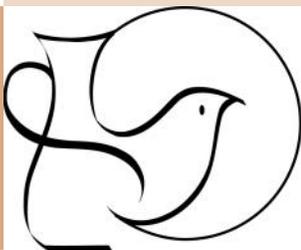


## Advent 4

LOVE



December 18, 2022



# The Waterford Buzz

### **This Sunday**

9:00 a.m. - Worship

10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages

### **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Sheldon & Velma Swartz

Ushers: Dennis Myers, Bruce Snyder, Wade Ramer

Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann, Jeff Claassen

### **This Week at Waterford**

#### **Wednesday**

5:15 p.m. Longest Night Service / Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Haystacks, game night

#### **Saturday**

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

#### **Zoom prayers**

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

### **Waterford Mennonite Church**

65975 State Road 15

Goshen, IN 46526

Phone 574-533-5642

office@waterfordchurch.org

www.waterfordchurch.org

## **Formation Series on Inclusion**

*By Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader*

At our Congregational Meeting on November 30 the congregation affirmed our Statement of Welcome and Inclusion — *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.*

We recognize that becoming more inclusive will not just magically happen. Instead, we will need space to reflect on our current practices and to learn from others ways we can become more inclusive in our practices, attitudes, speech, and activities. With that in mind we have created a Formation Series on Inclusion to enable us to learn how to fully live out our Statement of Welcome and Inclusion.

Each learning session will take place on a Wednesday evening from 7 - 8:15 p.m. in the sanctuary (sessions will be recorded and livestreamed). Prior to the learning session, all are invited to gather together in the Fellowship Hall for dinner at 6 p.m.

### **Schedule:**

January 11 – Welcome and Inclusion of Individuals with Differing Abilities

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 216

Nurture Hour – 203

### Finances – December 11, 2022

Operating Fund: \$2,425.00

Mennonite Education: \$4,625.00

Either Fund: \$3,320.00

**Budget Subtotal \$10,370.00**

Least Coin \$22.55

Sharing Fund \$50.00

**Total \$10,442.55**

### Looking Ahead

December 25: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser: Time for  
Dreaming

(*Matthew 1:18-25*)

January 1: Sermon: Cindy Voth

Time to remember

(*Matthew 1:1-17*)

### Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, Pastor

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, Pastor

Tuesday, Thursday

Monday & Wednesday p.m.

### Out of Office

Cindy Voth - December 18

### Office hours

Mon., Wed.- Thurs. 9-12, 1-3

Tuesday, 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

January 25 – Anti-racism Training as a Pathway to Welcome and Inclusion

February 8 – Welcome and Inclusion of Immigrants

February 22 – Ash Wednesday Service

March 8 – Welcome and Inclusion of LGBTQ+ Individuals

March 22 – Welcome and Inclusion of Social and Economic Diversity

**Please stop by the Participation Station to sign-up for the meals.** We have a great group who will be making our dinners each week (thank you!) and they need a count of how many to prepare for. On the sign-up sheet you may sign up for all five of the meals, or for individual dates.

**Adult Class Shepherds and Coordinators** – a friendly reminder that you all will be meeting and eating together in the North Fellowship Hall on January 11, beginning at 5:45 p.m. (we will get our food early to ensure enough time for our conversation). During our time together we will hear updates from your classes. Please be sure to sign up for the meal at the Participation Station.

## A Senior Moment

### **I AM FROM ...**

*by Cora Askren*



I AM FROM a large family of six girls and three boys. I was the youngest girl and was born during the Depression. We always attended Salem Mennonite Church.

I AM FROM a family who named and called me Cora Luella Garber, but I had a nickname later in life of Corki. I liked that name.

I AM FROM a family that moved many times within Northern Indiana, especially Elkhart County. I moved 7 times by the age of 18, and attended schools in New Paris, Millersburg and Goshen.

I AM FROM a deep boldness of traveling by myself to Hesston HS for my senior year. This was during WWII. I worked for MCC for one year then attended Goshen College for two years majoring in Psychology. Twenty years later I graduated from IUSB in Psychology in 1975.

I AM FROM a love for music and singing, and a gift of spelling, reading and typing. I enjoyed the following books when I was young: *Heidi*, *Little Women*, and *Bobbsey Twins*.

I AM FROM a family who assigned chores, like washing dishes and cleaning the house. Since I was the youngest girl and the older ones HAD PLANS, I was given chores unfairly. This remains a sore subject!

I AM FROM many fond memories of church events and youth group. I liked playing softball with my sisters in the front yard, and delivering weekly ads with a sister for a local grocery store and getting paid \$.25 per week. With our hard-earned money we purchased roller skates. We vacationed annually with family at Wawasee or Syracuse Lake.

I AM FROM a father who had a good voice and led music in church for many years. He always had a job and provided for his large family. My mother was talented for her quilting and sewing skills. She made all dresses for her six girls.

I AM FROM having the worst job ever of working as a legal secretary with a difficult tax lawyer for five years. The best jobs involved secretarial skills like switchboard operator, receptionist and typist at Oaklawn, and church offices. I am most proud of being a retired legal secretary.

I AM FROM a marriage to Eugene Askren in 1949. We had five children: Diane, Michael, Barbara, Gary, and James. Unhappiness and unfulfilled needs seemed to affect the whole family, which is a major regret and sorrow of mine.

## Waterford Announcements

**Longest Night Service and Fellowship** – Wednesday, December 21 at 5:15 p.m. We will begin with a worship service in the sanctuary, taking cues from our Scandinavian sisters and brothers by finding hope together in practicing winter coziness. 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.

