

Ice Cream Servers at the congregational meeting Tuesday night: Zoë Brown, Lydia Voth, and Deron Bergstresser



May 21, 2023



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
5:30 p.m. - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner / In homes

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jon. & Mary Ann
Wieand
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto,
Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann,
Jordan Kauffman

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

6:45 p.m. MLC, PT, LMP's /
FH

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. YAF
7:00 p.m. Venture Club
7:00 p.m. JYF, MYF
7:00 p.m. GDMT / meeting rm

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

June Worship Series - "Seasons of Creation"

Cindy Voth, for Worship Ministry Team

During the month of June, we will take a break from following the Narrative Lectionary as we spend a month with the theme of Creation. It seems fitting that as we worship our creator we do so in the midst of God's bountiful creation! So, for the four Sundays in June we will be worshipping outside in our pavilion. (We will be live-streaming the service to the inside sanctuary for anyone who needs climate controlled.)

We will gather for worship at 9 a.m., followed by our nurture hour electives from 10:30 - 11:30. For this series, we will be drawing from a resource called "Seasons of Creation." Each week we will focus on a different area of God's creation. We look forward to hearing from two guest preachers who are both educated and passionate about creation care — Luke Gascho from Waterford, and Janeen Bertsche Johnson from Anabaptist Biblical Seminary and the Mennonite Creation Care Network. During our worship on June 11, we will gather around tables and share together in Communion.

We invite you to bring your lawn chairs and a heart ready to experience God in new ways amidst the created beauty that will surround us.

See the worship calendar on the next page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 225

Nurture Hour – 212

Finances – May 14, 2023

Operating Fund \$12,345.00

Mennonite Education \$6,703.00

Either Fund \$5,220.00

Budget Total \$24,268.00

Jubilee Fund \$225.00

Least Coin \$33.00

Kitchen Fund \$250.00

Welcoming Spaces \$4,000.00

Total **\$28,776.00**

Looking Ahead

May 28: Graduation Sunday;

Go Now

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

June 4: Sermon: Luke Gascho;

Seasons of Creation: Land

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

Date	Theme	Preacher	Special Elements
June 4	Land Sunday	Luke Gascho	
June 11	Planet Earth Sunday	Deron Bergstresser	Communion
June 18	Forest Sunday	Janeen Bertsche Johnson	Reporting from Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Summer Assembly at Amigo
June 25	Ocean Sunday	Cindy Voth	

Welcoming Spaces

'Friends Don't Let Friends Give Cash'

Lyle Miller, Welcoming Spaces 3.1

In my work as a Stewardship Consultant at Everence, one of my colleagues is fond of saying, "Friends don't let friends just give cash."

His point is to note that while very few of us are generous primarily because of tax advantages, there is often a way to give that is more advantageous than simply writing out a check. By using intentional strategies, people of all ages and income levels can often be more generous than they otherwise thought possible.

On Sunday, May 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the church, I will be leading a workshop, "Strategic Generosity: Creative Ways to Maximize Your Giving." The event will also be livestreamed and recorded for those unable to attend in person. The link for livestreaming is: [Zoom link: Strategic Generosity workshop.](#)

In the workshop, we will focus our attention on the giving tools that provide immediate tax advantages and that support organizations now or in the near future. We will also consider strategies that can be helpful to individuals or organizations at a later date and even some that "give twice," providing a stream of income to the donor or heirs while providing immediate tax advantages and benefiting charity later. I will also share some updates related to the SECURE Act 2.0 tax legislation passed in late 2022 for effect in 2023.

It seems appropriate to have such a workshop as we invite people to generosity through our Welcoming Spaces 3.1 campaign, since people often use these tools when making special gifts. However, many Waterford individuals use one or more of these strategies for all of their charitable giving, including regular giving to Waterford and to other ministries they care about.

June Nurture Hour Electives

Cindy Voth, for pastoral team

We are excited for our Nurture Hour during the four Sundays in June! During the month of June, our regular nurture classes will not be meeting. Instead during our Nurture Hour, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., everyone is invited to participate in one of seven electives that have been planned.

It is our hope that these electives provide the fertile ground for new relationships to be created as well as for older relationships to be deepened. Have you been thinking about inviting one of your friends or neighbors to visit WMC? Maybe June would be a great time!

Here are the seven electives with their descriptions and meeting locations.

