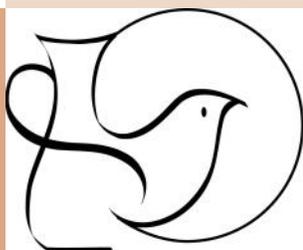


Vacation Bible School: Passport to Peace

Where did they go?

Learn about the children's travels in this Sunday's worship service!



June 5, 2022

The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship

10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages

Intergenerational class in the Pavilion

Welcome Team

Greeters: Loren & Miriam Stauffer

Ushers: Glenn Reinford, Dennis Myers

Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey, Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Parent-Youth mtg / MYF Room

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Mennonite Women

6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers / MYF Room/Room 15

7:00 p.m. Facilities & Finance

Zoom prayers Monday - 8:30 a.m., Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15

Goshen, IN 46526

Phone 574-533-5642

office@waterfordchurch.org

www.waterfordchurch.org

Spilling the Tea: Retelling a Familiar Story

By JE Misz

This summer, as Katie and I embark on our sabbatical, I have been tasked to write a monthly Buzz article exploring the theme of our sabbatical, "Spilling the Tea: Telling a Compassionate Story." In these articles, we'll explore how we can all practice increased kindness towards ourselves as we learn to tell our own stories. Each article will end with a blessing/poem I have written for further reflection.

Our first topic in this series explores the stories we often tell to and about ourselves. Sometimes the stories I share about myself are stories that are filled with aspects that I appreciate about myself or want others to believe about me. I think of the many stories I got to enjoy sharing and hearing around a campfire with our youth group this past year – memories of camping together, laughing together, and bringing each other hope and joy.

Other times, however, the stories that I tell to and about myself aren't always as kind or compassionate. Critical self-talk seeps in and the same old story gets told and re-told. "I should have known better." "I'm such a failure." "I'm so worthless." It's painful, the echoing of these stories as they repeat over every mistake, every perceived fault. Maybe your thoughts have ventured down similar paths, too?

Sometimes we do this because we think this talk will motivate us and encourage us to do better next time, to hate the feeling of failure so we try not to feel it again. Sometimes we speak these critical words to

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 177

Nurture Hour – 164

Finances – May 29, 2022

Operating Fund: \$2,615.00

Mennonite Education: \$2,328.25

Either Fund: \$4,055.00

Budget subtotal: \$8,998.25

MCC SALT \$1,400.00

Total: \$10,398.25

Looking Ahead

June 12: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser; *Faces of Our*

Faith: Daughters of

Zelophehad (Numbers 27:1-11)

June 19: Sermon: Karla Minter;

Faces of Our Faith: Debra

(Judges 4-5)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Team Leader

Monday & Tuesday

Deron Bergstresser, Senior

Adults

Tuesday - Thursday

Frances Ringenberg, Interim

Melissa Chupp, Interim

Katie Misz, on Sabbatical

Out of Office

Cindy Voth June 8-28

Office hours this week

Monday, Wed, Thurs 9-12, 1-3

Tues, Friday 9-12

ourselves because that's how we were taught to perceive ourselves. Whatever the reason, it is often self-defeating and only leads us to more negative perceptions of ourselves.

I wonder what it would look like to change the way we tell these stories about ourselves. Rather than speaking through a critical lens to ourselves, what would it look like if we spoke to ourselves through a new lens?

One way to retell our self-critical stories is imagining how one would speak to a child-version of themselves. One may even look at a picture of themselves as a child and try to think about the kindnesses they would like to speak to this child. Another way to retell these stories is wondering what you would say to a friend or loved one and trying to show yourself that same kindness. A third lens is imagining how God might see or speak to you – not as your biggest critic, but as a loving, nurturing presence who desires to show support.

Psalm 139 is a scriptural text that serves as a reminder of how God may be perceiving us. The poet sharing this psalm describes God as one who is perfectly aware of all of the poet's faults and yet knows that God views them as "fearfully and wonderfully made." An image is revealed of a God who looked upon us as children in the womb with love and care. If we could tell our story of ourselves from that lens, I wonder how much more gently we would speak to ourselves.

Katie's and my hope is that this summer, we can capture an imagination for the God who sees us and knows us, faults and all, and yet still has precious thoughts about us. Through this, we can all learn to tell the familiar stories of who we are as individuals and who we are as a community with more compassion and grace.

