

A few members of Waterford's accessibility team show off our accessibility tools.

From left to right: Dan Stoltzfus holds a large-print hymnal, Katie Misz and Emily Hunsberger hold sensory tools and fidgets, and Harold Helmuth sports an Assistive Listening Device.



June 4, 2023



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
12:00 p.m. - Potluck meal

Welcome Team

Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey, Bob Hochstedler, Shawn Stutzman

This Week at Waterford

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Mennonite Women
6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers
7:00 p.m. FFMT

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Waterford's Accessibility Survey Insights

Excerpts from a post by Emily Hunsberger on ADN's Opening Doors Blog

In January 2023, Waterford Mennonite Church completed Anabaptist Disabilities Network's (ADN) Accessibility Survey. We spoke with Katie Misz, pastoral team member at Waterford, to learn more about the congregation's process with the survey. Pastor Katie shares insights into creating an accessibility team, fostering a safe space for participants, and using the survey to plan next steps toward greater accessibility and inclusion.

What led your congregation to decide to survey your accessibility?

Last autumn, our congregation passed a statement of inclusion, and we planned a formation series about including people on the margins. One of those areas was about people with disabilities, so we worked with ADN to do the accessibility audit and present the results to the congregation.

How did you approach filling out the survey?

First, I met with Emily Hunsberger, the communications director at ADN. We reviewed the overarching goals of the congregation and then sent invitations to people we thought would be interested in working together to complete the survey. We invited persons from our congregation who are impacted by the accessibility categories in the survey (mobility, hearing, low vision/blindness, and support). We wanted to give space for those with experience in these areas to give feedback. Knowing that coordinating with a lot of people would be

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 235

Nurture Hour – 207

Finances – May 28, 2023

Operating Fund	\$8,162.00
Mennonite Education	\$65.00
Either Fund	\$9,335.92
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$17,562.92</i>
Welcoming Spaces	\$20,600.00
Total	\$38,162.92

Looking Ahead

June 11: Deron Bergstresser;
Planet Earth; Communion

June 18: Sermon: Janeen
Bertsche Johnson; Forest

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

Wednesday, Thursday
9 - 12, 1- 3

Monday, 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
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difficult, we met twice to give the best chance of everyone attending at least one meeting.

What joys arose during the audit process?

Some people were very grateful to be asked and had a lot of advice, experience, and suggestions to offer. It seemed as if they felt empowered and heard by knowing this audit was an official thing that Waterford was doing and not just another conversation that wouldn't go anywhere. Additionally, the accessibility group involved people of various ages, and we all found an intersection with mental health. Many group members didn't realize mental health was part of AND's work. It turned out that a lot of us had experienced mental health treatment. Connecting through our shared experience with mental illnesses was healthy.

What challenges did you face during the process?

As a group of people with disabilities, we have overlapping and opposing needs. Someone was feeling claustrophobic in our small meeting room while another was hearing impaired and needed to meet in a contained space. We had to figure out how to care for both in the moment and find a creative solution to recognize and care for everyone.

We were pressed to complete the survey in the allotted time while also making space for the valuable relationship building and sharing.

Making building updates to become more accessible costs quite a bit of money. While we can add these updates to our future building maintenance plan, it is frustrating to wait to have enough money before we can make some of the needed changes to become more physically accessible.

What are your congregation's next steps on your accessibility journey?

This process helped to reprioritize having a disability advocate in our congregation. It's always been important, but this prompted us to find a replacement for the advocate who stepped down last year.

During our formation series, evening meetings, and some Sunday School classes, we have been experimenting with small signs that congregants can hold up when they struggle to hear what is being said. The signs say "Speak Slowly" on one side and "Use the mic; Show your Lips" on the other side. We want to get used to responding to people's needs in the moment so everyone can participate fully in worship and meetings.

Finally, we recently began a Young Adult Neurodivergent Support Group that meets one evening a month. We noticed that our young adults were looking for community, and that some needed more support and care as they transitioned from high school to adulthood. Anyone with autism, ADHD, mental illness, or other neurodivergence is invited to attend, and the group focuses on building community while also building skills to thrive in a world not built for their brains.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the audit: Lori Judson, WMC Disability Advocate; Harold Helmuth, Emily Hunsberger, Landon Kauffman, Lorene Miller, Tony Miller, Katie Misz, Dan and Angela Stoltzfus, Deloris Wyse and Lyz Zimmerman.

Calling Waterford Bikers!

Fellowship Ministry Team

We are calling Waterford bikers of ALL ages!! Join in a fun group bike ride on the Pumpkine. We will meet at Abshire Park with our bikes at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 24! Leaving Abshire, we will leisurely bike six miles to Mooney's Ice Cream Shop (14408 CR 20, Middlebury) where we will enjoy some refreshments before biking the six miles back to Abshire. Mooney's has a lot of delicious ice cream options, as well as a selection of hot food (you can check them out on Facebook). Overzealous bikers are free to add additional miles by biking beyond Mooney's and then circling back in time to meet the group at 11 a.m.

Are you interested in joining in the fun but are not a biker? No problem! Just plan on driving and meeting the bikers at Mooney's at 11 a.m.!

