and conversation. Thank you Mariko Claassen and Becky Bateman for your gifts and time to make these books extra meaningful for our church family.

*Join the all-ages nurture class in the pavilion.*

This summer Sunday school class will give opportunities to connect and share stories across age groups. There will even be a couple of drum circles interspersed throughout the summer! Talk to interim pastor, Melissa Chupp, for more details.

*Experience Faces of our Faith summer worship series.* Explore the bold and often overlooked Biblical narratives this summer. You will also have the chance to add your own stories to the mix.

See **Sabbatical** on page 4

## Community Life

### Outdoor Summer Sunday School for All Ages!

This summer, you are invited to an outdoor nurture hour class for all ages. Children, youth, and adults are invited to a class that will meet in the pavilion each Sunday from June 5 through August 14. The goals of this class are:

1. Making connections across generations
2. Creating and working together to find healing through play and worship
3. Seeking God's justice together.

The curriculum we have chosen for the summer is a new curriculum from Menno Media and Shine called *Currents: Seeking Justice Together*. Explore biblical justice, wholeness for humanity and all of creation. The class is being organized by Melissa Chupp, Mariko Claassen, and Helen Bowman.

We have a few special Sundays planned: we will be inviting Kent Dutchersmith from Faith Mennonite Church to lead the class in drum

circles and sharing for two or three Sundays throughout the summer.

Our hope is that children, parents, grandparents, teenagers, aunts, uncles, friends, and strangers will come together for a shared experience that they can then spur on conversations at home or in the hallways at church in the future. You can come as a whole family or as an individual. You can come one time or you can come many times.

This is a different experience than what we have done during past summers! Usually, our summer lessons are geared toward the children and the adults or youth are serving as helpers. This summer, we want to try something a little different. We are planning for a shared experience between children, youth, and adults young and old, where everyone comes as an equal learner and participant. May we hear what God has to say through people in a very different place and life stage from our own!

See you this summer in the pavilion!

—Family Life Team

Waterford Mennonite Church			
O-Lentics 2022			
Team Totals			
More Austrailia	Vici	Doveania	Dinosaur
671	938	603	1299
Winning Team			
Dinosaur			

### 2022 Olentics Update

Lent may be over, but the MYF and JYF faced their final competition in the Olentics this week. Last week, Daphcar and Bervalie Lehman tied for most valuable player! This Sunday will be the closing ceremonies and the losers and sponsors polar plunge in the pond.

## What Does It Take to Be a Stephen Minister?

*by the WMC Stephen Leader Team*

Stephen Leaders Liz Gingrich, Lorna and Mel Claassen, and Bill Minter thank the congregation for its prayers, interest and encouragement in the congregation's Stephen Ministry program. In preparation for the information session that will be offered during the May 8th Nurture Hour, the following questions and answers may help you consider your own sense of gifts and call to become a Stephen Minister.

### **How much of my time will it really involve?**

There are 50 hours of training during the September - December 2022 period. As a trained Stephen Minister you will visit about once a week, for about one hour, with the person you are caring for. You will also attend a 2.5 hour monthly meeting with your peer Stephen Ministers for group supervision and continuing education.

**How much money will this cost me?** Nothing. The congregation has budgeted money for the training materials and other meeting expenses.

### **Will our pastors still help and counsel people?**

Most definitely! Stephen Ministers complement the pastors' ministry and provide even more care for people who need it. Along with the class shepherds, this ministry has become an important part of how our congregation cares.

**What if I get over my head with people who need more care than I can provide?** You will never knowingly be assigned persons who might be in that situation. The Stephen Ministry training also helps you to know exactly when and how to help your care receivers get professional help when necessary. The peer supervision group, the Stephen Leaders and the pastors will also help you make such decisions.

**How might I personally benefit from this experience?** You will learn many skills that will

be valuable in your personal life as well as in your Stephen Ministry. Also, the satisfaction of helping another person is a wonderful blessing.

**Who will be the care receivers?** Participants in our congregation who are experiencing times of special need and other acquaintances within our community who may turn to us for help. Thus, Stephen Ministry is also a way to reach out to others who do not have a church community.