Mennonite Women are excited to announce that you have brought **31 completed MCC Relief Kits** to the church! We have at least two more weeks to bring completed kits or materials to add to the partially completed ones. If you have trouble finding laundry soap bars, check out Lowes. They have a good supply of Zote bars.

**Enneagram seminar:** Join Deanna Beth Chupp for a six-week study that will cover Suzanne Stabile's book, *The Journey Toward Wholeness*. The group will meet from **7:00 to 8:15 p.m.** every other Wednesday beginning **January 18 through March 29**. Some understanding of the Enneagram is needed to benefit from the discussion planned. Sign up at the participation station in the foyer.

This Sunday is the last chance to **send a note to Ariana Pérez Diener** in Kenya. There will still be notecards and a basket to put them in available on the card table in the foyer, or you can make or find your own card to send.

**Salt & Light weekly reflection** for [December 18](#).

### Mennonite Church USA

MC USA Executive Board has nominated **Marty Lehman** of Goshen, Indiana, as **moderator-elect for the Delegate Assembly** cycle beginning July 2023. Lehman is a former associate executive director for Churchwide Operations for MC USA and has a deep affiliation with and affection for the denomination. Read more about her here: [mennoniteusa.org/marty-lehman-moderator-elect](https://mennoniteusa.org/marty-lehman-moderator-elect)

**MennoCon23**, will be held July 3-8, 2023, in Kansas City. 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/weenocon23-schedule](https://mennoniteusa.org/weenocon23-schedule)

The **new documentary** "A Creative God: The Visual Arts in Worship" was of great interest to Katie Graber, chair of the Intercultural Worship committee for the Voices Together project. She had an opportunity to interview Jerry Holsopple, professor of visual and communication arts at Eastern Mennonite University, about his involvement with the documentary project. Read the interview here: [mennoniteusa.org/interview-jerry-holsopple](https://mennoniteusa.org/interview-jerry-holsopple)

**Prison and theater** do not seem like two words that should go well together, but John McCabe-Juhnke, professor emeritus of communication arts at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, found a creative way to connect the two ideas. His venture, through Bethel College and Lansing (Kansas) Correctional Facility, provided him with the opportunity to develop a prison theater program. Read more about his experience here: [mennoniteusa.org/inside-stories](https://mennoniteusa.org/inside-stories)

## AMBS

### Seminary Preview Webinar:

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 8–8:45 p.m.: Do you know people who are considering seminary? Encourage them to attend this webinar and get a glimpse of what AMBS has to offer.

### 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. 3. [ambs.edu/upcoming-courses](https://ambs.edu/upcoming-courses)

## MCC

**Uniting for Ukraine Webinar**, December 20. Since February, over 14 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes. In response, the U.S. government developed the Uniting for Ukraine community sponsorship program. Join MCC and Church World Service on Dec. 20, at 2:00 p.m. to learn more about the Uniting for Ukraine program and how the faith community can walk alongside Ukrainians as they seek refuge in the U.S. [Register for the webinar.](#)

[Learn about generosity together this Christmas season.](#) Download MCC's free fun activity book filled with worksheets, coloring pages and crafts to help you teach the kids in your life about generosity. [Access MCC's FREE Generosity resource today!](#)

## Upcoming Community Events

You are invited to **Emma Church** (1900 S 600 W, Topeka) Sunday, December 18, for our **10th annual Men's Chorus Christmas program**, "In the First Light." We are again offering two programs, at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., with food and fellowship following the evening program. Part of the service will include children and "animals" with a Bethlehem focus. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ in song. For more information, contact [info@emmachurch.net](mailto:info@emmachurch.net) or call 260-593-2036.

**Elkhart Community Chorus** and Maple City Community Orchestra present **Handel's Messiah** Part I, directed by Juan-Carlos Alarcon. Sunday, December 18 at 7 p.m. in the Sauder Concert Hall at Goshen College. The concert is free.

The **2023 MCC Meat Canning** will take place Tuesday, January 3 through Friday, January 13 at The Depot. Waterford is in the group scheduled for the Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> shift 6:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

The canning committee has chosen to can ground chicken this year. Therefore, there is no need for volunteers to hand cut meat. If you would like to volunteer for other tasks, contact Loren Stauffer at 574-537-4889 or 574-312-8331.

Monetary donations are needed as well. Send donations to: Ernie Miller, 59123 SR 13, Middlebury, IN 46528. Make checks payable to Foreign Relief MCC.

## Opportunities

**MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestine Israel Network)** invites you to a **1-hour Zoom conversation** with Suheil Tarazi and Hani Farah of the Gaza YMCA on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. EST. Suheil and Hani will talk about the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the compelling work that the YMCA is doing to support families in the midst of these dire conditions caused by the ongoing Israeli blockade.

Suheil Tarazi is a Gaza YMCA board member and Programme Manager for the British Council, an international organization that works to facilitate intercultural relations and educational opportunities. Hani Farah is the Executive Secretary General of the Gaza YMCA and has frequent contact with the International YMCA. Both Suheil and Hani have established relationships in many countries and travel internationally when possible. They and their families are active members of the Greek Orthodox Church of Gaza.

David Janzen of the Fellowship of Hope Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana will moderate the conversation. The Fellowship of Hope and Gaza YMCA meet by Zoom twice monthly and have been partners for over two years through MennoPIN's "Twinning with Gaza" Initiative. There are currently four such relationships between Mennonite Church USA congregations and non-profit groups in Gaza. The purpose of the initiative is to increase our denomination's awareness of the situation faced by the people in Gaza and their resilient work to express God's love.

Please use the link below to join the Zoom meeting on Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 am EST!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86324229910?pwd=emszSIJRQkprWnVJU0laQnZlekVp>