

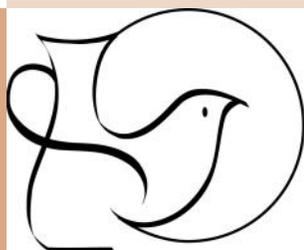
Steve Fath at work

Many thanks to our photographers, Steve Fath and Jordan Kauffman, for committing their time and gifts to creating a new directory!

They are done taking photos, but there is still time to turn in a new photo of your family if you want to be included in the photo directory.



Photo by Jane Ross Richer



November 20, 2022

The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship

10:30 a.m. - Joint Nurture hour:
Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. - Hymn sing

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jon. & Mary Ann
Wieand

Ushers: Dennis Myers, Bruce
Snyder, Wade Ramer

Audiovisuals: Jeff Claassen,
Glen Kauffmann

This Week at Waterford

Thursday

Office Closed

Friday

Office Closed

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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For Such A Time As This: Advent & Christmas

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, we also recognize that just days later we enter the season of Advent. During Advent and Christmas we are in a time of watching, waiting, preparing, and expecting.

This year we will continue to follow the assigned Narrative Lectionary texts which will lead us in new ways through the familiar season as we dwell with new scripture texts. The theme for this year is taken from Advent 2 and the reading from Esther: "For Such A Time As This." Each week we will hear the stories and words from Habakkuk, Esther and Isaiah as well as the stories of Matthew. Together we will see again the ways the birth of Jesus makes this a time for vision, action, promise, light, and celebration.

Throughout Advent and Christmas we will include a range of special elements within our worship service. Please be in touch with JD Smucker to sign up for the Christmas Orchestra for December 11. **Everybody's Christmas Pageant** will take place during our morning worship on December 18. We will be engaging in a participatory retelling of the Christmas story. If you would enjoy being a reader for the pageant or having a special part, sign up at the participation station and plan to be at one rehearsal on Saturday, December 17 at 9:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch to follow. All ages are invited to join the fun. In addition, each week of Advent will feature a bulletin cover designed by someone from the congregation. We are grateful for the myriad of ways the congregation shares their diverse gifts!

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 159

Nurture Hour – 176

Finances – November 13, 2022

Operating Fund: \$10,085.00

Mennonite Education: \$2,827.25

Either Fund: \$3,360.53

Budget subtotal: \$16,272.78

Least Coin Fund \$26.00

Jubilee Fund \$125.00

Total: \$16,423.78

Looking Ahead

November 27: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser: Time for Vision (*Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:2-4, 3:17-19*)

December 4: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Time for Action (*Esther 4:1-17*)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth,

Pastoral Team Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, Pastor

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, Pastor

Tuesday, Thursday

Monday & Wednesday p.m.

Office

Cindy Voth - November 27

Office hours this week

Monday, Wednesday 9-12, 1-3

Tuesday 9-12

Closed Thursday & Friday

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.

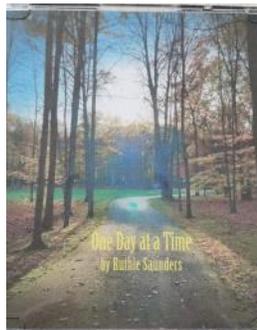
Janet Shoemaker,
Editor

buzz@waterfordchurch.org

Within the week of Christmas we will also be having a **Longest Night Service and fellowship on Wednesday, December 21**. This year, we will take cues from our Scandinavian sisters and brothers: we will find hope together on the longest night by practicing winter coziness. We will begin our night of coziness at 5:15 sunset for a worship experience in the sanctuary for all ages. The service will make space for a wide range of emotions. Following worship, we will have dinner and games from 6:00 - 8:30 hosted by Mark and Krista Daniels. Wear your comfy clothes, cozy socks, and come find rest for your weary souls. Then on Christmas Eve everyone is invited to a **Christmas Eve Candle Lighting service** in our sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. We will sing our way through the Christmas story as we join Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds with a "Time to Watch." Then we will gather on **Christmas morning** to celebrate the arrival of the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World, Emmanuel – God with us! All are invited to bring their favorite Christmas breads and sweet rolls and gather for a time of fellowship from 9:30-10:30 a.m., followed by worship at 10:45.

