

## Pastor Katie's Sabbatical Begins

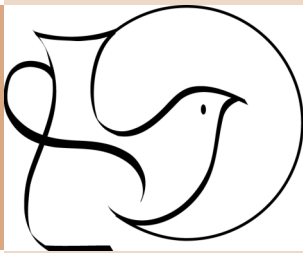
See details to the right and in the opening article.

## It's a summer of sharing stories and building community!

Pick up a **jar of tea** in the fellowship hall and share a cup with someone this summer you have been wanting to get to know.

Each household will receive one copy of the **Sabbatical Journal** in your mailbox. If you need a large print copy, check the table under the mailboxes and switch the small for the large. If they are all taken and you would like to have one, please contact the office.

Check out the **devotional journal** on the sabbatical table this Sunday. You are welcome to look at the booklet and see if you would like to participate with the Faces of our Faith series in this way. If the first 20 copies are gone, sign your name on the signup sheet beside the "sample" and we will get a copy in your mailbox by May 15.



May 8, 2022

# The Waterford Buzz

### This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages  
10:30 a.m. - Stephen Minister Information session / sanctuary  
5:30 p.m. - Ecuador Prayers

### Welcome Team

Greeters: Jon. & Mary Ann Wieand  
Ushers: Glenn Reinford, Dennis Myers  
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey, Steve Fath

### This Week at Waterford

#### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. MYF  
7:00 p.m. JYF, Venture Club

#### Thursday

8:30 p.m. Mennonite Women  
7:00 p.m. F&FMT / Rm 15  
7:00 p.m. SAMT / Zoom  
Zoom prayers Monday - 8:30 a.m., Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

### Waterford Mennonite Church

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## Faces of Our Faith

During worship on May 8, we will send off Pastor Katie with our love and prayers as she begins her three month sabbatical. Katie's sabbatical theme is "Spillin' the Tea: telling a more compassionate story." As a congregation we seek to join Katie this summer by embracing the opportunity to also dwell with this overarching theme. One significant way we will enter this theme is through our summer worship series: Faces of Our Faith.

Beginning on May 15, each Sunday we will spend time exploring bold and often overlooked biblical characters. We will be invited to sit with characters such as Adam & Eve, Shiprah & Puah, Daughters of Zelophehad, Lydia, Eutychus and more. Through storytelling, visual arts and music, we will enter into the lives of biblical men and women and learn what shaped their faith and formed their experiences with God and with God's community. Through entering their stories we will be led to enter a more compassionate story of God's love for each one of us and for all of creation.

There are five unique ways we are invited to actively engage our series of "Faces of Our Faith."

- **Devotional Booklets:** On May 8 we will have printed copies of a devotional journal that corresponds to our worship series and may be used devotionally or in a small group/Sunday School class.
- **Sabbatical Journals:** On May 8 we will be distributing journals, created by Pastor Katie and her sabbatical support team, filled

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance:

Worship – 191 (+45 Virtual);  
Nurture Hour – 177

### Finances – May 1, 2022

Operating Fund: \$7,861.40  
Mennonite Education: \$1,726.16  
Either Fund: \$9,280.00  
*Budget subtotal:* \$18,867.56  
**Total:** \$18,867.56

### Looking Ahead

May 15: Sermon: Jessica  
Weseman; *Faces of Our Faith:  
Creation*  
May 22: Sermon: Cindy Voth;  
*Faces of Our Faith: Shiprah &  
Puah*

### Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Team Leader  
Monday - Thursday  
Katie Misz, Family Life  
Monday - Thursday  
Deron Bergstresser, Senior  
Adults  
Tuesday - Thursday  
Frances Ringenberg, Interim

### Out of Office

Elvina Schmidt, May 8-19

### Office hours:

Monday - Thursday 9-12, 1-3;  
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  
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

with activities for us to utilize to guide our reflections on who we are and our unique faith formational journey.

- “I am from” Poems: We will be inviting everyone in the congregation (from young to senior adults) to create an “I am from...” poem. We will provide the writing prompts (and examples) to then collect these poems and have them assembled into a printed booklet to capture a snapshot of sorts of our “WMC Faces of Our Faith.”
- Visual Worship Arts: Beginning May 15 everyone is invited to stop by the table in the foyer to write down on a colored circle the name of a person, place, experience, and/or scripture passage that has been influential to our faith formational journeys. Then, each week members of Worship Ministry Team will add the colored circles to a visual worship arts display in the sanctuary so that we can literally watch our faith story grow in scope and diversity.
- Children’s Time: For this series, during children’s time we will be inviting individuals from WMC to share with the children a part of their own faith formational journey as another way of telling our story and our own “WMC Faces of Our Faith.” Please contact Jerry Landes if you are interested in leading one of our children’s time.