Together, let's tell the true stories of ourselves that maybe we have forgotten to tell. When we do this, God may work a new thing among us. Below is a blessing I wrote for when we find what's been forgotten. May this blessing mark the start of our journey together.

See insert for the blessing

The *Waterford Buzz* is published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

Janet Shoemaker,
Editor
buzz@waterfordchurch.org



Who all went along?

Find out during the children's time.

A Forgotten Blessing

Keep this in the last place you looked for it
In the back of the cupboard
Hidden on some unreachable shelf

In a box marked "miscellaneous"
Tucked behind everything that's useful

Store it there
Let it sit
Ferment

Notice how the dust settles on the surface
Like mist hiding a basin village

For it is only after you have lost it can you find this blessing

Like a fumbled exchange
Or a dance in twelve steps
Some blessings are only understood in recovery

So, let your memory of it dissolve

Replace the connective synapses binding this to you
With old hobbies and commercial jingles

Find new ways to entertain and be amazed
May laughter create a haze over these words
Until they feel so foreign

Count your breath
Let it remind you that this life is still yours

Until some unsuspecting day
Or night

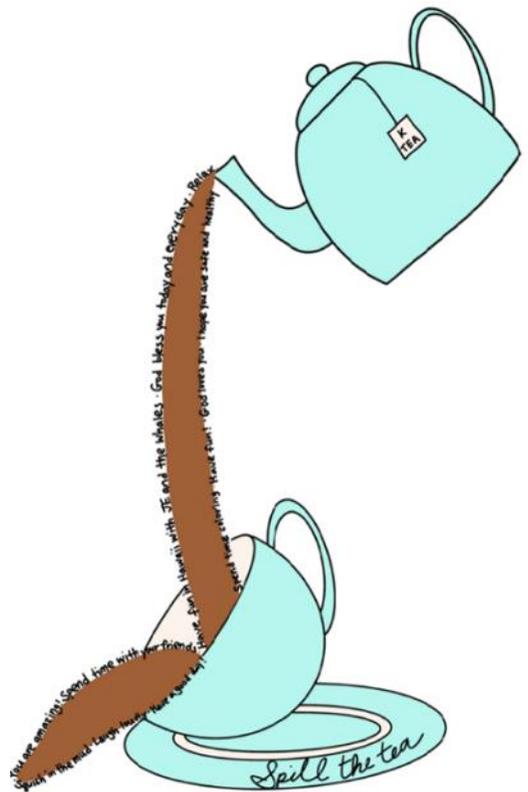
As you scour
Through neglected nooks

And stumble
Into wooden crates

May you find this blessing
Entombed In the pages of a half-read book
Or tucked in a couch cushion
Beside the stale popcorn kernels
And lost coins
Or crumpled in an old coat pocket

When this blessing will once again
Peek up like a springtime bloom

And awaken





What treasures and learnings did they bring back with them?

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday, besides the regular offering, you will be **invited to contribute to the children's VBS offering** which will be sent to Mennonite Central Committee for Ukraine refugee relief.

The all-ages nurture class in the pavilion starts this Sunday. This Sunday, Kent Dutchersmith will be leading a drum circle! If you would like to join a class of story-telling and games, or if you find yourself without your regular class on a given Sunday because everyone else has gone on vacation, come out and join in! People of all ages are encouraged to attend.

Thursday is Mennonite Women Day! It's always on the second Thursday of each month. Doors are open from 8:30 until 2:30 (more or less). We will be working on our quilt for the MCC relief sale and it's going to take many stitches yet! There are always comforters to knot. MCC is begging for these as they are sending comforters to the Ukraine. There will be fabric to cut for Dignity Kits which are being sent to Ukraine also. Bring your own lunch if you stay over noon. Thank you.

Listening Tour signup: Cindy, Deron and Frances have now added June availability to their online calendars. Choose a pastor to meet with, click on his or her calendar link below, and select the day, time, and the location for your meeting.

Pastor Cindy: <https://calendly.com/pastorcindy/listeningtour>

Pastor Deron: <https://calendly.com/waterford-listening-tour/pastorderon>

Pastor Frances: <https://calendly.com/mfrancesvr/listeningtour>

Salt & Light weekly reflection and teaching video for [June 5](#).

Upcoming Community Events

Goshen Community Chorale will perform Handel's Messiah, Parts 2 & 3, on Sunday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. in Sauder Concert Hall, Goshen College. Admission is free, but a freewill offering will be received.

