Liesel Retzlaff



2023 Bursary Essay

Growing up I always envisioned myself ending up at a Bible school following high school. Columbia Bible College was the only school I could envision myself finding a community similar to the one I have here at home.

However, I was struggling to find the motivation to go to post secondary. It was not until I went on a Mennonite Disaster Services trip (MDS) with my home congregation Foothills Mennonite, last March that I decided Columbia would be a great second home for me. Surrounding myself with so many others that also served I was inspired to begin surrounding myself with Christ and to take this

opportunity to serve and learn more about him myself. The past year I have taken on many serving opportunities directly in Foothills, as well as outside; such as being a Youth Support Worker, becoming an usher, volunteering with MCC to make relief kits, serving with MDS, creating a climate working group with MCA, and working at Camp Valaqua for the spring and summer. At Foothills, I also find myself spending time with the seniors on Tuesdays and Fridays playing pickleball. With all the service work I have done I believe it's time for me to learn and grow in my faith. I am attending Columbia Bible College and taking their Quest program. This allows me to take Bible classes while learning about and enjoying God's creation.