



Waterford  
Mennonite Church

April 3, 2022

# *buzz*

## Mission

### WMC's Mennonite Women

Waterford Mennonite Church provides many opportunities for using our talents and gifts. Mennonite Women is just one of the many. If you have time to volunteer one to six hours any second Thursday of the month, you are welcome to join us. Most of our time is used for Mennonite Central Committee projects such as the traditional quilting, knotting comforters and working on various MCC kits. Every month we also take a "Least Coin" offering. These funds are used for local projects. The offerings are small but it's surprising how they add up! In the past our gifts have helped Bashor Children's Home, providing tutoring supplies at Roxbury Park, The Window, Habitat for Humanity, Waterford Elementary, etc. The ideas for giving come from the women who gather and are aware of special needs in the community.

Of course, any organization like this always takes some leadership. The events don't just happen by themselves! I have been reading the minutes that have been kept since 2002. There is also a ledger that contains financial information since 1978. Some of the past presidents were Gladys Mast, Mary Holsopple, and Becky Yoder. Evonna King was a faithful secretary many of those years.

Recently I interviewed the outgoing president, Carol Lehman, and secretary, Diane Bodiker. Both have given an exceptional amount of time to Waterford's Mennonite Women. Diane has been secretary for 15 years and Carol, president for 8 years. I asked them for some of their

thoughts. Diane commented how she enjoyed the intergenerational friendships over the years, but fears we are losing that part. Also, she lamented that there is no longer an Indiana-Michigan conference Mennonite Women organization (only Mennonite Women USA). She misses those activities that have discontinued. Carol agreed and added that she would like to see the Prayer Shawl ministry continue. Thank you Carol and Diane for your dedication. For several years they have asked to be relieved of their duties. After not meeting during COVID, we began to wonder if we would continue.

Since November, I, Rachel Brenneman, have accepted the challenge for two years if I have ladies willing to help. Immediately, Carolyn Chupp offered to help me set up in the morning. Helen Bowman said she would be in charge of special MCC projects. Karen Hostetler will make sure there are comforters to knot and Becky Yoder will continue to sew her amazing bags for kits. Wow! How could we discontinue with all that help? The organizational set up may look a bit less formal but the work will continue. For that we are grateful. Come join us anytime you are available. We meet every second Thursday of the month in the MYF Room.

—Rachel Brenneman, for Mennonite Women

## Broader Church

### Delegate Reflections on the IMMC Spring Summit

Rose Shetler

The Spring Summit Delegate Meeting of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference was held in person on March 19 and via Zoom on March 26, and delegates could choose which to attend. After worship and the business meeting, the main session was led by Ben Tapper, co-founder of the Kindred Collective, an organization designed to address racial equity through consulting and healing dialogue programs.

Tapper highlighted the elements of white supremacy found in organizations:

- Perfectionism – Making a mistake is confused with being a mistake. The belief that there is only one right way to do things.
- Concentration of Power – Power is not shared. It is seen as a limited resource which results in secrecy and hoarding information.
- Right to Comfort – The belief that those with power have the right to emotional and psychological comfort. Those who cause discomfort in the organization are scapegoated.
- Individualism
- Progress is Bigger/More – Progress and success are synonymous with organizational expansion.

An antidote to counter the white supremacy elements within organizations is to become a Learning

Organization. The characteristics of a Learning Organization are (1) a structure that supports learning, (2) a climate of trust and safety that cultivates learning, (3) creating opportunities for informal, transformational learning to happen through working and interacting with others, and (4) a capacity to navigate complexity to address challenges and needed change within the organization.

Delegates discussed in small groups what was shared by Tapper. In the large group, we pondered the question, “What is Jesus’ call to us?” We were challenged to look at our political and social systems within our congregations. We were invited to follow Jesus in addressing white supremacy without needing to strike out in fear to defend ourselves. And we were reminded that Jesus’ miracles were bestowed on the marginalized, thus combating the effects of empire.

#### Karsten Hess

Who are we? Where are we? What are the stories we tell about ourselves and our place? These are questions that Waterford has been asking about itself in a few different settings lately.

Ben Tapper added some additional questions that would be important to ask ourselves: What does Jesus ask us to be responsible for? What are the ways that we absolve ourselves of our responsibility for the sake of our individual and collective comfort? How do those expectations and absolutes change depending on our social positions? (A quick reflection for myself: as a heterosexual white male

See **Reflections** on page 4

## Community Life

### O-lent-ics Updates

The O-lent-ics competition is fierce as Team Dinosaur took an early and commanding lead. However, do not count out the other teams yet! A great joy of the O-lent-ics is the reality that any team will always have the chance to win, even on the final day of the Easter Bash. Two weeks ago Mark Daniels and Karsten Hess led the youth in Competitive Yoga, blind-folded and given verbal instruction.