**Will the care receiver really want my involvement?** Yes. Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinators will meet first with the potential care receiver. Only after the care receiver understands Stephen Ministry and has agreed to meet with a Stephen Minister of the same gender will you be contacted.

**Are there other people as unsure as I am about this undertaking?** Probably so! But the training will eliminate much of this anxiety because you will not only learn how to respond to people but also, and much more importantly, how to listen.

**Are there persons I can talk to who have gone through this training?** Yes. Hearing about the experiences of Stephen Ministers in considering this call can be most beneficial. Please feel free to talk to current Stephen Ministers: Helen Bowman, Rachel Brennenman, Marge Gingerich, Anita Myers, Kay Miller or Gary Shetler.

**How do I express interest?** Attend the "Considering Being a Stephen Minister?" information session listed at the beginning of this article. You can also talk to Liz, Lorna, Mel or Bill. They will have further information for you, and a form available for you to indicate your interest. After completing an Application of Interest, you will then have the opportunity to meet with these Stephen Leaders, ask any questions and make a final decision together.



## Worship

Easter Sunday at Waterford began with a sunrise service at Jackson cemetery and ended with participating in five resurrection stations, including flowering the cross.



Photo by Frances Ringenberg

Photo by JE Misz



## Sabbatical (cont. from p. 1)

*Look for opportunities to name the bold and often-overlooked faith heroes in your life.* Additionally, consider sharing your story with the “I am” poem in worship. Want to dig deeper into this theme? Pick up a worship study journal to use devotionally or in a small group/ Sunday school class at the participation station.

*Invite someone over for a Tea Party.* Katie and JE will be creating a K-tea blend of tea from their lavender garden, that every household will get to take home with them on May 8. Who have you been meaning to invite to a cup of tea to get to know better? You are encouraged this summer to build a new relationship with “Summer tea times”.

*Check out the new mug racks in the MYF and JYF youth rooms.* Thank you to Bob Hostetler for creating mug racks so our youth groups can practice spillin’ the tea together in all the best ways. We look forward to each student claiming a mug to use and hang at church on an ongoing basis.

*Read buzz posts throughout the summer* written by JE Misz with invitations of ways to practice compassion in your own life.

*Attend the end-of-summer fellowship sun-tea party.* Look for details to come for this fellowship sun-tea party when JE and Katie are back from Sabbatical the third weekend in August. We are hoping for good food, good music, and fun together with our church family. Let’s create memorable stories together.

May we learn to listen well to stories.

May we learn how to tell better stories.

May we get caught up in God’s big story.

—Pastor Katie Misz



## Thank You

### Thanks for the send-off!

To all our Waterford friends, greetings in love and gratitude. The fond memories of January 30, our last Sunday there, still warm our hearts. My quilted lap cover is so cozy. It lies ready for use in our suddenly cheerier family room at home, which is now graced by the colorful and prominent Mark Daniels tanager painting on the wall above the mantel. Check out the church's Facebook group page to see a picture Janette posted. And a special thanks to Waterford for the gift of a getaway weekend earlier this month to a Bed & Breakfast in South Haven, MI. Although still cold outside, we had a wonderful time away. Warmth, kindness and generosity continue to be the hallmarks of Waterford Mennonite Church.

Love and blessings to all of you,  
Neil Amstutz

### Address Correction

Darrel Sommers, now in Greencroft Healthcare, is in **Rm 552**.

## Vacation Bible School 2022

We are excited to announce that Vacation Bible School is back in person this summer! This year's theme is Passport to Peace. The curriculum explains "in a world that is too often divided by race, class, ethnicity, and country of origin, Passport to Peace is a reminder that the love of God and the way of peace transcend all borders and divisions." We will learn to listen to and learn from people who are different, to care for those who are hungry, thirsty, and sick, and to refuse to respond to conflict with violence.

The dates for VBS are June 1 to June 3, and it is for ages 4 to current 5th graders. We will meet 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday with a picnic lunch for families to follow. Lunch will be provided every day.

We will have a sign-up table by the library after the service on May 1 and May 8. We will also have sign-up sheets under the mailboxes for guests. Please spread the word and invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

—Mariko Claassen,  
Interim Director of Children's Ministry

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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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