

## Sounds of the Season

Lent 1: Loose Kingdom



Spillthebeans.org

February 26, 2023



# The Waterford Buzz

### **This Sunday**

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages  
6:30 p.m. - Hymn sing

### **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Jerry & Barb Landis  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Douglas Graber  
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann, Jordan Kauffman

### **This Week at Waterford**

#### *Wednesday*

7:00 p.m. Mentor/Mentee mtg  
7:00 p.m. Enneagram / Rm 22

#### *Thursday*

6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers / MYF Rm, Room 15  
7:00 p.m. Worship MT/ Rm 37  
*Zoom prayers*  
Monday - 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

### **Waterford Mennonite Church**

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### **Fiscal Year Update**

We continue to rejoice in the ways that God has been faithful to us at Waterford! All the volunteers at Waterford in the various leadership groups have been working hard on your behalf over the past year, spending many hours both in and outside of meetings working to keep WMC healthy and functional. As we near the end of our current fiscal year (5/1/22 - 4/30/23), we want to make you aware of where we stand financially for the current fiscal year. Our average weekly giving in the current fiscal year has held steady at \$13,000 - \$14,000 per week. Giving through 40 weeks YTD is approximately \$569,000 compared to \$573,000 last year through 40 weeks. Expenses are \$604,000 through 40 weeks compared to \$600,000 through 40 weeks last year.

Our spending plan for the current fiscal year calls for \$755,000 of annual giving and \$755,000 of budgeted expenses. Both giving and expenses are projected at this point to be slightly below the \$755,000 mark with giving trailing behind expenses. At this stage, our projected annual giving based on normal weekly giving is set to reach \$725,000 - \$740,000 whereas our projected expenses are projected to be \$745,000 - \$755,000. That means with 12 weeks remaining we have a projected deficit currently of somewhere between \$5,000 - \$30,000. In the past Waterford has given generously in the final months of the budget year in order to end the year with no deficit. In years that Waterford generates a budget deficit (expenses exceed giving), the difference is paid from carryover funds from previous years (i.e. from our "savings").

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 142 (+ 21– JYF  
Retreat)  
Nurture Hour – 152

### Finances – February 19, 2023

Operating Fund: \$14,841.60  
Mennonite Education: \$7,075.00  
Either Fund: \$7,270.00  
**Total \$29,186.60**

### Looking Ahead

March 5: Sermon: Deron  
Bergstresser; Lent 2  
(*Matthew 20:1 - 16*)  
March 12: Sermon: Jerrell &  
Jane Ross Richer; Lent 3  
(*Matthew 22:1 - 14*)

### Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team  
Leader  
Monday - Thursday  
Deron Bergstresser, Pastor  
Tuesday - Friday  
Katie Misz, Pastor  
Tuesday, Thursday  
Monday & Wednesday p.m.

### Office hours this week

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
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

WMC leadership teams (FFMT, MLC) are working on a spending plan for this coming year (2023-2024) that reflects our current attendance and giving patterns. We are so thankful for the ways in which all of you have continued to support the ministries of Waterford both financially as well as with your time and engagement in our community. As we approach the end of our fiscal year, we ask you to prayerfully consider whether you have the capacity to give towards reducing our current year's projected deficit. We also ask that you prayerfully consider your response to our Giving Plan correspondence (including our electronic response option or on the traditional giving cards) for the coming 2023-2024 fiscal year. Your response in each of these areas (year-end giving to reduce the deficit and giving card responses) will help us better plan for the coming year.

Both the giving plans and the way we end our current budget year are helpful indicators in the budget planning process. Our current budget (2022-2023) reflects a significant reduction in overall giving (\$755,000 budget) from pre-pandemic attendance and giving levels (previously \$800,000 - \$830,000 budgeted giving). FFMT and MLC worked hard last year to present an achievable budget for the current year so that we don't spend more than we receive. Amounts available to allocate to our significant budget spending categories (Staffing, Facilities, Missions, and Mennonite education) are dependent on the projected overall giving level of the congregation.

Thankfully in the current year, we were able to support three pastors and their families, utilize administrative staff to reduce the burden on pastors and lay leaders, keep our facility in good working order, give over \$100,000 to Missions & Service organizations, and give over \$200,000 to Mennonite Education. Although we have not been able to pay our full Mennonite Education Fund policy amounts in the past few years, WMC students have continued to receive on average over \$6,000 towards college tuition and on average between \$7,000 - \$9,300 per student towards Bethany Christian School tuition. In order to maintain these generous funding levels in all our budget areas, we need your support in your year-end giving for the budget as well as your responses on your giving cards.

May God continue to bless you as we continue on this faith journey together.

Andrew Hartzler, Business Manager

Carlos Romero, Treasurer

## Celebration

### Journey to Justice

*by Rod Hollinger-Janzen*

Waterford attenders are invited to join with Hahkeem Layman and his mother Valerie in celebrating Hahkeem's recent victory in court. He has been released from a charge of resisting arrest which originated in August 2020 when Hahkeem was assaulted by a police officer from the Elkhart Police Dept.

Hahkeem and his family, together with the Poor People's Campaign South Bend-Elkhart-Goshen cluster, are organizing a celebration of this step toward justice **this Sunday February 26**, beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Roosevelt Center, 215 W. Indiana Ave., Elkhart, IN 46515.

Please enter at the SE corner of the building. Bring snacks to share—fruit, nuts, cheese, crackers, cookies, etc.