Elective	Description	Location
Estudio Biblico-Spanish Bible study	Una reunion de los que hablan el Español: El tema sera: "Sorpresas en nuestro peregrinaje espiritual". Esperamos que cada uno de los presentes participe a manera de testimonio indicando como la Biblia nos ayuda a entender estas sorpresas. El verso lema es I Pedro 1:17. Sugerimos que leamos este libro.	Nurture Wing, Rm 29, current Bridgebuilders Classroom
Comforter Knotting/ Prayer Shawls*	We will get to know each other as we work with our hands. Comforters will be set up for knotting, and people present ready to teach how to knit prayer shawls.	MYF Room
Active Outside Activities*	Do you like to get to know others while being active and moving your body? During this elective we will meet outside at the church. Two weeks we will learn and play disc golf, and two weeks we will learn and play other lawn games. All ages and levels of skills are welcome!	Meet in the Pavilion outside — wear clothes to be active and bring along your frisbees, other lawn games, and lawn chairs.
Foods From Around the World*	During this elective, different members of WMC will lead the group in learning how to make (and then enjoy!) foods from their cultural background. Come with your curiosity and openness to try something new!	South Fellowship Hall
Salt & Light Bible Study	Join others in a Bible Study using the "Salt & Light" curriculum. During June, the theme is <i>Reading Scripture with Discernment</i> . Each week we will look at how God speaks through the law, prophets, visions, and Psalms.	Sojourners Classroom, Rm 22 (by mailboxes)
Learning New Songs from <i>Voices Together</i> *	Our new hymnal is full of amazing songs! This elective will meet in the sanctuary and explore some of the yet uncovered treasures within <i>Voices Together</i> !	Sanctuary
Outside Spiritual Practices**	Spending time in creation can be a spiritual discipline to connect with God and with others. For the first two weeks Pastor Deron will lead this group in our wetlands. The second two weeks will take place at Luke & Becky Gascho's orchards while Luke leads the group on a tour there.	June 4 & 11 the group will meet down by the pond in our wetlands. Please bring a lawn chair as there will be time for sitting and time for walking. June 18 & 25 the group will meet under the carport to carpool to Luke & Becky Gascho's orchards.

*Denotes electives that are designed to be intergenerational of all ages. We ask that children 5th grade and younger are accompanied by an adult to the elective of their choice. The adult could be a parent or grandparent, or just another adult in the congregation who will be with the child during the elective.

**Outside Spiritual Practices Elective is designed to be intergenerational of all ages 6th grade and older.

Thank You



Dear Beloved Community,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your donation to the Coalition's salary fund so that I could come on board as the Executive Director. For decades, I have been working on decolonization, which I define as stepping back from the control and oppression of vulnerable peoples in ways that include changing financial structures, laws and policies, giving back land, and challenging centuries-old conventions and thinking. In my experience, it is rare for people who are benefitting — or have the potential to benefit — from the status quo to support such a vision.

And yet, that is what you have done. You have chosen to invest in work that runs counter to structures from which you may have historically benefitted. This is incredible to me! It just doesn't happen, or at least doesn't happen often, in my experience. I owe you a debt of gratitude, and I will do my best to live into that vision.

I believe that this vision of decolonization is the realm of God that Jesus came to announce and enact. It is the right relationship and the just reordering of systems to which the Spirit of Life calls us. What a joy to be a part of this process of creation! What a joy to be alive, together, and to use our Life's energy to resist systems of death!

May we continue to grow and learn together on this journey.

With love and gratitude,
Sarah Augustine, Executive Director
Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

Special thanks to the Agape Class for their gift in memory of my brother, Donnie, who passed away in April. While there in North Carolina, we were pleasantly surprised when one of the funeral home directors made the connection with us to share that receipt. Agape, for its namesake!

George Thompson

Lynda and Rod Hollinger-Janzen express their thanks to everyone who purchased clothing and artifacts from the Benin Bible Institute (BBI) fundraiser. They are happy to announce that \$1135 was raised. This will be presented to BBI as a gift from the Waterford congregation.

Summary of Ballots from Congregational Meeting

Zoë Brown, Secretary for Ministry Leadership Council

Thank you to all who participated in our congregational meeting on May 16 in person or via zoom! Here are the results of the five ballots:

- ✦ *Affirmation of Proposed 2023-24 Budget*: 91 affirm, 1 opposed
- ✦ *Affirmation of Welcoming Spaces 3.1 renovation floorplan*: 92 affirm, 0 opposed
- ✦ *Affirmation of Welcoming Spaces 3.1 budget and construction timeline*: 92 affirm, 0 opposed
- ✦ *Leah Berkey as our Youth/Young Adult Delegate to Mennonite Church USA, Assembly, July 2023*: 92 affirm, 0 opposed
- ✦ *Affirmation for WMC to join the Repair Network with the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery*: 90 affirm, 1 oppose, 2 abstain

Thank you for those who provided comments on the ballots.

