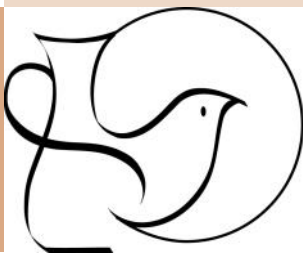




May 14, 2023



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
5:30 p.m. - Ecuador Prayers

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jon. & Mary Ann
Wieand
Ushers: Dennis Myers, David
Molina, Wade Ramer
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey,
Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Congregational Mtg

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Haystacks & Game
Night / FH

7:00 p.m. MYF

7:00 p.m. WMT / Meeting Rm

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Goshen, IN 46526
Phone 574-533-5642
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Connection to this Land, Pope Francis and the Doctrine of Discovery

by Jeff Miller

I love genealogy. I love digging into census records, archives, and family histories to learn about my ancestors. My earliest immigrant ancestors arrived on this land from Europe in the 1730's and settled in Pennsylvania. Over the next 150 years they and their children moved west to Ohio, Indiana, and Kansas. In each of these moves, they went with other Amish/Mennonite families and neighbors and settled together in communities and congregations. My ancestors were among the first Amish to move to Elkhart and LaGrange counties.

In each of these moves, my ancestors took possession of land that had previously been the homeland of native peoples. These people had lived on their land for generations, raising their families, building homes, hunting and harvesting food, worshipping their Creator, burying their dead; just living their lives with their communities. But the US government policies of westward expansion by European peoples, supported by the Doctrine of Discovery, pushed these indigenous groups off their homeland. No longer were they able to live on the land of their ancestors, like generations before them. They were forced to leave.

My ancestors and their Mennonite neighbors may not have been the ones to physically force the people to vacate their homeland. That physical force was done by US government officials and soldiers. But my ancestors and their neighbors moved onto the newly vacated land within a few years of the forced removals. In some instances, they

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Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 200

Nurture Hour - 196

Finances – May 7, 2023

Operating Fund	\$7,650.00
Mennonite Education	\$1,465.00
Either Fund	\$16,435.24
Budget Total	\$25,550.24
Jubilee Fund	\$290.00
Ross Richer support	\$700.00
BBI Fundraiser	\$885.00
MYF Auction	\$295.00
Total	\$27,720.24

Looking Ahead

May 21: Sermon: Cindy Voth;
Go Live

(Romans 6:1-14)

May 28: Graduation Sunday;
Go Now

(Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:18-39)

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

moved in even while the native people were still living there. Now, nearly 200 years later, the home Kay and I live on is on the former Elkhart prairie that the Potawatomi used for raising their crops.

I have deep regret that our country, including my ancestors and fellow church members, treated American Indians in such an uncaring and selfish way. I often wonder if there are actions I/we could do to in some way address the wrongs of the past.

On March 30, 2023, under Pope Francis, the Vatican issued a statement that repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery, which was used to justify colonialism and form the basis of some property laws today. This is quite significant and groundbreaking for the Vatican. It also comes after the Pope's visit to Canada and expressing regret for the harm and death inflicted on native children at Catholic boarding schools.

In an April 4 podcast of "Native America Calling" the host spoke with Bruce McIvor (Metis) a lawyer and partner of First Peoples Law from Canada. When asked what specifically could be done in light of the Pope's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, Mr. McIvor responded:

I think there are church congregations all across the US and Canada, and those members of those congregations need to ask their leadership, what are they doing? Let's do something specific and local. I get asked this a lot. I have two things that I come back to, that are concrete things.

1) You should be sharing the benefits of the land. Congregations should be making solid, specific steps to ensure the indigenous people whose lands they are on, and they claim, get to share in the benefits of those lands. So, you will see a lot of congregations across North America buying, selling, redeveloping, their so-called properties. What are they doing so that the indigenous people actually share in those benefits?

2) Include the indigenous people whose lands you are on, in the decision-making about those lands. I think that's a real concrete local thing that Christians can do and have a moral imperative to become involved in.

I appreciated hearing this specific call to congregations (and individuals). It certainly wouldn't address all the harm from the past, but it may help contribute to healing and acknowledge the wrongs of the past. A few years ago, Kay and I heard about individuals who contributed money on a monthly basis to indigenous groups that work towards healing and building relationships. We decided to accept this invitation to take a tangible action and be mindful, at least monthly, of the connection to the people and the land we continue to inhabit. I hope we continue to look for ways to honor those who lived here before us and examine what are our responsibilities to address past wrongs and to work towards healing and reconciliation.

Thank You

Thank you to the congregation for the lovely Easter Lily. I enjoyed visiting with Vance and Karen when they delivered it.

