



This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
11:00 a.m. - YAF / Hunsbergers
5:30 p.m. - Ecuador prayers

December 10, 2023



The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Dan & Diane Bodiker
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Denise Diener
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Jordan Kauffman

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. MLC / MYF Rm

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - MYF

7:00 p.m. - Venture Club

7:00 p.m. - JYF

Thursday

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

7:00 p.m. - FFMT

7:00 p.m. - BBI / Mtg Rm

Saturday

10:00 a.m. - Christmas Pageant Practice

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

Downtown Ministries Moves In

Pastor Deron, for Mission & Service Ministry Team

Our church house is now being used by Goshen’s own Downtown Ministries. They describe themselves this way: “Downtown Ministries is all about ‘Loving Our Neighbor and Serving Our City.’ Downtown Ministries exists to impact and change communities by offering sustainable solutions that provide hope, purpose, and partnership to resource and restore our community’s most vulnerable populations.” With the addition of the Waterford house, the ministry now has four transitional houses in Goshen. These spaces provide transitional housing to help individuals and families transition out of environments of domestic, physical, and sexual abuse. While Downtown Ministries will be fully responsible for supervision of their tenants and care for the house, stay tuned for opportunities to be involved as good neighbors and supportive partners.

Advent Visual

Shadowbox

By Derrick & Sara Method



For the advent worship visuals, we collaborated on a sculptural piece that uses light and simple materials to illuminate pieces of the story. Elements will change within the landscape echoing the hills of Bethlehem each week as we ponder the questions being asked.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 218

Nurture Hour – 206

Finances – December 3, 2023

Operating Fund 6,790.00

Mennonite Education \$3,985.00

Either Fund \$4,438.00

Budget total \$15,213.00

Sharing Fund 225.00

Welcome Spaces \$100.00

Total \$15,538.00

Looking Ahead

December 17: Children's

Christmas Program; Advent 3

December 24: Lessons & Carols;

Advent 4

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

Advent Reflection

Christmas Praise Edifies the Family

By Angel Luis Miranda

Praising God is at the very center of Advent season. This is a reality because during the Christmas celebration, heaven and earth come together. It is also the time in history when we see the human and the divine natures portrayed in the birth of Jesus. And it is a wonderful feeling to know that His name is called Immanuel which means "God with us" (Matt. 1:23). This is a great reason to praise God in Christ because God, through the spirit, is in our midst.

During the advent season the ministry of the angels is quite evident. According to the gospels, the angels appeared to most of the persons that God chose to make the advent of Jesus Christ possible. Here I present the diversity of appearances: to Joseph (Matthew 1:20); to Zacharias (Luke 1:11); to Mary (Luke 1:30); and to the shepherds (Luke 2:9). And we know that on each occasion the angels instilled confidence to them by saying: "Don't be afraid."

All of these people had the heavenly affirmation. God dealt with their fears, doubts and their overall human frailties. Even though Jesus' birth continued to be a mysterious event for them, they eventually submitted to the will of God. So, let us give praise and glory to God for using all these people to make possible the greatest event in history: "The coming of the Messiah."

Today, Christmas is a family celebration because Jesus became part of a human family. It is also very evident throughout the gospels that, in Christ, God creates a spiritual family. Praising the Lord for all of His good deeds during the Christmas season will strengthen the family and keep it together.

So, let us make ours the praise that the host of angels pronounced to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those whom he favors: (Luke 2:14).

See the Spanish version of this reflection on page 3.

Thank You

*Thank you to the
Koinonia class for
decorating the foyer for
the Christmas season.*



La alabanza en el tiempo de Navidad edifica a la familia

La alabanza a Dios es una parte céntrica de la época navideña. Esto es una realidad ya que en la celebración de la Navidad el cielo y la tierra se unen. Es también el momento histórico en que tanto la naturaleza humana como divina tiene su manifestación en el nacimiento del niño Jesús. Y además, es una maravillosa experiencia el que se ha llamado Emanuel, que significa “Dios con nosotros” (Mateo 1:23). Esto, pues, es una gran razón para alabar a Dios en Cristo pues sabemos que Dios por su Espíritu mora en medio nuestro.

Durante la época del advenimiento es bien evidente el ministerio de los ángeles. En los evangelios encontramos que los ángeles aparecieron a la mayor parte de las personas que Dios escogió para hacer posible el advenimiento de Jesús. Aquí les presentó una serie de apariciones: José (Mateo 1:20); Zacarías (Lucas 1:11); María (Lucas 1:30); y también los pastores (Lucas 2:9). Y sabemos que en cada ocasión los ángeles hicieron posible la confianza que necesitaban al decirles: “No tengan miedo.”

Todas estas personas gozaron de la afirmación celestial. Dios obró en sus vidas a pesar de sus temores dudas y debilidades humanas. Aunque el nacimiento del niño Jesús fue un evento de misterio para ellos, sin embargo, pudieron someterse a la voluntad de Dios. Así pues, alabemos y glorifiquemos el nombre de Señor, pues por medio de esas personas hizo posible el evento más grande de la historia: “le llegada del Mesías.”

En el presente, la Navidad es una celebración familiar debido a que Jesús llegó a ser parte de la familia humana. También es los evangelios y el resto del Nuevo Testamento establecen con claridad la realidad de que Dios en Cristo establece una familia espiritual. Por lo tanto, el alabar a Dios por todo lo bueno que ha hecho a través de la Navidad fortalecerá a toda familia y la mantendrá unida.

Así pues, hagamos nuestra la alabanza que las huestes de los ángeles pronunciaron a los pastores: “Gloria a Dios en las alturas y en la tierra paz entre los que él favorece” (Lucas 2:14).