Let us enter our summer worship series with eager anticipation to learn more about the faith journeys of biblical characters as well as the faith journeys of our brothers and sisters at WMC!

—Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

## Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund Committee met on April 28 to review the four applications that were submitted. Prior to the meeting, it was brought to our attention that one application had already received funding from other sources, which left us with three to review. The committee reviewed them and granted these amounts:

*Attendance at Mennonite World Conference Global Youth Summit* for Félix Pérez Diener: Félix asked for assistance in attending Mennonite World Conference in Indonesia. The theme of the Global Youth Summit is Life in the Spirit: Learn, Serve, Worship. Félix states that he hopes to connect with other young people from around the world and build community with them. *Amount given \$2,050.00*

See **Endowment** on page 4

# Waterford Announcements

This Sunday, May 8: **Considering Becoming a Stephen Minister information session** in the sanctuary at 10:30. Find more information here: <https://www.stephenministries.org/stephenministry/default.cfm/1759>.

Next Thursday, May 12, is **Mennonite Women day**. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and remain open until at least 2:00 p.m. Join us and stay as long as you are able!

**Listening Tour signup:** Cindy, Deron and Frances, have created online calendars to assist you in signing up to meet with them. First, you decide which pastor you would like to meet with. After clicking on his or her calendar link below, you will be able to see the days and times that are available during the month of May. Appointment slots allow up to 60 minutes. Select the day, time, and the location for your meeting. Once you've confirmed your selection you will receive an email confirmation with the details.

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 [May 8](#).

## Upcoming Community Events

**Bethany Christian Middle School presents, *A Simpler Time*.** May 6 & 7 at 7:00 p.m. Three middle schoolers travel in a homemade time machine to find an easier time in which to live, and on their journey they encounter unexpected (and funny) scenes in the past and future. Get your tickets at [bethanycs.net/asimplertime/](http://bethanycs.net/asimplertime/); \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

\*Produced by Special Arrangements with Playscripts, Inc.

Benton Mennonite Church invites you to a **Voices Together Worship Leaders Zoom Workshop** on May 14 from 9 a.m. to noon ET. The workshop will be led by Anneli Loepp Thiessen and Katie Graber. Learn more here: [bentonchurch.org/voices-together-worship-workshop](http://bentonchurch.org/voices-together-worship-workshop)

**Merry Lea's annual Nature Fest**, May 13 & 14! A free and fun-filled festival for all ages. Friday 6 - 8 p.m.: canoeing and campfires; Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Family activities include canoeing, guided hikes, nature crafts, meeting the animals of Merry Lea Sustainable Farm and more. BioBlitz (science investigations) activities include bird and plant identification, dipping for macroinvertebrates and more. Learn more on our website at [goshen.edu/merrylea/naturefest](http://goshen.edu/merrylea/naturefest).

**Camerata Singers present "The Joy of Singing,"** May 13, 7:30 p.m. in the AMBS Seminary Chapel and May 14, 7:30 p.m. in Reith Recital Hall at Goshen College. Tickets available at [thecameratasingers.org](http://thecameratasingers.org); \$16 adult, \$5 students.

Live Podcast, May 16, 2 p.m.: Join hosts Lynda, Travis and special guest Andrew Suderman for a live episode of **'MissionWary?'** on Zoom and Facebook Live! Suderman, director of global partnerships with Mennonite Mission Network, brings a deep knowledge of the historical context of Christian mission, as well as a passion for what the future of mission can look like. [Register on Zoom](#) for this event, or [follow us on Facebook](#) and be notified when the broadcast goes live!

## Mennonite Church USA

This month, Mennonite Church USA invites you to engage in its **Learn, Pray, Join initiative "Welcoming EveryBODY,"** which focuses on how the church can be more welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/welcoming-everybody](http://mennoniteusa.org/welcoming-everybody)

Join Andrew Hudson, an Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary student, for a webinar on **"How Congregations Steward Their Land"** on May 10 at 7:30 p.m. ET. Hudson will share reflections on his work with Mennonite Creation Care Network and Mennonite Men's Join Trees. Here is the Zoom link: [mennoniteusa.org/zoom-steward-their-land](http://mennoniteusa.org/zoom-steward-their-land). Sign up here to receive a reminder email: [mennoniteusa.org/creation-care-leaders](http://mennoniteusa.org/creation-care-leaders)

