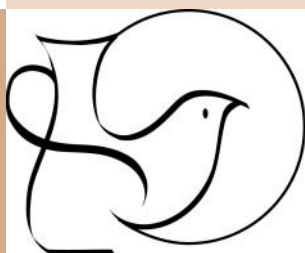


The WMC delegation in Benin:  
Luke, Cindy, Elijah, Thomas Voth,  
Rod Hollinger-Janzen.

See more on page 4



November 26, 2023



# The Waterford Buzz

## **This Sunday**

9:00 a.m. - Worship

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

11:00 a.m. - YA @ Hunsbergers

## **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Sheldon & Velma  
Schwartz

Ushers: Lynda Hollinger-Janzen,  
Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer

Audiovisuals: Derrick Ramer,  
Dominic Ramer

## **This Week at Waterford**

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - MYF

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

## **Advent and Christmas at Waterford**

### **Advent 2023: "How will we know?"**

*Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader*

December 3 marks the beginning of the season of Advent. During this liturgical season of the church, we will join believers around the world in a time of watching, waiting, preparing, and expecting. This year we will utilize the worship resource in "The Leader," a periodical produced by MennoMedia.

The theme this year is, "How will we know?" The resource planners worked to hold scripture in one hand and the 'newspaper' in the other hand. As they sat with scripture and all that is happening in our world, they were left with many questions. This Advent they invite us to lean into our questions. To wonder and wander and wait together for the Messiah, the Christ child, the light.

The material expounds on this theme by sharing that the overarching question "How will we know?" invites us to "Lean into the ways that our faith invites us to sit together, to discern the times, to watch and wait, and to trust that we will know when we know, and that even when we have questions and even doubts, God is still with us; still then, God is working." Each week we will delve further into this overarching question as together we lean into the questions and the waiting.

A word of gratitude to the Method family who will prepare our worship visual arts for Advent. Our journey of Advent moves us from darkness to light. In addition to lighting the peace lamp and advent candles, each

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 188

Nurture Hour – 202

### Finances – Nov. 19, 2023

Operating Fund	\$7,840.00
Mennonite Education	\$1,880.00
Either Fund	\$4,834.00
<i>Budget total</i>	<i>\$14,554.00</i>
Welcome Spaces	\$200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,754.00</b>

### Looking Ahead

December 3: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Advent I

*(Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37)*

December 10: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Advent 2

*(Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8)*

### 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

Katie Misz - November 26

Cindy Voth - November 26-28

### 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](mailto:buzz@waterfordchurch.org)

week our platform will grow from darkness to light as more and more lights and candles are lit. The lights will surround a manger, symbolic of the coming of the Christ child, the light of the world.

Another word of gratitude to the Koinonia Sunday School Class who will be decorating our sanctuary and foyer for the spirit of Christmas. Thank you!

Our weekly worship services will incorporate special elements of dramatic readings, children's times, and an opportunity to interact with the question of the day. You will be given a small piece of paper on your way into the sanctuary and then, during the moment of silence following the sermon, you will be invited to write your answer to the question prompt. Once collected, our responses will be poured into the manger on the platform.

On December 10 we will have our beloved Christmas Prelude Orchestra, led by JD Smucker. The Orchestra will share prelude music as well as accompany some of our opening carols.

We look forward with joy to our children and youth retelling the Christmas story within our worship on December 17. We will hear again the familiar story, told in new, creative ways. May our imagination be sparked!

This year, since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, we will hold our Christmas Eve service at our regular worship time, 9:00 a.m. (We will not have an evening service.) Our worship service will be a service of "Lessons and Carols" as we hear again the scripture journey to Emmanuel, interspersed with singing the story through carols. A highlight of the service will be the young adult strings group that will accompany our singing. This service will include our traditional Christmas Eve candle lighting. There will be no nurture hour that day.

We welcome you on this journey of Advent as we once again prepare to fully welcome and celebrate the arrival of Emmanuel. May we lean into the questions as together we seek to see the ways God is still working and moving among us.

See page three for the series schedule.

## Oh Come All Ye Faithful —

to a time of **Caroling, Cookies and Cocoa on December 17, 4-6 p.m.** We will meet at the Greencroft Community Center and break into groups to carol to our Waterford family throughout Greencroft and the surrounding community. Bring cookies to share at the conclusion of caroling. Cocoa will be provided. Please sign up at the participation station if you plan to join in the fun!

Date	Question "How will we know..."	Scripture	Preacher	Special Elements
12/3	"...how long?"	Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37	Deron Bergstresser	
12/10	"... what now?"	Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8	Cindy Voth	Christmas Prelude Orchestra
12/17	"... what's next?"	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46b-24; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28	None	Children's Christmas Program within worship
12/24	"... why me? Why <i>not</i> me?"	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38	Service of Lessons and Carols with Candle lighting	Worship at 9 a.m. Young Adult Strings Group. (No Nurture Hour.)
12/31	"... <i>who</i> knows?"	Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40	Katie Misz	
1/7	"... what we know?"	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12	Cindy Voth	

## Advent Devotionals

The 2023 Advent at Home worship guide is now available from Mennonite Education Agency (MEA). Taken from *Leader* magazine's theme, "How will we know?" the worship guide accompanies individuals and families through the days and weeks of Advent and Epiphany with scriptures, prayers, worship rituals, suggested activities, and contextual information. It is intended for all ages and life stages to deepen the experience of the season. The guide is available for **free download in English and Spanish** at <https://www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources/advent-at-home/>.

### From Sojourners

"The prophet Isaiah announced the hopeful coming of a leader who would liberate people from exploitation and oppression, our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 9:6-7).

This Advent we yearn for this holy and social liberation to come. Over 11 million undocumented immigrants among us and across our borders face barriers and dehumanization from vicious U.S. policies, harmful rhetoric, and cruel enforcement practices. Sojourners has put together an Advent series, **Caminando Juntos, Journeying Together**, to help you make space to pray, reflect, and act with immigrant communities across the nation for a just, humane, and common-sense pathway to citizenship. Sign up at the link above for an electronic subscription to the devotional.



# WMC Delegation to Benin



## Clockwise from top left:

Cindy finds diet Coke--first thing!

First sermon preached last Sunday, with Rod translating.

Thomas and Elijah try new food at the home of Bonaventure

Visiting a school

Cindy, Thomas and Bonaventure Akowanou



# Waterford Announcements

We will be collecting **non-perishable food items** and paper supplies this Sunday **during the Thanksgiving worship service**. Bring as much as you want—the more, the merrier. Donations will then be taken to the Window for their food pantry.

**Salt & Light additional resource** for [November 26](#).

## Upcoming Community Events

**Advent Evening Chapel: Shining our Light**, Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. in the College Church-Chapel Sanctuary. We will come together for singing and reflective moments. Afterward, we will move outside to light up the campus, symbolizing the light of the season. For more information, please contact E. Suzanne Ehst at (574) 535-7875 or [sehst@goshen.edu](mailto:sehst@goshen.edu).

You are invited to an **emergency virtual meeting for Mennonites who are ready to take action to oppose the ongoing violence in Palestine**. With your help, over 500 Mennonites from across the US and Canada will join together to grieve the ongoing violence in Palestine, to call for a ceasefire and an end to the occupation of Palestine, and to gather together as a community to prepare to take action. **Join us Tuesday, November 28, at 8 p.m. for a mobilization call and learn how we will stand together as Mennonites to call for peace**. For more information for how to get involved, please visit [MennoniteAction.org](http://MennoniteAction.org)

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

**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., Goshen, Indiana. (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.

**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!

## MCUSA

As part of Mennonite Church USA’s latest Learn, Pray, Join initiative, End Gun Violence, **Jonny Rashid**, pastor for West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship, a member church of Allegheny Mennonite Conference, shared a **prayer of lament about gun violence**. Read it here: [mennoniteusa.org/prayer-to-end-gun-violence](http://mennoniteusa.org/prayer-to-end-gun-violence)

Anabaptist musicians from a variety of countries met this spring in Canada for a songwriting retreat sponsored by **Anabaptist Worship Network**. **George Makinto**, director of worship at Los Angeles (California) Faith Chapel, recounts how he experienced hope through the gathering of such a diverse group of people worshipping God together. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/hope-ringing-out](http://mennoniteusa.org/hope-ringing-out)

**Michael George**, a Palestinian-American and facilitator of MennoPIN’s “Twinning with Gaza” Initiative, a Mennonite Church USA affinity group, **laments the recent attacks from Hamas** and ongoing war in Israel/Palestine. Read it here: [mennoniteusa.org/lament-for-gaza](http://mennoniteusa.org/lament-for-gaza)

**Rachel Ringenberg Miller**, denominational minister for ministerial leadership for Mennonite Church USA, reminds us that Anabaptist congregational leadership requires collaboration, from the leaders and from the congregation. The process to make changes takes time, but the inclusive nature of the process is worth it. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/collaboration-anabaptist-leadership](http://mennoniteusa.org/collaboration-anabaptist-leadership)

## AMBS

**Grow your skills in offering spiritual direction!** With a focus on practice-based learning, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's **Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction** offers a curriculum and supervised program to prepare you to become a spiritual director or to strengthen the spiritual direction aspects of your ministry. You can complete the 21-credit-hour certificate part time in two years, either fully online or with a combination of distance-friendly and campus-based courses. [ambs.edu/certificate](https://ambs.edu/certificate)

## 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>

Join us for **Bethany's Third Annual Christmas Gala** on Friday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. Sauder Concert Hall, Goshen College Campus. At this year's Christmas Gala, students in grades 1-12 will help us explore the expanding circle in the nativity narrative, and we'll celebrate how this circle is growing in our Bethany community. There is truly room in the circle for all! This event is free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). On-site overflow seating with livestream viewing will be available as needed

**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/>

**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)

## Immigration Advocacy and Resources

There are more big changes at **La Posada Immigrant Aid**. Read the whole story at [this link](#), and learn how you can support their work.

**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.

The **Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act** ([S. 255](#), [H.R. 1325](#)) would shorten the waiting period for work authorization from 180 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](#)

## Thank You

Dear Waterford Mennonite Friends,

On behalf of the staff at Prairie View Elementary, I want to tell you how much everyone appreciated the treats and notes of encouragement. The food was delicious and the notes uplifting. Thank you so much for your care!

Sincerely,

Marge Gingerich