Date	Theme	Preacher	Special Elements
11/27	Time for Vision – Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:2-4; 3:17-18	Deron Bergstresser	
12/4	Time for Action – Esther 4:1-17	Cindy Voth	
12/11	Time for All – Isaiah 42:1-9	Ursula Hess, Participant in the Journey Program	Christmas Prelude Orchestra
12/18	Time to Watch – Luke 2:1-14	None	"Everybody's Christmas Pageant"
12/25	Time for Dreaming – Matthew 1:18-25	Deron Bergstresser	Worship at 10:45 a.m.; fellowship hall with breakfast breads 9:30-10:30 a.m.
1/1	Time to Remember – Matthew 1:1-17	Cindy Voth	
1/8	Time for Seeking – Matthew 2:1-12	Deron Bergstresser	

New Release by Ruthie



During fall break, I recorded a CD entitled "One Day at a Time." There are 12 songs on the CD that reflect the difficult journey of our family in the past five months. Instead of "selling" the CD, I am asking for a donation, which will go to help our son and grandsons, 5 and 8, as they continue to rebuild their lives. If you would like some CD's, just let me know. —Ruthie Saunders.

Favorite Hymns

Longing for Light

By George Thompson

One of my favorite hymns is “Longing for Light,” from *Sing the Journey*, #54.

Of all the songs (or hymns), this one always creates high emotion in me whenever I hear or sing it—almost to the point of tears. The first four verses all start out with what we long for and what we see, feel, and experience around us that cause these longings. Later, these verses turn to Jesus, petitioning him to make us what is needed to meet these dire situations. Verse five reminds us that we have many people, many gifts, and many hearts, yearning to be servants to one another as we call on Christ to be the light that shines in our hearts and the church to dispel the darkness or desperate situations. Far from divisiveness, this song reminds me that we indeed all are one and for each other.

Hearing God through Music

By Helen Bowman

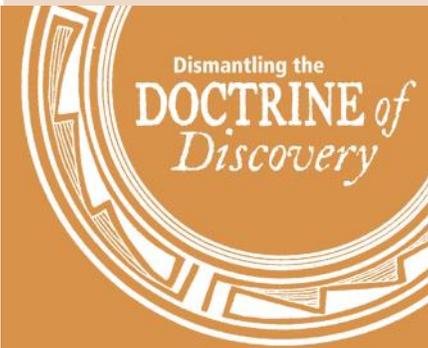
Like most of us, it’s impossible for me to come up with my absolute favorite hymns since different melodies and lyrics speak to me in different ways. But so often I hear God’s Spirit speaking through music. Having said that, two hymns continue to speak to me over the years. As a child I remember singing “When Peace Like a River” (VT 617) and wondered what a soul was. But I was reassured in the refrain as I heard the lower and higher voices echo back and forth saying “all was well with my soul,” and I was at peace. Later, in a college choir, we sang the same hymn, but in eights parts, which was so moving.

Another favorite melody is “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (VT 812). I love the tune, and the contrast of unison to parts, and back to unison together. I’m always inspired to move forward—with God’s blessing all around all of us.

I’m also so grateful for all the new songs in the *Voices Together* hymnal. I am grateful for some of the revised lyrics and the new encouragement that these new songs can bring. I’m grateful that God speaks in many different ways—to each of us—and especially through music.



Sunday, November 20, 6:30 p.m.



DDoD Group: Where We've Been; Where We're Going

The Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery (DDoD) Group at WMC is grateful for a number of recent activities. First, we are thankful that we had the opportunity to lead the worship service on October 9 with an emphasis on reparative justice with Indigenous people. It was also encouraging to have many people attend the joint Nurture Hour to learn about the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Secondly, it was a special blessing to have Sarah Augustine, executive director of the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition, speaking in multiple venues in the Goshen area from November 6-10. Our WMC group had the opportunity to have conversation with Sarah during an evening meal at church on November 10. Following the meal, we hosted a gathering of over 80 people from area Mennonite congregations and organizations in the Fellowship Hall. Sarah shared personal stories and provided an overview of the [Repair Network of the Coalition](#). This was a very energizing gathering for the work of reparative justice in our area.

Third, we continue to work on details for Waterford to become a full member of the Repair Network. Our DDoD Group has been participating with the Coalition since the Repair Network began last year. There are seven steps to take in joining the network: 1) Education and lament; 2) Organize a committee or team; 3) Truth-telling; 4) Restitution in the Budget; 5) Respond to calls for solidarity with Indigenous Peoples; 6) Connect the work of repair with creation care; and 7) Commit to being contagious! In the near future we will be seeking affirmation from the congregation to officially join the Repair Network.