Waterford Mennonite Church O-Lent-ics 2022			
Team Totals			
More Australia	Vici	Doveania	Dinosaur
471	662	417	935
Winning Team			
Dinosaur			
MVP Bervallie			



## Endowment Fund

### Endowment Fund Reminder

Applications for the Waterford Mennonite Church Endowment Fund will be accepted until April 22, 2022. As a reminder, the fund exists to further the ongoing mission of the church by providing a vehicle for above budget gifts to be invested for the church's work. A complete copy of the Endowment Fund Guidelines can be found under the big bulletin board or at [www.waterfordchurch.org](http://www.waterfordchurch.org). Please feel free to talk to one of the committee members if you have any questions and submit the applications to Jeff Miller.

—Endowment Fund Committee:  
Douglas Graber, RubyHochstedler,  
Jeff Miller, Rachel Stoltzfus,  
Lyz Zimmerman

## Thank You

My family and I are grateful for all the expressions of kindness shared by members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Many thanks for the cards, phone calls, acts of service, food preparation and help in celebrating the life of my husband Felton Ross. He is missed here on earth, but we know that nothing separates him from the love of God, through Jesus his Savior.

Sincerely,  
Una Ross

Youth and sponsors practiced yoga (and other unknown) poses.



## Facilities

### Resuming Hospitality to the Community

For many years, we have rented our facility to individuals and groups outside of our congregation. When COVID began, we closed down the building and cancelled pre-scheduled events. As the pandemic restrictions started lifting, we once again began renting to some regular groups and to church members for one-time events.

We are now returning to our pre-pandemic rental pattern. This means that your group may no longer be able to switch locations upon arrival for your meetings. The Fellowship Hall will likely be used most Saturdays as we move into the spring and summer. Multiple groups can meet in the building at the same time, but please check with the office to schedule a room and indicate what you will need for your meeting. Doing this will create a welcoming space for outside groups by allowing them access to the room they reserved.

—Janet Shoemaker, Coordinator of Administrative Ministries

### Changes of Address

Jane Lehman and Claramae Klink  
Greencroft Healthcare, Vista, Rm 232

Darrel Sommers  
Greencroft Healthcare, The Gables,  
Rm 522

Nelda Nussbaum  
57952 County Road 18  
Goshen, IN 46528

## Reflections (cont. from page 2)

who was the youngest child in my family, I can get away without accepting responsibility in many aspects of my life yet still receive respect within the community.)

What grabbed my attention was the time we spent listening to Tapper and reflecting on his words.

I highly encourage Waterford to continue on this path of self-reflection and challenge ourselves further by inviting Tapper to speak to us in person and ask us to reflect on who we are and how we want to continue forward as extensions of Jesus.

## Thank You

On the behalf of the staff at Prairie View Elementary, I would like to thank you for your annual \$1,000 SOS grant. This year the grant funded three projects: 1) basic supplies (pencils and white board markers) for learning without screens, 2) educational materials such as flash cards and math games to be gifted to English Learner Students at the time of a home visit, and 3) supplies for preschool fine-motor kits.

WMC continuously supports PV students and staff in both tangible ways, such as with this grant, and in less tangible ways such as the encouragement we feel from your recent pick-me-up treats. You are a tremendous support which we value!

Natalie Potter and Amy Fisher, Prairie View Elementary School

#### Waterford

##### Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15

Goshen, IN 46526

phone: 574 533-5642

fax: 574 533-0879

office@waterfordchurch.org

www.waterfordchurch.org

#### Staff Team

##### Administrative Ministry

· Karen Hostetler

*Secretary*

· Elvina Schmidt

*Bookkeeper*

· Janet Shoemaker

*Coordinator of Administrative Ministries*

· Colin Berkey

*Tech Support*

· Mariko Claassen

*Interim Director of Children's Ministries*

##### Facilities Ministry

· Jan Oostland

*Facilities Manager*

· Courtney Shetler

*Custodian*

· Irma Perez

*Custodian*

##### Pastoral Ministry

· Katie Misz

*Pastor of Family Life*

· Deron Brill Bergstresser

*Pastor of Senior Ministries*

· 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.

Janet Shoemaker,  
Interim editor  
buzz@waterfordchurch.org