

A Season of Welcoming and Sending

Anna Smucker will begin a year of service in August. She writes about what she hopes the year will hold for her on page 4.

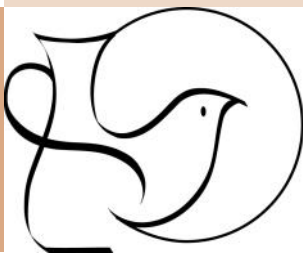
The Cup of Our Lives

Our next worship series, beginning August 21, will be drawn from Joyce Rupp's book *The Cup of Our Lives*. This theme was suggested by Pastor Katie to reflect the focus of her sabbatical time — Spilling the Tea. The book uses the image of the cup to reflect on our spiritual journey.

You are invited to bring a special cup or mug on August 7 or 14 to be included in creating the worship visual on August 21. You may place it on the participation station table. Please put your name on the bottom of the cup.

We are interested in including stories about our cups and mugs during our series. If you would like to tell a story about your cup or mug please contact a pastor.

Photo by Kira auf der Heide, Unsplash



July 31, 2022

The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
Intergenerational class-Pavilion

Welcome Team

Ushers: Glenn Reinford, Dennis Myers, Ken Otto
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Colin Berkey

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

9:00 a.m. EMST

Thursday

6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers
Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.,

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

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Spilling the Tea: Acknowledging a Truer Story

By JE Misz

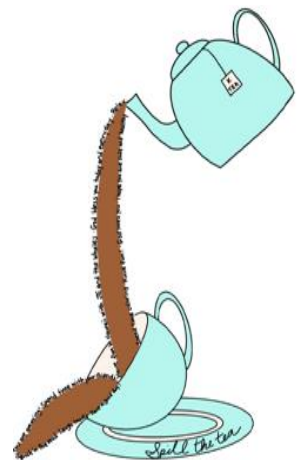
There's an old story of an elderly woman who had two clay pots that hung on both ends of a pole. Every day, she lifted the pole onto her shoulders and walked a journey to the nearest stream in order to fill the pots with water. The pot on her right was perfect in nearly every way. It always delivered a full portion of water. The pot on her left side, however, was cracked and leaked water the whole way back to her home. It only arrived to her house half-full of water.

The perfect pot on the right was proud of the job it had done in carrying the load. The poor cracked pot on the left, however, was embarrassed of its imperfection. The left pot perceived itself to be a failure because it could only do half of what the perfect pot could do.

One day, while getting filled at the stream, the cracked pot spoke up to the woman and said, "I am ashamed of myself because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The elderly woman smiled and simply replied, "On our walk back, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

On the way back that day, the pot took notice of the warming sun, felt the gentle breeze along the walk, and noticed the beautiful flowers



Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 165

Nurture Hour – 150

Finances – July 24, 2022

Operating Fund: \$4,436.10

Mennonite Education: \$795.00

Either Fund: \$3,600.00

Budget subtotal: \$8,831.10

Shirley Holsopple \$1000.00

Memorial

Jubilee Fund \$55.00

Seekers' Project \$600.00

Total: \$10,486.10

Looking Ahead

August 7: Sermon: Cindy Voth,

Faces of Our Faith: Jonah

August 14: Sermon: Cindy Voth,

Gretchen Bateman, Lacy

Stoltzfus; Faces of Our Faith:

Lydia

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Team Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, Sr. Adults

Tuesday - Thursday

Frances Ringenberg, Interim

Melissa Chupp, Interim

Katie Misz, on Sabbatical

Out of Office

Cindy Voth July 31

Frances Ringenberg August 2-5

Melissa Chupp August 4-8

Office hours this week

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

Tuesday, Friday 9-12

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

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along the path. The pot was happy — but only for a brief moment. When they got back home, the pot was sad once again after it noticed that it had lost half its water on the journey back home, just as it always did.

The elderly woman shared, “Did you notice how there are flowers on the left side of the path and not on the right? I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day that we walk home, your leak helps to water the flowers and make them grow. For years, I have been able to pick beautiful flowers that I have used to decorate my home and give to friends and family. Without you, there would not have been this special beauty that has been in my life and in the lives of so many others who have received those flowers.”