Suggestions will be considered by the corresponding groups. If you were unable to join the meeting, you may watch the recording of it here: <https://youtu.be/-Z0gK4U7LYQ>

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday night is Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. If you signed up to participate, you should have received a paper in your box last week with the address of the home you will be going to. If you have questions, contact Pastor Cindy or Rita Herrmann. The fun begins at 5:30 p.m.!

This week you will find in your mailbox an envelope containing information about the **fundraising campaign for the Welcoming Spaces**. Please review the materials and return the response card by June 4.

Sunday, May 28 is **Pentecost and Graduation Sunday!** You will be invited during the worship service to write about something you are passionate about. This week, in preparation, think about this prompt: **What could you talk about for hours?** A hobby, vocation, grandkids, friendship, etc. What makes you come alive?

Salt & Light weekly reflection for [May 21](#).

Mennonite Church USA

Ryan and Friends, featuring comedian/ventriloquist Ryan Bomgardner, will be performing during MennoCon23, Mennonite Church USA's leading faith formation event, in Kansas City (Missouri) Convention Center, July 6, 2023, at 9 p.m. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/ryan-mennocon23

Interested in volunteering at MennoCon23, Kansas City, Mo., July 3 – 6? Mennonite Church USA seeks an onsite volunteer coordinator and volunteers for children's programming, special events and more! Fill out a form here: mennoniteusa.org/forms/mennocon-volunteer-interest

Planning to attend

MennoCon23 in Kansas City, July 3 – 6? Be sure to view this recorded webinar, "MennoCon23: Know Before You Go." mennoniteusa.org/webinar-mennocon23

The Bible has several examples of God changing or updating the name or descriptor of God's servants because of their life experiences and the context of their calling. Ertell M. Whigham, associate pastor of Nueva Vida Norristown (Pennsylvania) New Life Mennonite Church, shares his **story of transformation through intercultural ministry**. Read more about his story here: mennoniteusa.org/gods-call-intercultural

AMBS

Anabaptist Witness 10.1, "Mission and Education." This issue — guest edited by Shin Ji Kang and Ron Shultz — explores opportunities and challenges that emerge when the goals of education and mission intersect. Authors reflect on themes such as interculturality, peace, the embodied gospel, and imperialism in relation to educational experiences in Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Indonesia, Iraq and the U.S. Read it online for free:

anabaptistwitness.org

Do you want to grow in intercultural competence?

Through customized workshops and strategic planning sessions, Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, MA, Intercultural Competence and Undoing Racism Consultant, can provide the resources, tools and support you need to increase your ability to interact across cultural differences; take tangible steps toward your antiracism goals; and transform the culture and practices of your congregation, educational institution or workplace. Contact Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary to request a consultation today! ambs.edu/invite

MDS

The May edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: a West Virginia family finds a safe haven in an MDS-built home; a disaster survivor shares the terror of riding out Hurricane Fiona; and cooks share the joys and challenges of feeding an MDS crew. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3o6LIs1>

Upcoming Community Events

2023 Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale: The Relief Sale will be held Sept. 22 – 23 at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds. You can begin supporting the sale now:

Plant enthusiasts, share your plants at the Relief Sale. Now is the time to nurture your indoor plants or pot up your perennials as you divide them. A good plant sale depends on healthy established plants. Consider what you could contribute to the sale. If you specialize in violets or succulents, they are always popular.

Join in the fun by starting to collect coins for My Coins Count. If you need a quarter collector contact the MCC Great Lakes office in The Depot (574-533-4133)

Consider where you can volunteer: make baked goods, help with children's activities or with setup, assist with social media, work in a food booth. Email mennonitesale@yahoo.com with your interest.

Follow the Relief Sale on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and check out the website: www.mennonitesale.org for more information.

Opportunities

Lacasa's Help-A-House is hosting a small mini workday and is seeking groups of people to help. See the **flyer on the bulletin board** with additional information and a **QR code to register**. If you have a group interested in participating, please register as soon as possible.

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 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**