Angel L Miranda
Capellán voluntario del
Centro de Salud y Esperanza

Neurodivergent Support Group Opens to All Ages — starting in January!

At its formation, this group was created with young adults in mind. The group has been active for about six months and is looking to expand to others in the community outside of young adulthood. The group feels excited at the potential of having a few more people in the group and believes the group will be enriched through intergenerational relationships. If you are interested in joining this group starting in January, email Emily Hunsberger at emhunsber@gmail.com.

Neurodivergent Support Group Description:

This group is open to anyone who identifies as someone with autism, ADHD, Asperger's, anxiety, depression, OCD, or any other neuro-spicy label. Join us for one hour of conversation and support about living in a world that was not created for our brains. This group meets 2nd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the church and is led by Emily Hunsberger and John Zehr.

Waterford Announcements

Not sure what to do with your used, out of date *Rejoice* magazines, *Salt & Light* Sunday school booklets, or old church papers like *Purpose* and *Timbrel* that you don't want anymore? Recycle them! You don't need to bring them to the church as we will only put them in the recycling bins.

Cena Navideña: Puerto Rican food Christmas Carry-in, 5 p.m. Garden Room, Greencroft Manor 3, Saturday, December 9. Bring a dish or two to share and your own table service.

Mennonite Women are meeting Thursday, December 14. We welcome anyone interested in helping with MCC projects and enjoying friendships at the same time! Doors open at 8:30 a.m. We usually end around 2:30 p.m. Come and go as it suits your schedule. Bring a sack lunch if you stay over the noon hour.



Young Adults: Don your holiday garb, find a white elephant gift, and join a **Christmas Party**, December 16, 6-9 p.m. at Gregg Nussbaum and Judy Snyder's home (64213 Meadow Ridge Drive).

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!

Salt & Light additional resource for [December 3](#).

MCUSA

The **Mennonite Church USA Executive Board** strengthened key relationships and discussed creative strategies for convention and revitalization at the first Executive Board meeting of the biennium Oct. 18-20, 2023, in Cleveland, Ohio. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/eb-strengthens

Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, climate justice coordinator for Mennonite Church USA, reflects on **how to respond to climate doom with resistance and resilience**, after attending Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Rooted and Grounded conference. Read her reflection here: mennoniteusa.org/path-through-climate-doom

Beryl Jantzi, Everence director of stewardship education, explores **what "mammon" might mean** in the New Testament and why Jesus states that a person cannot serve both God and mammon. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/god-and-mammon

Pathways Retreat

Retreats offered this winter: Meditative Zentangle-inspired Art, and weekly yoga. **Daily prayers** are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org.

AMBS

Expand your leadership skills through AMBS's new Practical Leadership Training modules!

Modules beginning in January include Intergenerational Faith Formation (online workshop); Embracing Your Leadership Identity (in-person seminar); Pastoral and Congregational Financial Wellness (online workshop); and Riding the Wave of Conflict and Change (webinar). CEUs available.

ambs.edu/plt

Upcoming Events

Join the **Goshen College Community** on Sunday, December 10 at 8:00 p.m. in Newcomer Center 19 for **contemplative worship** based on the style of the **Taizé community** of France. This ecumenical service is focused on singing, Scripture, silence, and prayer. All are welcome!

On Tuesday, December 12 at 8 p.m. EST, you're invited to **Mennonite Action's second virtual mass meeting**. At the last virtual meeting, more than 850 Mennonites from Canada, the US, and across the world joined together to grieve the ongoing violence in Palestine, to call for a ceasefire and an end to the occupation of Palestine, and to prepare to take nonviolent action together. On December 12, Mennonite Action will share updates about the work that has taken place since the last meeting. Participants will practice singing together in preparation for public actions on December 19 and hear from speakers who will remind us that our faith as Mennonites and Christians compels us to act. To sign up, visit mennoniteaction.org/call

You are invited to **Emma Church** on Sunday, December 17, for our **11th Annual Men's Chorus Christmas Program**. This year we are offering two programs, at 2:30 in the afternoon and at 6:30 p.m., with food and fellowship following the evening program. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Goshen Community Chorale will present **Light of Love: Songs for Advent and Winter Solstice** on December 17, 4:00 p.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church, 202 S. Greene Road, Goshen, IN. Along with selections written by John Rutter, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Robert Shaw, and Donald Fraser among others, the concert is a special collaboration with Nayo Ulloa, Peruvian born composer and flutist, singing Ulloa's original compositions for Christmas and other Latin American carols arranged for chorus by Bradley Kauffman, the Chorale's Artistic Director and conductor. The concert is free to all. Donations will be welcomed at the close of the concert to help defray expenses. Waterford Members Bob Brenneman, Rachel Brenneman, Shelby Miller Eby, Karsten Hess, Doug Graber, Kay Miller, Jeff Miller and Rose Shetler are part of the fifty singers in this concert.

Opportunities

Calling all young adults for a **week-long experience** at Camp Deerpark in New York from Jan. 3-8, 2024! **Liberty and Justice for All? Peace Camp** will focus on the criminal legal system in the U.S. and explore transformative justice as a biblical means to peace. Participants will grapple with the ways justice is practiced across the U.S. and discover the radical and transformative justice that Jesus teaches. **Fee:** \$200 registration cost. All other costs, including travel, will be covered. [Register today](#)

Feb. 23, 2024: High School Essay Contest. Are you a youth who attends a Mennonite high school or an Anabaptist church? This is your opportunity to express your views in essay format on critical issues facing U.S. society. Submissions are due Feb. 23, 2024, and may be in English or Spanish. The grand prize is \$1000! [Find out more about the high school essay contest.](#)