

VBS 2023

Hear all about it this Sunday!



August 6, 2023



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Outside Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
12:00 p.m. - Fellowship Meal

Welcome Team

Ushers: Dennis Myers, Len Harms, Wade Ramer
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Colin Berkey

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - YAF Support Group/ Rm 15

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Mennonite Women / MYF Rm

7:00 p.m. FFMT

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

Practicing Our Faith

Cindy Voth, for Worship Ministry Team

What might it mean to practice our faith? What are practices that might strengthen our faith and our awareness of God's presence in our lives and in the world? During the months of August and September, our Sunday morning worship services will be centered on this theme of "Practicing Our Faith." Over the eight Sundays we will explore eight different faith practices found within the book "Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People," edited by Dorothy Bass.

Bass describes Christian practices as "shared patterns of activity in and through which life together takes shape over time in response to and in the light of God as known in Jesus Christ. Woven together, they form a way of life. Practices are things we do. When people participate in a practice, they are embodying a specific kind of wisdom about what it means to be a human being under God."

Together let us refute the claim that "practice makes perfect." Instead, it is our hope that practice makes a way for us to encounter God within ourselves, each other, and in the world. (Yes, I know it is not as concise as "practice makes perfect," but it is more theologically sound and filled with grace and not legalism. Hallelujah.)

We will notice that we do things a little bit differently during these months as we incorporate some new spiritual formational practices within worship. For example, prior to the call to worship we will hear

See Practices on page 5

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 184

Nurture Hour – 122

Finances – July 30, 2023

Operating Fund	\$3,470.00
Mennonite Education	\$950.50
Either Fund	\$3,145.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$7,565.50</i>
Welcome Spaces	\$1,000.00
VBS	\$50.00
Total	\$8,615.50

Looking Ahead

August 13: Ariana Pérez Diener:

Kenya, Shaping Communities

August 20: Velma Swartz;

Dying Well

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, Pastor

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, Pastor

Tuesday, Thursday

Monday & Wednesday p.m.

Out of Office

Cindy Voth

August 6-11

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

Spiritual Formation Group Opportunity: Anxiety as an Opportunity for Spiritual Growth

Sheldon Swartz, Spiritual Formation Ministry Team

This is a unique kind of spiritual formation group, especially for those who are interested in using anxiety as an opening into deeper spiritual and personal vitality. Instead of seeing anxiety as an enemy, something to rid ourselves of, we will seek to see it as a friend, learning to embrace it and be open to the invitations in it.



Since fear is one of the most common human emotions, it follows that it can also be one of the most useful. Unchecked, anxiety limits the outflow of healthy emotional energy and restricts freedom to love, whether that is individuals or groups, or nations. Noticed and used to deepen trust in that which is present, dependable, and life-giving, it frees one to love (value everyone/everything) more and more fully, which is the greatest gift we can be given.

In this group we will learn to talk about, accept and embrace anxiety, however it is presently experienced in the myriad of ways it manifests, and use the sense of non-judgmental presence with each other to explore the paths towards greater release and freedom to live.

God is never anxious because God is Love, and there is no room for anxiety (fear) in love. The Body of Christ is meant to be a place where we can honestly own and face our fears and with the support of each other be transformed into passionate lovers of all that is good.



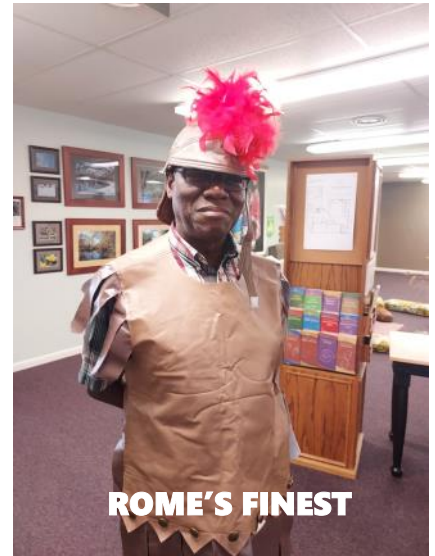
The group will meet every other week from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Zoom for a total of eight sessions beginning the second Monday evening in September (the 11th—yes, 9/11!) Contact Sheldon Swartz if you have interest in being a part of this group and/or want more information. If there is consensus to meet in person instead of Zoom, we will do that. Group size: minimum 4, maximum 8.

Email: sheldonws@yahoo.com; Text: 574-536-5630

VBS The Marketplace



SYNAGOGUE SCHOOL



ROME'S FINEST

Waterford hosted 29 children last week for Bible School. Designed to give children a glimpse of life during the time of Jesus, the activities included worship, drama, and outdoor "market" stalls, complete with Roman soldiers!



TIE-DYING TRIBAL SASH



FISHING



THE CONSCRIPTS



COIN-STAMPING



Making a Sensory Space

By Zoë Brown

We are happy to announce that we will be creating a Sensory Room to be utilized during worship starting August 13! This space will be located in Room 15, near the kitchen door, and will be open for anyone to use to take a break during worship. Especially as we begin to include some more personal themes in worship, we want to provide a space for both mental and physical breaks. This space will be a calm area with fidgets and couches to rest and realign yourself if you need to step out during worship at all. Even if you simply find yourself distracted and need to pause to be able to focus again, you are welcome! Someone will be in the room to answer any questions you may have about the space, as well as provide assistance in distributing supplies.

Practices cont. from page 1

the chime of the singing bowl and sit together in silence as we bring our whole selves before God. We are also grateful for this opportunity to hear from others from within our faith community. You will see in the chart below that most Sundays we will hear a testimony from a WMCer, reflecting on the practice of the day. In addition, five of the eight meditations will be offered by someone from WMC other than a member of the pastoral team.