## AMBS

**New Vision issue on "Music and the arts" available for free online.** The Spring 2022 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* is guest edited by Jonathan Dueck, PhD. Contributors share about becoming more aware of worship's relational qualities and expanding singing and worship to invite and include the church across all kinds of difference. [ambs.edu/vision](http://ambs.edu/vision)

**AMBS Trees of Life Retreat: June 3-4** (Friday at AMBS; Saturday at Camp Friedenswald). This retreat led by Janeen Bertsche Johnson, MDiv, will weave together study of biblical texts about trees; understanding of trees as organisms and within ecosystems; ecological issues; and spiritual practices. For one hour academic credit (\$560 total) or noncredit (\$60 total). Supper on Friday, lunch on Saturday included, plus use of the camp. (Lodging is not included.) Register by May 27. [ambs.edu/trees](http://ambs.edu/trees)

## MCC

**Multicultural Peace Collaborative for young adults:** The 2nd annual Multicultural Peace Collaboration is bringing together young leaders from various backgrounds, communities and ethnicities to learn from one another, understand justice and move towards reconciliation. Join us for this experience of Christ-centered peacemaking as we are immersed in local and historical Latinx contexts while journeying from San Diego to Fresno, California, on June 14-22. More information and registration: [mailchi.mp/93b2f1e07d8d/mpc2022](mailto:mailchi.mp/93b2f1e07d8d/mpc2022)

## Want to engage in creation care and climate action by planting trees?

All genders and ages 18+ are invited to help plant 300 trees at the Mishawaka toll plaza along the Indiana Toll Road on Friday morning, May 20. Contact Steve Thomas at [SteveT@MennoniteMen.org](mailto:SteveT@MennoniteMen.org) to help with this project. Learn more about *JoinTrees* at [mennonitemen.org/jointrees](http://mennonitemen.org/jointrees).

## Opportunities

**Enjoy a week at Camp Amigo while also volunteering with Mennonite Disaster Service.** This July, MDS offers the Family Program, a 4 or 5 day summertime experience for the whole family. During your stay for the Family Program, your family will enjoy the beauty and serenity of the Amigo Centre and participate in age-appropriate maintenance and building projects on the property in response to a storm that hit in August 2021. [Click here to learn more](#) - [mds.org/amigo](http://mds.org/amigo)

## MCC Webinars:

**Welcoming newcomers and addressing the trauma of migration:** Tuesday, May 10 at 2 p.m. Join Saulo Padilla, MCC U.S. immigration education coordinator, and Elaine Zook Barge, a trauma and resilience educator and consultant, to learn how trauma and resilience-informed individuals, churches and communities can be better equipped to ensure the overall well-being of newcomers and their receiving community. Register here: [bit.ly/3OR8w25](https://bit.ly/3OR8w25)

**Gardening for good: Creation care tips for your backyard and stories from Bolivia:** May 26 at 8 p.m. We'll explore what it looks like to care for the planet, from our own backyards to remote Bolivian communities. Join us to learn gardening and conservation tips in your own garden, then travel south to hear incredible stories from MCC's projects in Bolivia. Register here: [mcc.org/mcc-virtual-visits](http://mcc.org/mcc-virtual-visits)

## Endowment (cont. from page 2)

*Sarah Augustine Collaboration at Goshen College:* Goshen College will be hosting Sarah Augustine from November 7-11, 2022. The hopes for the conference are: cultivating relationships and furthering the work of repair between our community and Indigenous people; celebrating Native America Heritage Month; to have a week of teaching, connecting, exploring engagement and capacity building; and to provide students and community members opportunity to engage in restorative relationship building with Indigenous people. *Amount given: \$1,500.00*

*Renovation costs for Thrift at Woodland Crossing* (Elkhart MCC store): Renovation costs have exceeded what was originally thought and more funds are needed to get the store up and running. Projected renovation costs are now approximately \$300,000 with around \$91,000 having been raised. An estimated opening date is June 2022. *Amount given: \$4,400.00*

Please feel free to contact one of the Endowment Fund Committee members to learn more about these exciting projects. October 1 will be the due date for the next set of proposals. Applications can be downloaded at [www.waterfordchurch.org/under/resources/endowment fund application](http://www.waterfordchurch.org/under/resources/endowment-fund-application).

We are grateful for the opportunity to share resources with others to help build the Kingdom of God.

—WMC Endowment Committee: Douglas Graber, Ruby Hochstedler, Jeff Miller, Rachel Stoltzfus, Cindy Voth, and Lyz Zimmerman