I think I hear the voice of God in this story — a God who notices our imperfections, isn’t embarrassed by them, and is able to recognize the beauty offered in our perceived brokenness. What if the things that we have always believed were imperfections were actually a vessel for bringing beauty, hope, light, and color into the world? What if the things we dislike about ourselves are the very things that God is using to make this world a more diverse and better place?

This story actually reminds me of another old story — the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples after the resurrection (John 20:19-29). Jesus is recognized and known to his disciples not by his perfections but by his wounds. There is power in recognizing that resurrection does not mean that all things will be “fixed.” Our wounds and imperfections may actually be the way of drawing others into the wide and vast love of God.

Telling ourselves a truer story may mean recognizing and accepting the ways we aren’t perfect. However, this can also open us up to the reality that our imperfections can also be a source of beauty in this world. This poem was written as a reminder that we not so much seek to repair our brokenness but rather seek the love that both heals and embraces our brokenness. (See insert for poem.)

Now is the time to shop for items to make MCC School Kits! Grab some bags by the mailboxes and fill them. Each bag should contain the following:

- 4 spiral notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in. and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small all metal pencil sharpener; if you cannot find these, MCC will add them.

Thank you!

A Blessing for What's Broken

The stripped screw
The crackled plate
The too bent wire

The hanging zipper
Baptized cell phone
Frayed ends and beginnings

Tilted shelving
Too fragile to move
The wobbled chair

Limbs and bones and hearts
Splinted and grafted and tied

Like torn pant seams
Exposing everything you've longed to hide
For the times in which you've tried

To fit meaning into this malaise
Like water
Through a busted pipe

For the unknown components
And when you've noticed
That not every fragment broke open
Fits into this mosaic this moment

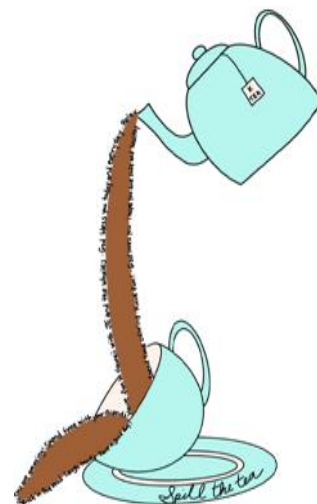
For when the battery dies
And there are no other remotes to collect from

For the times it cannot be fixed
And for those that it can

May you recycle what's possible
And marvel at all that was made
And can never be used again

For it was all once loved,
Once held,
And that's how all things break
And how all things are mended back together
Too

— J.E. Misz



Waterford Announcements

Reminder: There will be a **Joint Nurture Hour on August 7** for the working group on Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery to share about a land acknowledgement statement for the church property and to engage questions about what it means for WMC to become a Repair Network member.

Intergenerational Sunday School activity week: Kent Dutchersmith will be here to lead the group in folk dancing.

Salt & Light weekly reflection for [July 31](#).

Upcoming Community Events

It's My Coins Count time again this year! New this year, your collections will help provide FOOD to children and families around the world through Mennonite Central Committee and its partners by supporting farmers and for providing emergency food for families in refugee camps or in crisis. Adults can support the children by matching the coins totals! If you are interested in doing this, please contact the office.

You are invited to the **2022 Annual AIMM (Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission) Picnic**, 12:00 noon, Saturday August 13 at Silverwood Mennonite Church. Bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. See more information on the bulletin board by the mailboxes.

The Relief Sale Choir is back! Practices start Sunday, August 14, 3:00-4:30 p.m. at College Mennonite Church. All are welcome! The choir will perform Sunday evening, Sept. 25, at Sauder Hall in the Goshen College Music Center. For more details check mennonitesale.org/volunteer#choir.

Opportunities

Graphic Designer

- full-time position with benefits
- experience with digital and print design as well as social media, web and IT
- interest in museum exhibit production

For job description and to apply, visit KauffmanMuseum.org/designer
For more information contact Andi Andres
asa@bethelks.edu or 316-283-1612

Kauffman MUSEUM at Bethel College
North Newton, Kansas

Seed to Feed program of Church Community Services in Elkhart is hiring a full-time **Garden Educator Coordinator**. If you are passionate about gardening and want to make a difference in the lives of local youth and the community, learn more and apply [HERE](#).