Please stop by the Participation Station by June 18 to Sign Up to participate in the activity. And one important note, Mooney's accepts cash or check, no credit cards.

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday:

- **We begin our outside worship services for the month of June.** Bring your lawn chairs and sun protection! There will be metal folding chairs available, and if you can't stand the heat or sun, the service will be livestreamed into the sanctuary.
- **We also begin our June nurture electives.** Don't worry if you didn't return a card stating your preference—you are welcome to join whichever group appeals to you. Look for the insert in your bulletin for the list of classes and their descriptions and locations.
- **Foods from around the World elective:** This week, Pushpa and Mark King will introduce us to Nepal. Because it is a potluck Sunday, she will bring snacks from Nepal that won't need to be cooked. We will meet in room 28/30 in the Nurture Wing.
- Everyone is invited to the **all-church potluck** in the fellowship hall, hosted by the Seekers' class, after the nurture hour. Bring a crockpot hot dish and/or other dishes to share.
- **This is the final Sunday to return your pledge card** with your current or future plans to give to Waterford's Welcoming Spaces 3.1 campaign. Please return to the church office, or the church office box.
More WMC announcements on back page.

Mennonite Church USA

Join us for "**Delegate Assembly 2023: Know Before You Go, Part II,**" an informational Zoom webinar on Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m. Leaders from MC USA, Everence and MHS Association will discuss the proposed organizational resolutions for the upcoming Delegate Assembly in Kansas City. Delegates and nondelegates are welcome to attend. Register and submit your questions here:

mennoniteusa.org/da23-webinar

Mennonite Church USA strives to live into its **Accessibility Resolution** at MennoCon23 by removing barriers to make people of all abilities and needs feel welcome. MennoCon23, the denomination's leading faith formation event, will take place in Kansas City, Missouri, July 3-6. Read more here:

mennoniteusa.org/news/mennocon23-accessible

"**Pastoral transitions** are a natural part of congregational life. At some point, your pastor will leave. They will leave for all sorts of reasons, and the majority of reasons have nothing to do with the congregation," writes Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for ministerial leadership for Mennonite Church USA, in her helpful blog about next steps: mennoniteusa.org/pastoral-transition-beauty

Hugo Saucedo, a longtime MennoCon volunteer, attended his first convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1993. "I was 16 years old, when my youth group drove from Brownsville, Texas, to Philadelphia. In spite of the long drive, the memories I made have stayed with me to this day." Read more about Hugo's experience here: mennoniteusa.org/mennocon23-mennonite-reunion

MCC

MCC Virtual Visit to the DR

Congo on June 5: Learn about the impact a clean water project has had in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—and how you can help bring it to more communities. In this virtual visit, we will hear from Jacob Yoder, country representative, and Gracia Faló, program assistant, about the need in DR Congo, and their hope for its future. Linda Espenshade and Christy Kauffman will share stories and photos from a recent trip. Join us for this free webinar on Monday, June 5 at 12 p.m. EDT. Register for the Zoom link at mcc.org/dr-congo-webinar.

MCC Great Lakes is seeking a Program Director: This full-time position is responsible for the direction and oversight of MCC Great Lakes programs and church engagement. Bilingual fluency in Spanish and English is preferred. Apply online by June 25 at mcc.org/gl-program-director. For more information, contact Wesley Wilder at WesleyWilder@mcc.org.

Mennonite Women: Reminding all women who would like to give some time to MCC as well as other local projects, Thursday, June 8 is the day we will gather in the MYF room to cut, sew, quilt, or knot to complete projects that help MCC meet needs around the world. We also contribute to local needs through our Least Coin Offerings we take each time we meet. When our offerings add up to \$100-\$200 we give to a local need. Everyone can help us with this project by giving suggestions for needs you may know about in your neighborhood. We always know places where MCC can use funds but we may not be aware of needs in our own community! Please give suggestions to Rachel Brenneman or the church office. Thank you! Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and usually close around 2:00 p.m. If you plan to stay over lunch bring a dish to pass or if you would rather pack your own, that's fine also.

Vacation Bible School online sign up: This year's theme for VBS is the Marketplace, and we will learn about life in Biblical time through visiting the Synagogue, baking bread, making bricks, fishing and more! We will meet July 31 to August 3 from 9 to 12:30. Lunches will be provided. Bring your friends and neighbors! Sign up online at <https://forms.gle/6HZU9codYS39Pfo7>

Opportunities

Call for Volunteers! Looking for something to fill a few hours every week? Something that is fun, fulfilling and makes a difference? Ten Thousand Villages, our local fair trade store, is seeking volunteers. At **Ten Thousand Villages**, your work makes it possible for families to eat, children to go to school and have access to health care. To learn more about this great opportunity to help your neighbors around the world, email goshen@tentousandvillages.com.

Thank You



Thank You, Fancheon Resler!

The Prairie View EL (English Learner) team would like to thank Fancheon for preparing and serving a delicious breakfast for the EL graduates, their families, and teachers, both current and previous. This year PV had six students complete the necessary requirements for leaving the EL program. We are so proud of their accomplishments! It was an honor to be able to celebrate with their families, and we couldn't have done it without Fancheon!

Sincerely,

The EL team: Erin Behan-Morillo, Nicole Martinez, Melissa Chupp, Denise Diener