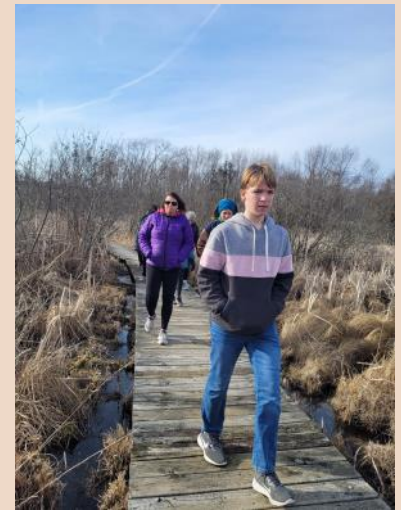
COME CELEBRATE AND SHOW SUPPORT FOR HAHKEEM AND HIS FAMILY.

### Mennonite Church USA

During the first week of December 2022, the **Executive Council of Mennonite World Conference (MWC)** met to finish the business that they had begun in Indonesia in July. Linda Dibble, moderator for Mennonite Church USA and the MWC North American representative for the United States, shares about her experiences of connection with a diverse group of Anabaptists here: [mennoniteusa.org/together-global-church](https://mennoniteusa.org/together-global-church)

In **celebration of the birthday of Anabaptism**, which occurs on Jan. 21 each year, Mollee Moua, managing editor of the Anabaptism at 500 Project at MennoMedia, a Mennonite Church USA agency, shares about the work of making the Bible more accessible to all. Read her thoughts here: [mennoniteusa.org/dangerous-work-scripture-together](https://mennoniteusa.org/dangerous-work-scripture-together)

## JYF Winter Retreat



Waterford's JYF spent a retreat weekend, February 17-19, at Amigo Centre hiking, playing games, exploring theological questions, and having fun.

## MDS

The February edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: read about the MDS Annual Celebration in Lancaster, PA and check out the videos from the gathering; and a volunteer writes about the transformative experience during her time at Monte Lake, BC. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3EboHDz>

## ADN

**A Small World: Building Resiliency and Hope after Childhood Trauma;** a webinar with WMC member JE Misz, February 28, 8 p.m. Nearly half of all children have experienced a traumatic event in their lives. These experiences have the potential of altering the ways children view the world and themselves, and these impacts can last well into adulthood. However, this is not the end of the story. Communities and supports can and do provide care that can shift outcomes and change lives. In this presentation, sponsored in part by Anabaptist Disabilities Network, we will define trauma and its effects and learn resources and ways of being to build resilience and hope. For more information and to register see the [Church of the Brethren Website](#)

## MCC

**Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour, March 19-21.** MCC and MC USA are hosting learning tours on mass incarceration in different parts of the U.S. Join MCC Great Lakes for three days focusing on the complexities of the U.S. criminal legal system as seen on the West Side of Chicago. Participants will engage with returning citizens and local organizations who are focused on re-entry work. [Read more and register by March 1.](#)

# Waterford Announcements

**The Embodied Spirituality Practice elective** will begin on March 5 for those interested in learning spiritual practices to enrich your life with God. **Please let Sheldon Swartz or Pastor Deron know by this Sunday if you are interested in joining.** The group will meet every other Sunday so you can still connect with your own class during the quarter.

**Hymn sing** Sunday night, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come sing old favorites and learn other's new favorites. All are welcome.

**Prairie View staff appreciation, Wednesday March 1.** It's that time of year again when we have the opportunity to bless the wonderful teachers, staff, and administrators at Prairie View Elementary. Fancheon Resler and Len Harms will be providing baked treats. You can help by preparing a fruit tray—we would like 5 or 6 trays. Please contact Jane Otto if you are able to do this. You may also donate new or used boy's size sweatpants and underwear—please place those in the large tub (it's labelled) on the floor by the front coatrack **by this Sunday.** Thank you!

**Salt & Light weekly reflection** for [February 26.](#)

## Upcoming Community Events

Bethany Christian Upper School Presents: **Elephant and Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"** Showing March 3 - 5, this hour-long performance is geared specifically to young children, but it's guaranteed to earn smiles and laughter from audience members of all ages. A special children's matinee performance will be held on Saturday March 4 at 10 a.m., followed by a special cookie reception with the cast of the musical. [Learn more and get tickets here.](#)

**IF: World Missionary Press Women's Conference,** March 3 & 4, 2023 in New Paris. Join other women in worship, dig into the Bible, and allow the Lord to refresh your soul. For more information and to register, see the poster on the bulletin board or pick up a flier on the table by the mailboxes to scan the QR code. **Register by February 28.**

The **EMU Chamber Singers** will be performing at East Goshen Mennonite Church on Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m. and at Belmont Mennonite Church on Wednesday, March 8, 7 p.m. The theme of the program is "Local and Global: songs of peace and justice." They will feature styles and composers from the Shenandoah Valley, as well as a variety of others from around the world to look at aspects of peace and justice. Programs are free of charge, and a love offering will be taken to support the choir's travel expenses, as they are also touring Mennonite Churches in the Netherlands and Germany in May.

**Goshen High School will be performing "The Addams Family"** March 9 - 12. Performances will be Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Support Waterford students Colin Berkey, Leah Berkey, Sophia Kauffman, and David Stutzman and pit director Steve Snyder.

You are invited to **LaCasa's annual Luncheon: Strength in Community,** Wednesday, March 15, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the Crystal Ballroom at the Lerner in Elkhart. For tickets and sponsorship information, please call 574-533-4450 or email [andee.huxhold@lacasainc.net](mailto:andee.huxhold@lacasainc.net). RSVP by March 10.