Finally, as we enter Thanksgiving Week, it is important to reflect on why we are thankful—and to also consider the way Thanksgiving stories are told. One way to learn more about this is to participate in a DDoD Coalition sponsored webinar, “Unsettling Thanksgiving” from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. on November 21. The webinar includes Sarah Augustine and three other panelists. They will weave theology, history, ecology, food, family, and spirituality together in this meaningful conversation about a potent holiday. Register and purchase your ticket by [clicking on this link](#). Consider gathering with some other folks to watch and discuss this input.

I would like to thank my church family for your prayers, Pastor Deron for traveling to anoint me before my surgery, and many of you for your words of encouragement and for the meals shared as my partial hip replacement has been mending these past eight weeks. You are a blessing!
—Gary Shetler

Stephen Ministry Training Continues

The next two weeks, the Stephen Ministry training class will be learning how to engage in the process of peer supervision with each other so that each will be enabled to offer the highest quality Christian care possible for their care receivers.

Waterford Announcements

Joint Nurture Hour this Sunday, November 20, in the Fellowship Hall. Pastors and MLC will provide a space for listening and sharing in response to our proposed inclusion statement. The session will also be available on Zoom. Here is the link: <https://goshen-edu.zoom.us/j/93690136615?pwd=cmlvNURkY29SUnRJcVN3M2Z5Q2dhUT09>. Meeting ID: 936 9013 6615; Passcode: 801806

Last Chance to sign up for the Advent devotional: “Expecting Emmanuel: Eight Women Who Prepared the Way.” Stop by the Participation Station to sign up for one of the groups or email Pastor Cindy by **November 20**. Indication which group you will be attending — Nurture Hour (10:30 - 11:30 a.m.) on Dec 4,11,18 and Jan 1,8; or Thursday mornings at the church from 10:45 - noon on Dec 8,15,22 and Jan 5,12 — and if you need a copy of the book The daily readings begin on November 27.

Last Chance to sign up for the pre-Congregational Meeting Meal. If you are planning on joining the meal before the congregational meeting on November 30, please sign up at the participation station **this Sunday**. If you have children, please indicate if you want childcare provided and the ages of those children. There is also a sheet to sign up to help with cleanup after the meal.

WMC Hymn Sing, Sunday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will sing old favorites and new titles in *Voices Together*. Plan to join us for this joyful and meaningful time.

Due to the short work week next week, please have all announcements and articles to the office by Monday evening, November 21.

The all-instrument **Waterford Christmas Prelude Orchestra** will open our worship time together on Sunday December 11. Send JD Smucker a note at smucker5@frontier.com letting him know that you would like to participate. All ages with at least a middle school level proficiency are welcome to join!

Salt & Light weekly reflection for [November 20](#).

Upcoming Community Events

Bethany Christian High School presents *The Laramie Project*, Friday & Saturday, November 18 & 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m. \$8 adults, \$6 students. Reserve tickets at bethanycs.net/bcstickets/. Gretchen Bateman and Marta and Alina Bergstresser are part of the cast.

Parents/Guardians of LGBTQ+ children. A support group has been started for parents or guardians of LGBTQ+ children in Goshen-area congregations. This group is meant to provide mutual support and to build resources for LGBTQ+ youth in our local congregations and community. The next meetings will be at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship on Saturday, November 19 and Saturday, December 17, both from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Sarah Morrison at sjhigley@gmail.com.

Mennonite Church USA

MennoCon23, Mennonite Church USA’s largest faith formation gathering, will be held July 3-8, 2023, in Kansas City, Missouri. There will be programming for all ages, including a one-day Climate Summit for youth and young adults. See the tentative block schedule here:

mennoniteusa.org/dates-location-mennocon23

In this blog, **Glen Guyton**, executive director of Mennonite Church USA, **speaks out against the tokenization of immigrants and people of color.** “Over and over in our system, those in the dominant culture have used immigrants and other people of color as political pawns to justify their bias, insecurity and phobias.” Read his reflection here:

mennoniteusa.org/tokenizing

Artist **Mandy Martin** of Salford (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Church created “**Justice Grows in the Garden**” for Salford 2022 Gardening for Peace event, featuring RAWtools, a ministry partner of Mennonite Church USA. See Mandy’s art and video here: mennoniteusa.org/justice-grows-garden

Casa Alterna, is a ministry of hospitality that serves asylum seekers who have recently arrived in the U.S. It’s co-founder, Anton Flores-Maisonet, reflects on the story of one of the asylum seekers that he had the privilege of welcoming to his house. His story is part of Mennonite Church USA’s Learn, Pray, Join: Mass Incarceration” initiative. Read it here:

mennoniteusa.org/b-attitude

Stay in the know about what’s happening in Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) by **subscribing to PeaceMail**, MC USA’s official news source. Subscribe to the weekly newsletter here:

mennoniteusa.org/peacemail

MCC

Free resource: Learning about generosity with MCC. Make talking about generosity with your children easy by using this free resource. The printable worksheets help kids explore the basics of generosity at an elementary school level. The resource contains downloadable worksheets, activity ideas, a story about how generosity makes a difference, make-your-own bookmark craft and alternative Christmas gift ideas. Sign up to receive this free resource at: mcc.org/generosity. Learn more about gifts that change lives this Christmas at: mcc.org/Christmas.

