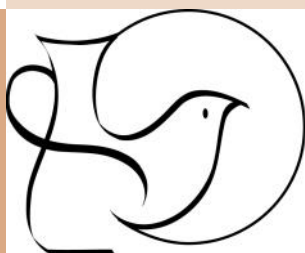


## Sounds of the Season

Lent 5:  
Sifting and Sorting



March 26, 2023



# The Waterford Buzz

### **This Sunday**

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour  
Classes for all ages

### **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Maurice & Carol  
Lehman  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Carolyn  
Kauffman, Wade Ramer  
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,  
Jordan Kauffman

### **This Week at Waterford**

#### *Tuesday*

7:00 p.m. MLC / Rm 37

#### *Wednesday*

7:00 p.m. Enneagram / Rm 22

7:00 p.m. MYF

#### *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

### **Church Land: A Hidden History**

*by Sierra Ross Richer*

*This story was published in "The Climate Pollinator" as part of a daily series of articles that Sierra has written for the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative. She has interviewed Mennonites around the world who are working on various aspects of addressing climate change. Read more stories and sign up to receive them daily via email at <https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/climate-pollinator-series/>.*

Members of Waterford Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana, USA, are baptized in a small pond behind the church that is home to beavers, fish and all kinds of insects.

The Waterford Wetland, a 55-acre area of undeveloped land along the Elkhart River, is a source of pride for the congregation.

Sunday School classes and small groups are invited to tromp through the forest to visit the river. And photographs of the insects, flowers and other critters that call the wetland home hang in the foyer as a reminder of the abundance of life it sustains.

Recently, a new piece of artwork was added to the display: a portrait of three Potawatomi dancers. The photograph, by Potawatomi artist Sharon Hoogstraten, is a call for the congregation to dig deeper into the story of the land.

A brief history of the land on the church's website begins in the 1950s, when a previous owner dug a pond to raise fish. But what about before that?

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 176

Nurture Hour – 188

### Finances – March 19, 2023

Operating Fund: \$6,055.40

Mennonite Education: \$585.00

Either Fund: \$5,900.00

**Budget Total \$12,540.40**

### Looking Ahead

April 2: Sermon: Katie Misz;

Palm Sunday

(*Matthew 21:1 - 13*)

April 9; Sermon: Cindy Voth;

Easter; Communion

(*Matthew 25:31 - 46*)

### 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

Like most of the United States, the land owned by Waterford Mennonite Church was taken from the indigenous people who lived on it (in this case, the Pokagon band of the Potawatomi) through treaties and forced relocation in the 17 and 1800s. Mennonite settlers didn't usually participate directly in the removal of indigenous peoples, but they often moved in soon after, setting up homesteads in places like Goshen within the first decade of them being vacated.

"We're living on Potawatomi land here and it was not taken in a just way from the people at all," said Luke Gascho, a member of Waterford Mennonite Church who helped connect the congregation with The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. His question is: "So what does one do?"

The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery is an organization that works with settler churches and institutions to uncover their history and work to restore relations with the land and the people it was stolen from.

It's important for people to realize, Luke said, that the Doctrine of Discovery isn't just a thing of the past. It continues to drive the exploitation, pollution and degradation of land today and systematically puts indigenous and marginalized peoples in places most at risk for environmental hazards.

Changing this doctrine is critical because it lies at the root of environmental destruction contributing to climate change.

At Waterford, a group of over 20 members has formed to work on this issue. They have drafted a land acknowledgement statement; held Sunday School classes on the book, *The Land is Not Empty* by Sarah Augustine, the executive director of The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery; participated in learning opportunities, like a bike tour of Potawatomi and Miami sites in the area; and started conversations about where the church's money is invested as well as the prospect of land-return.

There is no road map for dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, Luke said. Physically bringing reminders of the land's history into the church space is one step in the process of facing history and working to change it.

The family of Dave Leatherman invites everyone to an informal worship and sharing event to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The event will be held at Waterford Mennonite Church at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, April 8.

No gifts or cards, please. Instead, you may bring a can or box of food for the Window pantry. The worship time will be streamed at [waterfordchurch.org/streaming/](http://waterfordchurch.org/streaming/)

Mary Christophel's memorial service will be April 1 at Waterford Mennonite Church. Visitation begins at 10:00 a.m. with the service beginning at 11:00. Lunch will be served at the church following the service. All are invited for the lunch.

## Service Auction 2020 Unredeemed Items: Vouchers Available

We recognize that the pandemic disrupted the 2020 service auction pattern. As we were planning an Ecuador trip at that time, the auction was robust and generous. We used some of those funds for the Civil Rights Tour this past summer, and the remainder of the funds will be used for the next service trip in the summer of 2024. If you would like to forgive the debt, you are welcome to do so, and we thank you for your donation. Additionally, the MYF sponsors decided to offer a voucher system for those who wish to use that money for another item. If you purchased items at the previous auction that were unfulfilled, you have the opportunity to redeem the items for vouchers at this year's service auction. This Sunday, March 26, between the worship and nurture hour, and again on April 16, you may come to the service auction table in the foyer to collect your vouchers. You will need to bring the voucher with you to the service auction for redemption. Thank you for the ways you support the MYF fundraisers!

## Waterford Announcements

**This is the last Sunday to bring donated food items for Community Pro-Education food drive.** Help provide individuals and families with some basic food items—sauces, soups, beans, rice, Maseca flour, canned vegetables, peanut butter, boxed juices, cereal, Mazola oil. Look for the labelled tub near the front office to deposit donated food items.

