

# **Biblical Characters**

## **Esther**

# Waterford Mennonite Church

July 14, 2024

Prelude		Anne Lehman
Gathering songs		JD Smucker
	<i>Shout to the Lord</i>	VT 125
	<i>Together</i>	VT 389
	<i>The Lord Is My Light</i>	VT 437
Welcome & Call to worship		Erin Smeltzer
Blessing MYF service trip		Katie Misz, Erin Smeltzer
Lighting the peace lamp*		
Offering	<i>Please pass the friendship pads</i>	
	(Gifts are for Mennonite Education unless designated otherwise)	
Song	<i>Sing to God a New Song</i>	VT 93
Children's Time		George Thompson
Song	<i>God Give Me Faith</i>	VT 519
Scripture	Esther 4:10-16	
Sermon	"Queen Esther and You"	Jane Ross Richer
Song of response	<i>I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace</i>	VT 590
Congregational prayer		Linda Short
Benediction		
Sending song	<i>Be a Sower (v. 1 &amp; 3)</i>	VT 789

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**

*Pastor Cindy and Luke*, as they begin their journey of backpacking across Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior on Wednesday, as part of Cindy's sabbatical.

*Mennonite Mission Network's workers in Asia and the Middle East* recently completed a five-day retreat in Thailand. Pray that the refreshing times of worship, fellowship and encouragement will help them return to their ministries renewed.

For our *Youth and their sponsors* serving this week with MCC Appalachia Build in Kentucky.

*Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship* as they go through a transition and discern the future direction of the congregation.

For those in *Southern and Central Africa*, particularly, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, where climate change is causing a dry rainy season affecting crops and livestock.

## **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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