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonites Against Militarism – a collaboration of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Central Committee, U.S. – is seeking to launch an initiative to counter military recruitment of U.S. youth, called Alternatives to Military Enlistment Network (AMEN). AMEN invites interested volunteers to complete a brief survey that identifies areas in which they may engage with AMEN, including administration, web and graphic design, publicity, budgeting, fundraising and guidance/career counseling. Learn more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/mennonites-against-militarism-seeks-volunteers/> Take the survey here: <https://rb.gy/gbehlm>

Bryan Miller from Beth-El Mennonite Church, Colorado Springs, Col., and RAWtools, Inc. are **auctioning Miller's sculpture, "Never Forgets Peace,"** to benefit Mennonite Church USA's Justice Fund. The sculpture is made from gun parts and is being auctioned from June 1-30, 2022, during Gun Violence Prevention Month. Learn more at rawtools.org/rawshop

MCC

MCC Great Lakes launches new initiative: **Churches Engaging on Climate Change (CECC)**: In light of MCC's commitment to care for God's creation and accompany marginalized communities harmed by climate change, MCC is looking for congregations interested in engaging in climate change in their own communities. CECC offers education and advocacy opportunities, connections with local partners and seed grants. Learn more and sign up for additional information at mcc.org/churches-climate-change.

AMBS

Mission and Formation:

Anabaptist Witness 9.1. How are Anabaptists formed for witness? This issue of AW, guest edited by **Sarah Ann Bixler** of Eastern Mennonite University and **Hyung Jin “Pablo” Kim Sun** of the Christian Reformed Church within Canada, calls attention to the dynamic process of communal and personal formation that impacts witness. Essays and poetry explore this theme in relation to disability; God images; sexuality; the Narrative Lectionary; and communities and mission work in Canada, Ethiopia, Mexico and the United States. Overall, this issue unsettles predominant Anabaptist-Mennonite accounts of formation and witness in order to encourage a diversity of approaches in the church and academy. Read the issue for free [online](#) (see link below) or [purchase a print issue in paperback](#).

Take a seminary course this fall! AMBS’s distance-friendly options include Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture; Christian Attitudes Toward War, Peace and Revolution; Faith Formation and Spirituality: Children; Isaiah; Spiritual Practices: Prayer and Scripture; Thinking Ethically; Understanding Trauma in Ministry and Peacebuilding; and more! Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours. Classes begin in August or September; check out our offerings! [ambse.org/upcoming-courses](https://www.ambse.org/upcoming-courses)

Summer Camps for Kids: Goshen College is offering a variety of summer camps for kids of all ages, some beginning as early as June 6. Besides various sports and music camps, there are options for computer programming, Spanish-learning, master naturalist, and STEM camps. For many of the camps, GC will provide meals, and cost waivers for eligible households. Learn more and sign up at [goshen.edu/summercamps](https://www.goshen.edu/summercamps).

Opportunities

Summer Camps for Kids: Goshen College is offering a variety of summer camps for kids of all ages, some beginning as early as June 6. Besides various sports and music camps, there are options for computer programming, Spanish-learning, master naturalist, and STEM camps. For many of the camps, GC will provide meals and cost waivers for eligible households. Learn more and sign up at [goshen.edu/summercamps](https://www.goshen.edu/summercamps).

AMBS is hiring! Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is accepting applications for an Assistant Director of Maintenance, a Resource Access Librarian, and a Student Services Coordinator. See full job descriptions: [ambse.org/jobs](https://www.ambse.org/jobs)

Multicultural Peace Collaboration, California, June 14-22: The Multicultural Peace Collaboration (MPC) will study the **Latinx experience through the story** of immigration, undocumented workers and the life of Cesar Chavez. The journey begins in San Diego, Calif., on June 15 and will end in Fresno, Calif., on June 21 (June 14 and 22 are travel days). Find more information and register [here](#). Full scholarships for travel and registration costs are available. Sign up now!

Thank You

Hello to the good people of Waterford Mennonite Church.

Thank you for your very generous donation to Sarah Augustine’s salary campaign! I almost literally danced with joy when it came in. Your gift is being matched by our church, so it will have double the impact.

We have been so excited by the response to this campaign and the support we’ve gotten from folks like you. And we are beyond excited that Sarah will be starting full-time with the Coalition on July 1. She has been such a powerhouse for justice as a volunteer that we can’t quite imagine what will be possible once she’s devoting all her energies to this!

Again, thanks for being a part of dismantling structures of injustice with us. We are very grateful.

Sheri Hostetler, for the Steering Committee of Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition