

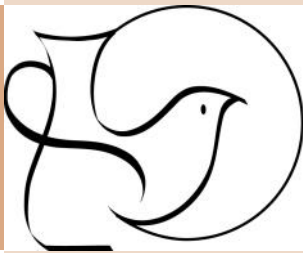
## Evergreen Group

The Evergreen Place group at Greencroft meets the third Wednesday each month for singing, sharing and prayer. This week they gathered for communion.

From left: Deron B, Cora Askren, Ruth Hollinger, Wilmer Hollinger, Elmer Wyse, Barb Landes, Ursula Hess, Bob Brenneman, Mervin Chupp, Kathy Miller, Richard Miller, Jim Christophel (not seen), Joan Walsh



November 19, 2023



# The Waterford Buzz

### This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship

10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages

### Welcome Team

Greeters: Sheldon & Velma Schwartz

Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, Douglas Graber

Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann, Jeff Claassen

### This Week at Waterford

Thursday, Friday

Office Closed

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

## October 2023 Endowment Fund Distributions

*Liz Zimmerman, for the Endowment Fund Committee*

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

- WMC Library \$165 — Funding requested to purchase more books and resources about grief.
- Hesston College Financial Assistance for Rachel Nyamusika \$1000 — Brought to the committee by Lynda Hollinger-Janzen via Mennonite Mission Network. Rachel is hoping to attend Hesston College and get a degree in computer science in order to help small businesses, specifically owned by women and girls in her hometown in Tanzania, utilize technology to further their earning potential.
- Habitat for Humanity 2023 Faith Build for Qwatecia Taylor \$1500 — Qwatecia is a single mom who lives with her six children in a three bedroom apartment.
- Amos Kiotee family in Kenya \$2400 — Amos is a coworker of Ariana Pérez Diener in Kenya. He has recently become a single parent to his seven children when his wife died in childbirth with their last child. He is needing assistance with sending his children to school. By assisting with school fees, Amos will be able to focus on other financial needs and healing for himself and his children after the loss of wife and mother.

The committee will meet again in the Spring of 2024. We have appreciated the opportunity to distribute monies that the church has set aside to further God's mission and kingdom.

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 180  
Nurture Hour – 191

### Finances – Nov. 12, 2023

Operating Fund	\$3,045.00
Mennonite Education	\$5,058.00
Either Fund	\$2,635.00
<i>Budget total</i>	<i>\$10,738.00</i>
Least Coin Fund	\$20.00
BBI	\$7,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,258.00</b>

### Looking Ahead

November 26: Testimony and Song; A Song of Thanksgiving (*Psalm 40:1-10*)  
December 3: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Advent I (*Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37*)

### 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 - November 19-28

### Office hours this week

Monday - Wednesday  
9-12, 1-3  
Thursday, Friday CLOSED

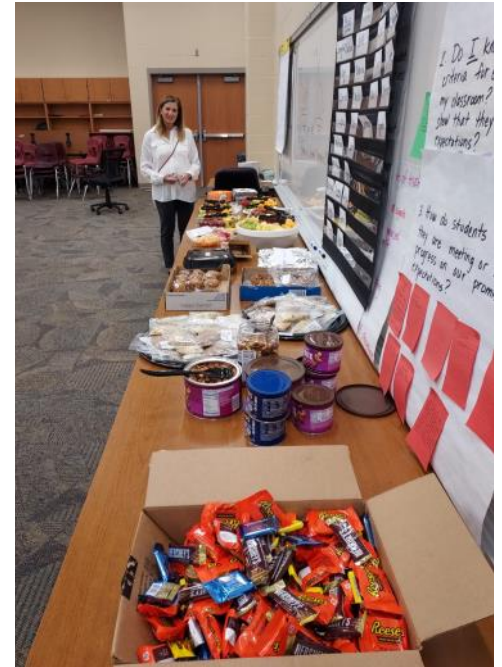
The *Waterford Buzz* is published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

Janet Shoemaker,  
Editor  
buzz@waterfordchurch.org



## PVES Staff Breakfast

On Wednesday, November 8, WMC members provided break food for the staff of Prairie View Elementary School and notes of appreciation for their work. Marge Gingerich, school counselor, stands awed (no doubt) beside the fine home-baked goods, snacks and beautiful fruit trays provided.



