

# **Staffs and Serpents**

# Waterford Mennonite Church

November 19, 2023

Prelude		Lorraine Reinford
Gathering songs	<i>To God Be the Glory</i> <i>Freedom Is Coming</i> <i>Siyahamba</i>	JD Smucker VT 84  VT 793
Welcome & Call to worship		Derrick Ramer
Lighting the peace lamp*		
Offering	<i>Please pass the friendship pads</i> (Gifts are for Operating Fund unless designated otherwise)	
Children's time		Katie Misz
Song	<i>Listen in the Silence</i>	VT 541
Scripture	Numbers 21:1-9; John 3:1-5, 9-15	Derrick, Gretchen Bateman, Neer Goswami
Drama	"Green-Fingered God"	Nick & Amanda Stoltzfus
Sermon	"Is This All There Is?"	Deron Bergstresser
Song of response	<i>Fill Us with Your Feast</i>	VT 309
Congregational prayer		Derrick
Benediction		
Sending song	<i>Christ Be in Your Senses</i>	VT 721

*Thank you to Zoë Brown for creating the worship visuals for this series on Numbers.*

VT = Voices Together; SJ = Sing the Journey; SS = Sing the Story

\*We light the peace lamp every Sunday to lament all unnecessary and violent loss of life around the world.

## **Prayers**

We remember this week our 1<sup>st</sup> grade student *Micah Romão* and his teachers *JD Smucker* and *Beth Smucker*.

*Barb Thuma*, completing her work with Mennonite Mission Network at La Casa Grande in Benin. Pray that the love she shared with the children, through teaching English and working with them on the agricultural program, will bear fruit in the lives of each person she learned to know.

WMC Delegates visiting with our siblings at Benin Bible Institute – *Pastor Cindy, Luke, Elijah, and Thomas Voth; Rod Hollinger-Janzen*.

Pray for transformation in the lives of those served by the *Morning Star (Muncie)* congregation's food pantry and Thanksgiving food giveaway, and for the materials and labor needed for their renovation process.

Our *children and youth* this month as they focus on the Circle of Grace curriculum that explores healthy boundaries and abuse prevention.

For the *thousands displaced* due to political and ethnic unrest in the state of Manipur, India, where many are living in refugee camps or have fled to other states. Pray for different groups to be willing to learn about the other and bring peace in the state.

## **Welcome Guests**

We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Children of all ages are welcome in worship. There are sermon boards for children outside the sanctuary doors; please pick one up as you enter. If desired, there is a nursery available in the west end of the foyer for infants and toddlers. Large print copies of the hymnal and hearing aid systems are available from the ushers. We invite you to stay for our nurture hour. Look for the welcome brochure on the front table in the foyer.

## **Our Mission Statement**

As the people of Waterford Mennonite Church, we

*Welcome everyone to faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ,*

*Minister to the needs of one another and our neighbors through the Holy Spirit, and*

*Call out each other's gifts for the joyful work of God's reconciling mission.*

We celebrate that everyone is created in God's image, and as followers of Jesus we welcome people of every age, ability, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic situation, gender identity, and citizenship status as full participants in the life of our congregation.

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