**Sunday is the deadline** for informing Matt Bateman about **donating items for the MYF Service Auction on April 16.** Preference will be given for handmade items and services over gift baskets. Contact Matt Bateman [mattcb@gmail.com](mailto:mattcb@gmail.com) to donate items.

**Maundy Thursday, April 6:** All are invited to share in a simple meal together at 6 p.m., followed by a service of footwashing. Please sign up at the Participation Station to bring food (soup, bread, or fruit to serve 8) and to help with set up or clean up for the meal.

**New Member Class.** The class will meet for two sessions on April 12 and 19 from 6:45 - 8:15 p.m. Please contact Pastors Cindy or Deron if you wish to explore membership at Waterford by April 1.

**Salt & Light weekly reflection and extra resource** for [March 26](#).

## Mennonite Church USA

The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board welcomed **Mosaic Mennonite Conference** Moderator Angela Moyer Walter and Assistant Moderator Roy Williams to its online Zoom meeting on Jan. 28, 2023. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/eb-mosaic-moderators](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/eb-mosaic-moderators)

After a three-year hiatus, Mennonite educators from 14 different schools from across the United States and Albania gathered together in Leesburg, Virginia, Feb 2 - 4, for the **Mennonite Educators Conference**, which was hosted by Mennonite Education Agency, the education agency of Mennonite Church USA. Jenn Esbenshade, director of curriculum at Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Mennonite School, reflects on her time at the conference here: [mennoniteusa.org/better-together-2](https://mennoniteusa.org/better-together-2)

**Hopedale (Illinois) Mennonite Church** recently sponsored a two-day comforter blitz for Mennonite Central Committee, a ministry partner of Mennonite Church USA, on Jan. 21 and Feb. 4. On Sunday, Feb. 5, Hopedale Mennonite Church blessed the people who made the comforters and prayed for the recipients of the comforters. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/making-comforter](https://mennoniteusa.org/making-comforter)

## What are the anchors that hold you in both your work and your own personal wellness?

Ingrid Friesen Moser, wellness coordinator with Mennonite Church USA's The Corinthian Plan, the health plan for MC USA pastors and church workers, discusses what has anchored her over the years. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/my-well-being-anchor](https://mennoniteusa.org/my-well-being-anchor)

## AMBS

**Rooted and Grounded Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship: Sept. 28 – 30** at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Attend in person or virtually! This conference on “Pathways through Climate Doom: Resistance and Resilience” will examine theological, biblical and pastoral care responses to climate doom. How do people of faith combine active engagement and deeply rooted hope? Keynote speakers: Kaitlin Curtice; Leah Thomas, PhD; and Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD. Proposals for papers and workshops are due April 30. [ambs.edu/rooted-and-grounded](https://ambs.edu/rooted-and-grounded)

## Anabaptism at 500

**Only 9 days left to register your Bible Study group** and contribute to the Anabaptist Community Bible! [Click here to register your Bible Study Group](#). Register by April 1; Marginal Note submission by June 1. For more information, about how this works, talk to Pastor Deron.

## Upcoming Community Events

The **Goshen College Theater Department** will present **Stephen Sondheim’s *Into the Woods***. The musical intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales, exploring the consequences of the characters’ wishes and quests. Performances on March 24, 25, 31 at 7:30 p.m.; March 26 & April 2 at 2:30 p.m. You can purchase tickets at [goshen.edu/tickets](https://goshen.edu/tickets).

The **2023 Elkhart County Jail Ministry Banquet** is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., at Nappanee Missionary Church, 70417 SR 19 N. It will be an informal, dessert-only banquet (pie and coffee) where current and former inmates will give testimonies. If you would like to be part of a Waterford Mennonite Church sponsored table, please contact Russ Hochstedler. There is no cost to attend, but there will be an opportunity to make a donation to the ministry.

## Opportunities

**Anabaptist Disabilities Network is seeking an Office Administrator.** This is a quarter-time hourly position at \$15-17 per hour (depending on experience) with paid vacation and holidays. Applicants will be highly organized with excellent computer skills and a strong sense of responsibility. Working in the Elkhart office building, the office administrator will provide collaborative support for ADN staff and volunteers as they work toward fulfilling ADN’s vision. Interested applicants should fill out this online form or send a completed application to [adnet@adnetonline.org](mailto:adnet@adnetonline.org). Office Administrator [Position Description](#); Office Administrator [Job Application](#) (online)

**Upcoming Community Peacemaker Teams delegations.** Join a seven to fourteen day delegation for a first-hand experience of CPT’s on-the-ground experiment in non-violence:

**El Guayabo:** Protecting the land to defend life; [Colombia](#): April 1-7, 2023

**Nakba Day;** [Palestine](#): May 10 - 22, 2023

**Kurdish Resistance;** [Iraqi Kurdistan](#): May 14 - 26, 2023

**Mennonite Church USA is seeking nominees for its 2023 #BringthePeace awards.** The annual award is given to two honorees: a legacy peacemaker in recognition of their life’s work and a young peacemaker (age 16 - 25), who can help inspire other young leaders. Submit your recommendations for nominees by completing this form by April 14: [mennoniteusa.org/btp-nomination](https://mennoniteusa.org/btp-nomination)

**Ecumenical Advocacy Days, April 25-27,** is an annual gathering of Christian advocates and activists. This year the theme is “Swords into Plowshares: Achieving Enough for All & Pursuing Peace,” based on Micah 4:3 - 4. The three-day conference will take place entirely online and feature keynote speakers, worship, workshops and advocacy opportunities for all attendees. [Read more about the workshop](#).