Together may we explore a way of life shaped by practices that respond to God's grace and reflect God's love for us, for others, and for all creation. Together may we join in practicing our faith.

Date	Practice	Meditation	Testimony
8/6	Jubilee	George Thompson	VBS Sunday
8/13	Shaping Communities	Ariana Pérez Diener	Anna Smucker
8/20	Dying Well	Velma Swartz	Cynthia Kauffmann
8/27	Testimony	Our Seven New WMC Members	
9/3	Keeping Sabbath	Deron Bergstresser	Jeff Miller
9/10	Honoring Our Bodies	Cindy Voth	Lynda Hollinger-Janzen
9/17	Healing	Derrick Ramer	Service of Anointing
9/24	Simplicity	Katie Misz	Chris and Lori Judson

MCUSA

The Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly installed **Jon Carlson as the moderator** for the new biennium and provided strong affirmation for a slate of new Executive Board members and other nominees, including incoming Moderator-elect Marty Lehman. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/dacarlson

Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Glen Guyton used a surprising pop culture reference to launch his state of the denomination report to delegates at the MC USA Delegate Assembly, held in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 7-8, 2023. Read more about his address here: mennoniteusa.org/news/state-denomination23 View the PowerPoint slide here: mennoniteusa.org/slide-theme-fj

Catch up on all the happenings at MennoCon23 and the Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit by reading the **KC Sauce**, MC USA's daily convention newsletter, here: mennoniteusa.org/kcsauce

New Members Joining Waterford

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

During our morning worship service on August 27 we will have the gift of welcoming seven new members to Waterford! With joy we will welcome Chris & Marilyn Lehman, Derrick & Sara Method, Irma Perez, and Derrick & Michelle Ramer. I invite you to join me in praying for these individuals as they prepare to share with us during the service.

Volunteers for the Fellowship Hall deconstruction: Early birds are welcome to start work at 8:00 a.m. on August 12. Others may come beginning at 9:00. By that time the early birds should have figured out how to do the work. Join up with a team in progress to use your skills.

For the tool guys: We will need hand held grinders with metal cut off blades, and/or reciprocating saws with metal cutting blades. If possible, we want to separate out the metals in the accordion and the panel doors for recycling. A few wheelbarrows would also be helpful. Gloves, hardhats and other safety gear are welcomed.

AMBS

Seeking an Admissions

Counselor. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is accepting applications for this 0.5 FTE position. The person in this role will serve as a member of the AMBS Admissions Team, recruiting and working with prospective students from the U.S., Canada and across the world and connecting with church leaders and alumni about AMBS programs and offerings. See the full job description: ambs.edu/jobs

Anabaptist Short Course

Bundle. Deepen your understanding of Anabaptist history, thought and witness through discussion-based online short courses from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Learn about topics such as Anabaptist approaches to Scripture, peace and justice in the Bible, and transforming congregational conflict. Take four noncredit online courses in 2023–24 for only \$995 total and save more than \$400. (The regular price is \$350/course.) No grades, no papers! Each course lasts six weeks. CEUs available. ambs.edu/bundle

Mennonite Relief Sale

The Relief Sale **Online Silent Auction** welcomes your donations of unique experiences, gift certificates, art works, and new/gently used items with a value of \$50 or more. Call/text 574-849-0053 or email Kauffman.mmr@gmail.com.

Waterford Announcements

Cars & Coffee: this Saturday August 5, from 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Show off your special vehicle or just come to see what others have brought. Coffee, donuts and home-baked treats will be provided.

Change of plans: Due to a rainy forecast, **our worship service this Sunday will be indoors.**

We will have a **fellowship potluck**, hosted by Gelassenheit, after the nurture hour. Please bring a crockpot hot dish, side or dessert to share. Gelassenheit will be very short-handed this week and would be greatly appreciative if you would bring your own tableware to reduce the cleanup work for the hosts.

Remember that the classes that normally meet in the fellowship hall will **begin meeting in their new locations this Sunday**. Check the map on the kiosk in the foyer and the Nurture Wing door if you are not sure where your class is meeting.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Sunday, August 27, from 5:30 – 8 p.m. Don't forget to fill out your form if you wish to participate. Please return your filled out form to the box on the participation station table by August 13.

This is the **last week to sign up** if you are interested in joining a **small group**. at the participation station.

Salt & Light additional resource for [August 6](#).

Upcoming Community Events

Living that Matters for Men: A half-day retreat. Men, what kind of man do you want to be and how can you live a life that matters? In this half day retreat, men will examine the scripts we've been given, explore the traits of healthy masculinity, and reconsider their purpose and roles in life. This retreat will be led by Steve Thomas, director of Mennonite Men and author of Living that Matters (Herald Press, 2023), at Pathways Retreat in Goshen 8:30-12:00 Saturday, **August 19**. See more information or to register at <https://www.pathwaysretreat.org/living-that-matters-for-men.html>.

MCC Great Lakes Open House on Thursday, August 31, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. You are invited to visit our office in The Depot building in Goshen (1013 Division Street) for an informal time of conversation and fellowship with MCC Great Lakes staff. There will be an opportunity for those who visit to donate items for and put together a school kit for MCC's School Kit Challenge. For more information and to register, visit mcc.org/gl-open-house or RSVP to 574-534-4133 or GreatLakes@mcc.org by August 24.

Opportunities

Office Administrator Position: East Goshen Mennonite Church (EGMC) is hiring for their part-time (20-25 hours per week) Office Administrator Role. To read a complete job description and submit a resume, please go to tinyurl.com/EGMCOffice. Come join the EGMC staff team and participate in the congregation's vision of "Passionately Follow Jesus!"