AMBS

Take a seminary course this spring! AMBS's distance-friendly options include Faith Formation and Spirituality: Adults and Seniors; Gender and the Bible; Global Anabaptist-Mennonite History and Theology; God's Shalom and the Church's Witness; Human Sexuality and Christian Ethics; Spiritual Practices: Water of Life; The Epistle to the Romans; and more. In-person courses are also available. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours. Courses begin Jan. 10; sign up by Jan. 2. ambs.edu/upcoming-courses

MDS

The **November edition of On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Learn about the MDS long-term response to Hurricane Ian in Florida; read about volunteers responding to Hurricane Fiona in Atlantic Canada; a new web page with volunteer opportunities closer to home; and we have information on the up-coming **MDS Annual Celebration** in Pennsylvania in February. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3UEteoj>

You're invited to a special celebration of 50 years of MCC Thrift on November 22! This live, virtual event will celebrate the history, creativity and generosity of the MCC Thrift network, which has raised more than \$250 million over the last 50 years for the work of MCC at home and around the world. All while providing affordable secondhand goods and community connection. Let's celebrate that legacy! The virtual event will take place at 8 p.m. Register online to reserve your spot today at thrift.mcc.org/celebrate50

Goshen College Events

- **Fall Mainstage: Everybody**, Umble Center, Nov. 19: 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 20: 2 p.m. This modern riff on the fifteenth-century morality play *Everyman* follows Everybody (one actor, chosen from amongst the cast by lottery at each performance) as they journey through life's greatest mystery—the meaning of living. **Kate Bodiker, who has been attending Waterford**, has a lead role in this play.
- **Art Exhibit Reception: Goshen College Alumni**, November 20, Music Center, Hershberger Art Gallery; Reception: 2 p.m., Artist talk: 3 p.m. Several Goshen College alumni — **including Mark Daniels** — will have work on display in this combined exhibit. Various forms of art will be on display including sculpture, painting, ceramics, jewelry and tailoring.
- **A Festival of Carols**, *Sauder Concert Hall*, Dec. 2 & 3, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4, 4 p.m. Goshen College's annual Christmas music extravaganza, A Festival of Carols features performances by Goshen College music ensembles (choirs, orchestra), faculty, and students, all set in a lavishly decorated Sauder Concert Hall. Tickets: \$15 at goshen.edu/tickets

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's **2022 Alumni Ministry and Service Recognition Zoom Reception**: Monday, Nov. 28, 3–4 p.m. Recipients: Gary Harder '72, Mesach Krisetya '73 and **Sarah Nahar** 2011 (daughter of George and Karen Thompson), will be honored for their outstanding contributions in congregational ministry, teaching, mission or peace work, spiritual direction or other ministries. [Attend the Zoom reception](https://ambs.edu/zoom-reception)

Opportunities

Local MCC Thrift shops could use your extra plastic, paper or cloth reusable bags during this busy shopping season. Please drop off at the donation area at **The Depot**, 1013 Division Street in Goshen or **Thrift At Woodland Crossing**, 138 W Hively, Suite 7 in Elkhart. Thank you for sharing in the ministry of MCC Thrift shops!

Mennonite Church USA is seeking a full-time Director of Constituent Engagement. This newly created position will maintain relationships with donors (individuals and congregations), track engagement metrics, and oversee several pieces of the churchwide convention. To request an application form, contact HR@MennoniteUSA.org or call 316-281-4257. [View job description here.](#)

MCC is seeking a Human Resources Assistant: This role is designed for someone to grow their human resources skills and assist the department in recruiting, human resources information systems, orientation, as well as a variety of administrative services. The position requires advanced proficiency in Spanish, a basic proficiency in English, and the candidate to be able to commit eight weeks a year of orientation support in Akron. This full-time position will preferably be located in Akron, PA, but can accommodate employment in any state that MCC is currently registered as an employer. Apply online for this opening by November 19 at mcc.org/human-resources-assistant. For more information contact Wesley Wilder at 316-836-5055 or WesleyWilder@mcc.org.