## Waterford Announcements

Thank you to all of those who have responded with the updates of your **attender profiles for the directory!** For those who have not done so yet, please return them by this Sunday. If you didn't receive an email with your information, please let the office know as soon as possible.

**Join the Christmas Orchestra** on Sunday morning, December 10. JD Smucker will direct the medley of carols of a low difficulty level. Please sign up at the Participation Station or on the SS class clipboards.

**Salt & Light additional resource** for [November 19.](#)

## Upcoming Community Events

**Come see Susanna Stutzman** as the character “Sven” in *Frozen Jr.* at Goshen Junior High School. Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18, 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 3:00 p.m.

You are invited to the **Bethany Fall Play, *The Curious Savage***, Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, November 19, 3:00 p.m. Support Waterford students Gretchen Bateman, Alina Brill Bergstresser, Marta Brill Bergstresser, Ethan Claassen, Neer Goswami, and Dominic Ramer.

**Goshen Community Chorale and the Maple City Community Orchestra** will present a concert, Sunday, November 19, 4:00 p.m., in the Sauder Concert Hall. The program will feature two of Gabriel Faure’s most beautiful pieces, *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine* (sung in English). Members of Waterford in the Chorale include Rachel Brenneman, Shelby Miller Eby, Rose Shetler, Karsten Hess, Kay Miller, Douglas Graber, Jeff Miller, and Bob Brenneman. Free, but donations will be welcomed at the end of the concert.

**“Israel and Gaza: History and Context” with Dr. Michael Spath** on Monday, November 20, at 2:00 p.m. in the Greencroft Community Center. Dr. Spath is the Founder and Executive director of the Indiana Center for Middle East Peace. He has led frequent tours of Israel-Palestine that explores the social/political situation in that land. Dr. Spath holds a PhD in Historical Theology with an emphasis on Islam-Christian relationships. His academic studies also include Abrahamic Religions, Peace Studies, Religion and Violence. He currently serves as temporary Interim Pastor of the Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship in Berne, Ind.

**Documentary screening: *What Happened at Benham West: African American Stories of Community, Displacement and Hope*: Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6:30 p.m.** at the Goshen Theater, 216 S Main St. (Doors will open at 6 p.m.) 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. AMBS and Goshen College are hosting the event. The public is invited, and there is no charge to attend.

**Come and see the new Tolson Center** at their Grand Opening Event. Thursday, November 30, 3-7 p.m., 1320 Benham Ave, Elkhart. [https://www.tolson.org/join\\_us\\_for\\_our\\_grand\\_opening/](https://www.tolson.org/join_us_for_our_grand_opening/)

**Soup of Success Open House, Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Come sample our delicious soups, cookies and dips, smell candles, try on mittens, search for the perfect tree, meet the women and staff, and of course buy holiday gifts for everyone on your list! Proceeds from Soup of Success product sales are used for training wages for the women who are participating in the program. This year, give the gift that gives back to the community!

**Mennonite Men: Living that Matters Retreat-** December 9, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Pathways Retreat in Goshen. Men, what kind of man do you want to be and how can you live a life that matters? In this half-day retreat, we will examine the scripts we’ve been given, explore differing expressions of masculinity, reconsider our purpose and aims in life. This retreat draws from *Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith* (Herald Press, 2023), which each participant will receive. Led by Steve Thomas, US coordinator of Mennonite Men. [Register by December 1 at: bit.ly/pathways\\_Living\\_That\\_Matters](https://bit.ly/pathways_Living_That_Matters)

## MCUSA

During the Korean War, **Sue Park-Hur’s Aunt Hwasil** was separated from her mother and brothers. After 40 years, she was finally **able to reunite with her family**, a privilege that many other Korean families have not been able to enjoy. Park-Hur is Mennonite Church USA’s director of racial/ethnic engagement. Read her blog here: [mennoniteusa.org/korean-family-reunion](https://mennoniteusa.org/korean-family-reunion)

After researching the experiences of **women in ministry, Amy Zimelman**, conference minister of Mountain States Mennonite Conference, explains that the best gift many congregations can give to their pastor is support through a Pastor-Congregation Relations Committee (PCRC). Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/thank-your-pastor-pcrc](https://mennoniteusa.org/thank-your-pastor-pcrc)

**Sarah Werner**, author of “Rooted Faith: Practices for Living Well on a Fragile Planet,” and communications coordinator for Central District Conference, a Mennonite Church USA conference, gives hope and tangible ideas for how Christians can live a life that is faithful to their **beliefs amid rapid climate change**. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/living-faithfully-changing-planet](https://mennoniteusa.org/living-faithfully-changing-planet)

