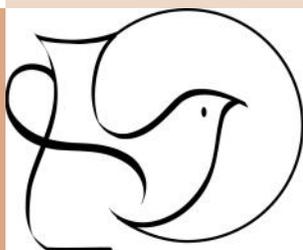


## Christmas



December 25, 2022



# The Waterford Buzz

### **This Sunday**

9:30 a.m. - Christmas breads  
and coffee  
10:45 a.m. - Worship

### **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Velma Swartz, Karen  
Sommers  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto,  
Len Harms  
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey  
Jeff Claassen

### **This Week at Waterford**

Monday - Thursday  
Office closed  
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

## **Haystack Dinner for Carlos Ramos**

*by David Gingerich*

On Sunday January 8, the Pathfinders and Seekers Sunday school classes will host a noon benefit meal for Carlos Ramos in the fellowship hall. Carlos attended WMC from August 2013 to August 2015. Pathfinders will be providing a Haystack dinner and Seekers will provide desserts.

For those who do not remember Carlos or were not attending WMC at that time, below is a brief description of Carlos's situation.

In 2012, at age 32, while living and working in Elkhart, Carlos contracted bacterial meningitis and had both legs, all his fingers, and part of his nose amputated. In the summer of 2013, I met Carlos when he was staying with friends who lived next to my rental property on South 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Goshen. I took an interest in Carlos's situation and in late August took him to Indianapolis to get permanent prosthetics to replace temporary ones. In the fall of 2013 Carlos started attending Waterford and volunteering at The Depot. Marge and I, and Darrel and Karen Sommers, then found an apartment for him. At that time and with help from Galen Kauffmann, the Samaritan Trust was set up as a means for WMC and the community to support him. A three-wheel bicycle was also purchased for Carlos. He began taking GED classes at the library in the winter of 2014, continued volunteering at the Depot, and received medical care from Lincoln Avenue Healthcare.

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 239

Nurture Hour – 180

### Finances – December 18, 2022

Operating Fund: \$8,231.00

Mennonite Education: \$1,985.00

Either Fund: \$15,776.80

**Budget Subtotal \$25,992.80**

Welcome Spaces \$4,000.00

Sharing Fund \$125.00

**Total \$30,117.80**

### Looking Ahead

January 1: Sermon: Cindy Voth;

Time to remember

(*Matthew 1:1-17*)

January 8: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser; Time for Seeking

(*Matthew 2:1-12*)

### 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

Office Staff – December 26-29

Deron Bergstresser –

December 27-28

Cindy Voth – December 30-31

### Office hours this week

Mon. - Thurs. – Closed

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](mailto:buzz@waterfordchurch.org)

With the encouragement from his sister, Carlos decided to move back to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in August of 2015 to be near extended family. By the summer of 2016, he realized that was a mistake as his sister was too poor, the city too dangerous, and public transportation too inconsistent for a person with prosthetics.



In the fall of 2016, Carlos, along with a nephew, attempted to get to the Mexico/US border to apply for asylum. Although he was caught in southern Mexico, a local agency assisted him to get to Mexico City. Carlos began living independently in Mexico City sharing living spaces with others. However, by January 2018 these living arrangements became too dangerous. We were able to find help for him through a Mennonite-affiliated

organization in Mexico City who connected him with a Catholic agency that helps Central American refugees. He stayed at this agency for a year and then in January 2019 found his own one-room apartment. Since that time, he has continued living alone in Mexico City and sings on the streets or in parks to earn a living. In 2017 Carlos was granted legal status in Mexico and became eligible for Mexico's public health care.

Since he has been living on his own in Mexico City, the Samaritan Trust has provided him with \$400 a month for living expenses, and for the purchase of new liners and prosthetics. This past summer Pathfinders paid for a portion of the cost of an electric scooter/bicycle. The remaining portion he paid with his own savings. This gives him a little more freedom of movement rather than relying strictly on public transportation. He keeps the scooter in his apartment which is on the ground floor.

Although Carlos continues to work at ways to support himself, he still needs financial assistance. Over the last year, he has started developing pressure wounds or as he calls them "ulcers" where the prosthetics attach to his legs. This can be very painful. It also limits his mobility and his ability to provide for himself as he needs to stay off his prosthetics. All of this is discouraging to him. He does not use a wheel chair as his apartment is a small single room.

Carlos has deeply appreciated the support from friends at Waterford over these years. This will be the third fundraiser/benefit/donation request since 2019. If you are unable to attend the benefit meal, but wish to contribute, your donation may be made in cash or check made out to Samaritan Trust and given to Karen Sommers.

# Waterford Announcements

## Christmas Weekend

- **Christmas Eve Service**, Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Join us for Lessons and Carols accompanied by a (mostly) young adult string ensemble.
- **Christmas Day**, we will meet beginning at 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall for coffee, favorite Christmas breads (made by you) and fellowship. The worship service will begin at 10:45 a.m.
- Provided roads are cleared by Saturday night, we will plan to hold services as scheduled. If things change, we will send out an email, and also, a notification of closing to WNDU-TV, at least two hours before the service start time.

**The church office will be closed Monday, December 26 - Thursday, December 29 (next week)** due to holiday schedules. The pastors will be working and can be reached on their personal phones or work email. It will reopen Friday from 9 - 12. There will be no Buzz next week.