—Mildred Yoder

Spring 2023 Endowment Disbursements

The Endowment Fund Committee met recently and has approved distributions for the following projects:

Amigo Centre Paving Project \$500: “We are planning to use recycled rubber pellets that were given to us a couple years ago — it will be a porous pavement that will allow for handicap access to the dining hall basement as well as making a place for folks to overlook the lake and the frog pond. Because it is porous, it will also be good for drainage and should be better for erosion concerns than most paving materials. We have the pellets, but need to purchase the binding agent so that it can be used as “pavement.” — Jessica Weseman on behalf of Amigo. WMC contact person for this application is Dave Leatherman.

Water Matching Fund “for vulnerable households in Kajiado West, Kenya \$1436: Water is a very limited resource for many MIDI self-help group members in Kajiado West. MIDI in collaboration with MIDI self-help group members will work together to raise funds to buy plastic 3000L tanks to harvest and store rain water for 16 households per self-help group. The water matching fund has been successfully implemented in four different self-help groups in Kajiado West by MIDI.” — Ariana Pérez Diener, WMC contact for the project.

Education for Joel Lankas in Kenya \$2000: University fees for Bachelor’s in Strategic Development Studies: “My coworker at my SALT placement in Kenya is continuing his studies to increase his capacity to better help his community while working at Maasai Integrated Development Initiatives. He is currently in his first year of a four-year Bachelor’s degree program studying Strategic Development Studies. I see how hard he works and studies while also taking care of his family. He likes to tell me about how his classes are going and I see that he is a very dedicated student.” — Ariana Pérez Diener, WMC contact for the application.

Fellowship Ministry Team \$1000: “Our desired outcome is to rebuild relationships by interacting with one another in a way that was taken away from us due to the pandemic. We also look forward to forming new relationships with those who have recently begun attending Waterford. We strive to be a congregation that works AND plays together.” — Melissa Chupp, WMC contact, on behalf of the WMC Fellowship Team.

The committee will meet again in the spring of 2023. We have appreciated the opportunity to distribute monies that the church has set aside to further God’s mission and kingdom.

The Endowment Fund Committee: Lyz Zimmerman, Rachel Stoltzfus, Philip Habecker, Douglas Graber, Doug Yoder and Cindy Voth

Facilities Changes

Resignation of Irma Pérez

After eight years as custodian at Waterford Mennonite Church, Irma Pérez is moving on to work at the Thrift at Woodland Crossing store. We are grateful for the eight years of service she provided us to create a welcoming and workable space for the ministry of God at Waterford. While we will miss seeing her during the week, we are happy for her to have found work that will allow her to use her abilities and gifts in new ways.



We thank Irma for her dedicated service over the years and wish her well in her new job. When you see Irma, express your appreciation and wish her well.

Custodian Needed

Janet Shoemaker, Coordinator of Administrative Ministries

Waterford seeks to hire a part-time custodian to assist in the ministry of providing welcoming, clean, and safe facilities for God's work at Waterford. We are grateful that custodian Courtney Shetler has agreed to pick up additional responsibilities for a time, but we would like to continue our pattern of sharing the work between two part-time people so they can provide coverage for each other and assist each other with larger tasks. The position comes with variable hours, averaging around 10 hours per week. The schedule is somewhat flexible, though it would typically involve work on several days throughout the week. For a copy of the job description or to express interest, please contact Janet Shoemaker in the church office (533-5642; office@waterfordchurch.org).

Landscaping opportunity!

Jan Oostland, Facilities Manager

For the past number of years Dwight Kauffman has been taking care of the landscaping around the church building. He has decided to retire from this position and we're looking for new persons to fill this role. The tasks include trimming bushes, weeding the flower beds (including the Remembering Life Garden) and leaf cleanup. The workload varies throughout the growing seasons.

If you're interested in taking on part or all of this work please contact Jan (facilities@waterfordchurch.org) for a more detailed list of tasks. When you see Dwight in passing make sure to thank him for his services and filling one of those many volunteer roles that tend to go unnoticed when everything looks great!

Waterford Announcements

Monday, May 15 is the deadline to renew or subscribe to Anabaptist World magazine at the WMC group rate. Please fill out and return the subscription form to the church office mailbox with \$39 payment (checks payable to WMC) by Monday.

VBS volunteer forms are due this Sunday. If you have a volunteer form you've been sitting on, please mark how you are willing to help, bring it with you, and return to Jeff & Mariko Claassen's mailbox.