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## AMBS

### AMBS Pastors & Leaders

#### 2024: Strategies for

#### Peacemaking: Feb. 19–22.

How do we find our calling as a peace church in the world today? This conference will focus on tools for peacemaking — building our capacity to tend to our inner work; address conflicts within our churches; and lead people to action on big issues such as climate change, immigration and political division. Featured speaker: Betty Pries, PhD, CMed. Preachers: Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, MA, and Isaac Villegas, MDiv. Plan to join us in person or online! [ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders](https://ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders)

#### Take a seminary course this

**spring!** AMBS's distance-friendly options include Church and Race; Dynamics and Theology of Reconciliation; Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations; The New Testament and Its Contexts; Numbers; Spiritual Practices: Play and Rest; and more. In-person courses are also available. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours. Courses run Jan. 9 – April 26; sign up by Jan. 2. [ambs.edu/upcoming-courses](https://ambs.edu/upcoming-courses) (no cost): [ambs.edu/preview](https://ambs.edu/preview)

## MDS

The November edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King explains how MDS is an emulsifier; check out our new Annual Report; and we are now accepting registration for our Annual Celebration in Fresno in February. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3G2x3xK>

## Events at Goshen College

\*Tickets can be purchased at <https://goshen.universitytickets.com/>

- **Lavender Jazz Concert\***, Friday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m., Sauder Concert Hall. Lavender Jazz is Goshen College's "big band" student jazz ensemble. They will perform their fall concert of jazz charts and standards. They are directed by Greg Smucker.
- **Fall Mainstage Play: "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare\***, Nov. 18: 7:30 p.m., Nov. 19: 2:30 p.m., Umble Center. Celebrate the promise of youth with Shakespeare's classic gender-bending romantic comedy! Mistaken identity, misunderstandings and pranks instigate all the hijinks. This fall's mainstage production by the Goshen College Theater Department draws inspiration from post-punk youth culture in London, circa 1980. Parents and educators told the youth they wouldn't amount to anything. In defiance, a few friends start meeting up each Tuesday night to have some fun. Their creativity ended up changing the world. This production is directed by Amy Budd, assistant professor of theater.
- **Art Exhibit Reception and Artist Talk: Goshen College Art Faculty & Retired Faculty**, Sunday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m., Hershberger Art Gallery. Exhibit runs until January 14, 2024.
- **20th annual musical celebration of Christmas, A Festival of Carols\***, Dec. 1, 2: 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 3: 4 p.m., Sauder Concert Hall. Goshen College will present a special celebration that features four choirs and an orchestra, along with audience participation on traditional carols, all in a concert hall festively decorated with garlands, lights and trees. "A Festival of Carols" is patterned on a traditional English worship service, and features Christmas carols, spirituals, scripture readings and sacred works of music for the holiday season. Performers include the Goshen College Chamber Choir, Vox Profundi, Voices of the Earth, Goshen College Symphony Orchestra and Shout For Joy Children's Choir. The audience will also be invited to join the choirs to sing familiar carols during the performance.

## Immigration Advocacy and Resources

Do you yearn for holy and social liberation to come to the Southern border and in our communities? **Sojourners has put together an Advent series, Caminando Juntos, Journeying Together**, to help you make space for reflection and action with immigrant communities, families, and churches allied for a humane, just, and common-sense pathway to citizenship. Sign up at the link above for an electronic subscription to the devotional.

**From MCC US National Peace & Justice Ministries:** Asylum seekers are individuals who have left their homes in other countries and are seeking protection from persecution or serious human rights violations. Those granted asylum in the U.S. are provided with work authorization, some federal benefits, and a path to permanent residence leading to citizenship. Yet the asylum process is plagued by a backlog, and takes an average of four years to complete.

Currently, asylum seekers must wait 180 days after they file an application to receive work authorization, preventing them from supporting their families or providing for their basic needs. The Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act ([S. 255](#), [H.R. 1325](#)) would shorten the waiting period for work authorization to 30 days. The Senate version shortens the wait period for those who enter through official ports of entry while the House version shortens the wait period for all (no matter their entry point) and eliminates the need to renew the authorization every two years.

Please encourage your representative to pass H.R. 1325 and your senators to amend S. 255 to align with the House version.

[Urge Congress to pass the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act](#)