**The new directories have arrived** and are in your mailboxes this Sunday. A huge thank you to Jordan Kauffman and Steve Fath for their photography work, and to Melanie Hire for photo layout of the directory. If you see any of these three, please take the opportunity to thank them for their many hours of work!

**Congratulations!** We have far exceeded our goal of 25 MCC Relief Kits. As of Sunday, December 18, we have 46 completed kits. You still have time to bring any items or completed kits until Christmas or New Year's Day. Mennonite Women are so grateful for your generosity!

**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**. Sign up at the participation station in the foyer.

**Check out the letters on the bulletin board or find them attached to the weekly email:**

- An update from La Posada Immigrant Aid in Elkhart
- A thank you letter from Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM) for our support, and updates of the collaborative work being done between African churches and western Anabaptist groups.

**Salt & Light weekly reflection** for [December 25](#).

## Upcoming Community Events

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.

## Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) has named **John Stoner and Clara Weybright** as this year's **#BringThePeace awardees**. Stoner received the Legacy Peacemaker award, and Weybright received the Young Peacemaker award. The awards are sponsored by MC USA's Church Peace Tax Fund. Read more about the awardees here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/2022-bringthepeace-award](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/2022-bringthepeace-award)

Representatives of **Mennonite Church USA's Constituency Leaders Council** spoke about the joys they are experiencing, the challenges they are facing and their hopes for the future at their recent meeting on Oct. 21-22, 2022, via Zoom. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/clc-meets-22](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/clc-meets-22)

Being transformed by moving across state lines while trusting in God's plan for your life can cause one to realize that they are in fact not fully in control. Read more about **Rachel Ringenberg Miller's journey to serving** as denominational minister for ministerial leadership for Mennonite Church USA: [mennoniteusa.org/relinquishing-control](https://mennoniteusa.org/relinquishing-control)

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](https://mennoniteusa.org/peacemail)

## AMBS

**Get a seminary education at a distance!** Strengthen your leadership skills and deepen your faith — from wherever you are located — through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's MA: Theology and Global Anabaptism (fully online); Master of Divinity Connect (with online and hybrid courses); or a Graduate Certificate program (fully or partially online). We offer generous need-based financial aid, matching grants and scholarships! [ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs](https://ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs)

**Seminary scholarships for VSers.** AMBS offers a 75% tuition discount to current voluntary service participants and a \$1,500 scholarship to former voluntary service participants for graduate-level coursework. Enrollment must occur within five years of completion of the VS assignment. Sign up for a course now, or tap a shoulder! [ambs.edu/vs](https://ambs.edu/vs)

## MDS

The December edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: find out why some disaster survivors may think it's absurd for MDS volunteers to help rebuild and restore; celebrate six home dedications in time for the holidays in Crisfield, MD; and get more details on how to register for the MDS annual celebration in Pennsylvania in February. *Click on this link to read more:* <https://conta.cc/3Whz2F8>

**Lifelong Learning Institute:** This winter's presentations take place on Wednesdays from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. from January 11 to February 15 in the Jennings Auditorium in the Greencroft Community Center. See the poster on the bulletin board by the mailboxes for details.

## Opportunities

**Stories at the Border: Youth Venture trip** to South Texas, July 19 - 27, 2023 for young adults age 15 - 22. Join faith-based and humanitarian groups along the U.S.-Mexico border. Learn what's missing from conversations about the border and immigration, and explore the root causes of migration, the strife at the border, and what goes into the asylum-seeking process. Cost: \$625, plus travel to South Texas. Application deadline: May 15.

**Project Coordinator — Burkina Faso:** MCC is seeking a Project Coordinator responsible for mentoring and building capacity of local partners towards greater independence and sustainability and, alongside the MCC Burkina Faso Country Representatives, will assist in all planning, monitoring, and evaluating activities for various projects related to conservation agriculture, peace building, education, health, and emergency assistance. If you or someone you know might be interested, learn more and apply by December 31 at [mcc.org/burkina](https://mcc.org/burkina).

**Seed Guatemala — El Salvador Coordinator:** MCC is seeking a Seed Coordinator who will coordinate the second SEED Cohort for Guatemala and El Salvador. This position involves the planning, organization and implementation of a service, reflection and peacebuilding program with an intercultural team of young adults in the complex and enriching context of Guatemala and El Salvador. This position will be based in Guatemala and will be supervised by the MCC Representatives for Guatemala and El Salvador. If you or someone you know might be interested, learn more and apply by December 31 at [mcc.org/seed-guatemala](https://mcc.org/seed-guatemala).

**Annual Music & Worship Leaders Retreat:** Laurelville Retreat Center in Southwestern Pa., will host its annual Music & Worship Leaders Retreat from January 20 - 22, 2023. The event is an in-person format, limited to 200. A virtual recording of some segments can be purchased to watch at a later date. The retreat gives music and worship leaders a space to learn, recharge, and connect with their peers through valuable workshops, seminars, resources, fellowship time, worship, and plenty of music. This year's theme is "Lament and Hope" with guest speaker Safwat Marzouk, author and theologian. [Click here to register.](#)