Peace Camp Puerto Rico, November 6-11. Puerto Rico has a complex and compelling history for peacemakers to wrestle with, and a beautiful Caribbean location to do it in. This peace camp will provide young adults the opportunity of hands-on learning as we build community together, deconstruct unjust systems, witness and participate in spaces of healing, engage in hospitality, and discover new ways to live and proclaim the gospel of peace. This experience will be facilitated in Spanish; a minimum of conversational Spanish is expected from all participants. Register [here](#).

Mennonite Church USA

We do ourselves a disservice when we don't celebrate everyone's gifts. **Jeanne Davies of Anabaptist Disabilities Network** reflects on how those on the margins, those with disabilities, provide beautiful insights and gifts that we can all benefit from. Read more in her Menno Snapshots blog, "For the common good." mennoniteusa.org/for-common-good

When **Cindy Angela** moved from Java, Indonesia, to Pennsylvania, she was pleasantly surprised that she was able to experience pieces of her Indonesian culture in her new city. When she was baptized into Christ, she was even more excited that, through her diverse church, she was able to incorporate her Indonesian identity into her Christian walk. Read her Menno Snapshots blog, "**Pieces from back home**," to learn more. mennoniteusa.org/pieces-from-back-home

MDS

The July edition of [On the Level](#) is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Executive Director Kevin King invites you to take a short quiz to see how much you know about MDS and you can read more about the latest work by volunteers in Paradise, California.

Transitions

AMBS

AMBS recently offered a webinar on **countering Christian nationalism** led by [Drew Strait](#), PhD, Assistant Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins. These [free resources](#) are now available online:

- **Webinar recording** (60 minutes)
- **Group study video** with discussion questions (30 minutes)
- **Opinion piece written by Drew**, offering three steps for what Christians against White Christian nationalism can do right now: "Our Moral Pandemic: Christian Nationalism and Political Idolatry"

Consider signing up to learn from Drew in **Resisting Christian Nationalism with the Gospel of Peace** — a new four-week noncredit online short course to be held April 12 – May 9, 2023. No grades, no papers! Sign up early to save \$50.

Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship

MHF Annual Gathering will be held October 14-16 at MCC's The Welcoming Place in Akron, Pa. There will be reflecting with guest speaker Malinda Elizabeth Berry, PhD, on the Five Life Standards. We will also spend time reflecting together on the Standards and the intersection of our spiritual and professional callings. Register at <https://mennohealth.org/annual-gathering-2022/>

Anna Smucker to Begin Year of Voluntary Service



I graduated from Goshen College this past May, with a degree in Graphic Design and minors in Bible & Religion and Music. This summer, I have been working at Lightbox as a graphic design intern and have thoroughly enjoyed learning more about design, clients, and working with other skilled designers as a collective.

Around August 13, I will be taking part in the Shalom Project in Lancaster, Pa. The Shalom Project was started by Nathan Grieser, a Goshen College alum, in 2015. The Shalom Project is rooted in Anabaptist values and strives to be an intentional community of young adults who seek to affect social change through lives of service. As I take part in a year of voluntary service, I hope to use my graphic design skills in various ways at the United Way of Lancaster.



While I am a bit sad to leave my Goshen family, friends, and church community behind as I embark on this new experience, I am excited to expand my design knowledge while being involved in a faith-based and community-oriented program.

I am grateful for the support I have received over the years from the Waterford Community!

Thanks, Anna

Lynda and Rod Hollinger-Janzen invite the congregation to a drop-in gathering to celebrate the October wedding of their daughter, Rachel, and her fiancé, Wes Faulkner. Please come the church to greet Rachel and Wes on Saturday, August 27, anytime between 2-5 p.m. RSVP to Lynda at (574) 535-0762.

Thank You

Thank you to Dwight Kauffman and the men of the Seekers class who came together to trim the bushes and clean out dead trees around the perimeter of the church. Thanks for helping to keep our grounds well-groomed!