Congregational Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m. Our spring congregational meeting will be held in the sanctuary. You may also join by Zoom at <https://goshen-edu.zoom.us/j/92942708767?pwd=bG82QnFMWXVHMnFpMjV0WU5BbTZWZz09>. You are encouraged to bring with you both your budget packet and the meeting packet of materials that were in your boxes the past couple of Sundays. There will be extra ballots at the entrance.

Salt & Light weekly reflection for [May 14](#).

Upcoming Community Events

Documentary premiere. *What Happened at Benham West: African American Stories of Community, Displacement and Hope* will premiere **Friday, May 19**, at the Crystal Ballroom at the Lerner Theatre at 410 South Main Street, Elkhart, Indiana. The film features stories of life in Elkhart's predominantly African American Benham West neighborhood and documents the process of the city's eventual clearing of the neighborhood. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is hosting the launch event. There is no charge to attend, but space is limited to 300 participants, and **registration by May 12 is recommended** to reserve a seat: benhamwestproject.com

Color Fun Run, May 20, 9:00 a.m. Come celebrate the launch of Bethany Christian Schools' Bright Future Campaign with a 1-mile Color Fun Run on Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m.! Registration is now open to the general public and is \$15 per person. Be sure to register soon so you can be part of one of the most colorful parties in town! Learn more or register by visiting bethanycs.net/brightfuture

Mennonite Church USA

After more than two years of preparation, **La Posada Immigrant Aid**, a new faith-based immigrant legal aid center located in Sunnyside Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana, is open for business, largely due to the support and collaboration of several Mennonite Church USA affiliated churches, conferences, schools, organizations and individuals. Read the story here: mennoniteusa.org/news/county-immigrant-aid

The third Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival will bring together Mennonite practitioners, artists and theologians from around the world to learn, share and discuss their work for peace. Join this international gathering June 15-18 at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia on the theme "Coming Together: The Journey of Faith and Peace." Learn more and register here: mennoniteusa.org/emu-peacebuilding-conference

Linda Gehman Peachey, a member of Mennonite Church USA's Women in Leadership steering committee, is haunted by a question asked in Chanequa Walker-Barnes' book, "I Bring the Voices of My People." She asks: "What does it mean to know that a system is evil and to participate in it anyway?" Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: mennoniteusa.org/haunted-question

After attending Mennonite Church USA's **Hope for the Future Conference** as a representative for Bethel College, in North Newton, Kansas, Josué Coy Dick had an enriching experience. He observed that the conference gave him an optimistic energy about the future of the Mennonite church. Read more about his time here: mennoniteusa.org/we-are-the-church

AMBS

Registration now open! Rooted and Grounded Conference on Land and Christian

Discipleship: Sept. 28–30 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. 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. ambs.edu/rooted-and-grounded

MCC

MCC School Kit Challenge:

Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families around the world who have been forced to flee their homes or struggle to afford basic school supplies. Without these items, many kids in places like Syria, Ukraine and South Sudan can't get the education they desperately need. Enter, the **School Kit**

Challenge: 10,000 school kits to help 10,000 kids during the month of August. Plus, we've got a fun activity for Sunday School and VBS students! Download our free School Kit Challenge activity resource full of challenges for kids to learn how school supplies help children receive a tangible message of God's love. **To learn more about this challenge and to download this free guide, visit mcc.org/school-kit-challenge**

Opportunities

Unmasking and Dismantling Settler Colonialism: A CPT delegation on Treaty 1 and Treaty 3 Territory, August 14-25. This delegation will do a deep dive into the historical and current realities of colonialism and explore ways we can get involved in the decolonization process. Through this delegation we will explore themes such as environmental racism, abolition movements, Indigenous solidarity, and methods of being an ally. In addition to visiting Grassy Narrows [an Anishanaabe reserve in northern Ontario], we will spend time learning together in Winnipeg. **Learn more and sign up here**

MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries is hosting three upcoming **Peace Camps for 2023!** Peace Camps are one-week, hands-on learning experiences for young adults hungry to connect with other young adults, root themselves in intentional, theological reflection and apply that to real-world work of peace and justice in their communities. The peace camps are:

1) **Peacebuilders Training** | July 24-29 | Divide, Colorado: [Register for Peacebuilders Training](#)

2) **Descolonizando la construcción de paz | Decolonizing Peace** October 15-20 | Puerto Rico: [Inscribirse para Descolonizando la construcción de paz](#)

3) **God of Justice** | January 2-6 | Camp Deerpark, New York: Registration link coming soon.

MCC will cover all costs of travel, lodging and meals with each participant paying only a \$200 registration fee. You can find more information on each camp on our Peace Camps webpage – check back regularly for updates!.