



December 17, 2023



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
4:00 p.m. - Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa / Greencroft

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jerry & Barb Landes
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, Glenn Reinford
Audiovisuals: Shawn Stutzman, Jordan Kauffman

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks & Games

Thursday

7:00 p.m. - Longest Night Service / Sanctuary

Friday: Office CLOSED

Zoom prayers

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

Waterford Mennonite Church

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SAVE on Air Tickets (and help out our church budget)!

By Rod Hollinger-Janzen

If you are planning to travel by air in the next couple of months, have I got a deal for you!

In the spring of this year, the BBI Planning Group purchased two tickets with United Airlines for Beninese delegates whom we were expecting in Goshen this fall. We had already purchased the tickets when we learned that the waiting line to obtain visas to the USA was many months long, and that our friends from BBI would not be able to receive their visas on time in order to make use of the tickets we had already purchased.

After multiple unsuccessful attempts by our travel agent to receive reimbursement for the tickets, he learned that the tickets can be used in the following circumstances:

- Value of each ticket cannot exceed \$1130 U.S.
- Names and destinations on the tickets can be changed
- Travel needs to begin on or before March 15, 2024
- The entire itinerary must be booked with United Airlines.

If these conditions fit into your travel plans, would you consider working with me to purchase these tickets? Whatever we can recoup from this purchase will be reimbursed to WMC's "BBI Activities" line item and will help us with future expenses. We could provide a cost reduction of \$250/ticket to make the extra hassle worthwhile for you.

If you are able to help our BBI Planning Group in this way, please contact Rod Hollinger-Janzen at rodneyhollingerjanzen@gmail.com, or ph. 574-612-6091.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 228
Nurture Hour – 226

Finances – December 10, 2023

Operating Fund	3,320.00
Mennonite Education	\$2,203.00
Either Fund	\$2,715.00
Budget total	\$8,238.00
Welcome Spaces	\$100.00
Missions	\$500.00
Total	\$8,838.00

Looking Ahead

December 24: Lessons & Carols;
Advent 4 / Christmas Eve
December 31: Sermon: Deron
Bergstresser; Christmas

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

Deron Bergstresser -
December 22-27
Janet Shoemaker -
December 21-24

Office hours this week

Monday-Thursday
9-12, 1-3
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

Make your voice heard

Join the Day of Mennonite Action for a Ceasefire

On Tuesday, December 19, hundreds of Mennonites across the US and Canada will hold peaceful demonstrations at their representatives' offices calling for a ceasefire and an ending to the bombardment of Gaza. The demonstrations are part of an international Day of Mennonite Action for a Ceasefire, organized by Mennonite Action.

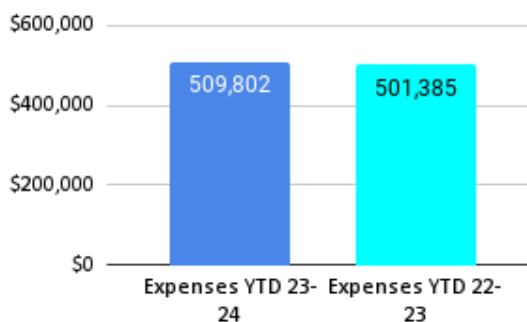
We will show our political leaders, our fellow community members, and our Palestinian, Jewish, Arab and Muslim loved ones that there are Christians and Mennonites who stand with them in their call for peace and a ceasefire now.

Here in Northern Indiana, we will gather at Representative Yakym's office, located at 2410 Grape Rd., Mishawaka at 3:00 p.m. on December 19 for a short action. We will sing songs, share our stories, pray for peace, and call on him to support a permanent ceasefire in Gaza immediately. If you can join, please [sign up online \[https://actionnetwork.org/events/northern-indiana-mennonite-day-of-action-for-a-ceasefire?source=direct_link\]](https://actionnetwork.org/events/northern-indiana-mennonite-day-of-action-for-a-ceasefire?source=direct_link), contact [Ben Bouwman \[benraybouwman@gmail.com\]](mailto:benraybouwman@gmail.com) to carpool, or simply show up at the above location on December 19. For more information about Mennonite Action visit mennoniteaction.org

WMC Year-to-date financial summary

Thru November (7 Months)

Giving YTD 23-24	421,500
Giving YTD 22-23	416,757
Expenses YTD 23-24	509,802
Expenses YTD 22-23	501,385



Thank you for your generosity over the first seven months of this fiscal year. At the end of November, year-to-date giving and expenses are close to YTD giving and expenses through November a year ago. Your continued generosity will help fund the full expense budget for Waterford for the church fiscal year which ends April 30, 2023.

Waterford Announcements

Caroling, Cookies and Cocoa on December 17, 4-6 p.m. We will meet at the Greencroft Community Center (1820 Greencroft Blvd) and break into groups to carol to our Waterford family in various locations. **For those caroling at Greencroft, you will need to bring a facemask to wear in some of the buildings.** 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!

Wednesday, December 20, is **Haystacks and Games night**. We will begin at 6:00 and meet in the MYF room. Bring a haystack topping to share. All ages are welcome.

Longest Night Service – Thursday, December 21, at 7 p.m. A service for those who live with grief, loss, pain, or despair on the longest night of the year.

Please Note: There will be no nurture hour on Sunday, December 24. Nor will there be any Christmas breakfast-type celebration on either the 24th or the 31st due to the renovation of the Fellowship Hall. There will be nurture hour on the 31st.

On Sunday January 7, the Pathfinders and Seekers Sunday school classes will again host a **noon benefit meal for Carlos Ramos** in the fellowship hall. Carlos attended WMC from August 2013 to August 2015. Pathfinders will be providing a Haystack dinner and Seekers will provide desserts.

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? You can recycle them. You don't need to bring them to the church as we will only put them in the recycling bins.

Salt & Light additional resource for [December 17](#).

MCUSA

Mennonite Church USA's **Constituency Leaders Council** brainstormed strategies for strengthening youth engagement at its first meeting of the 2023-2025 biennium via Zoom on October 27, 2023. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/clc-youth-engagement

Save the date for **Hope for the Future 2024**, the annual gathering of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) leaders from across the country who are connected to Mennonite Church USA, on February 9-11, 2024 in Dallas, Texas. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/hopeforthefuture View the PDF here: mennoniteusa.org/hfft24-savedate

Cyneatha Millsaps, executive director of Mennonite Women USA, reflects on how gun violence has affected the country, her community and her own family in a blog for Mennonite Church USA. Read her reflection here: mennoniteusa.org/spiritually-emotionally-bankrupt

AMBS

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; Practicing and Embodying Nonviolence; 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

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 of the day. Featured speaker: Betty Pries, PhD, CMed. Preachers: Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, MA, and Isaac Villegas, MDiv. Check out the list of workshops, and plan to join us in person or online! Early registration deadline: Jan. 19. ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders

Upcoming Events

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

Hively Avenue Preschool is seeking a teacher to work with children ages 3 and 4. The position involves approximately 20 hours per week. A degree or certification in early childhood or elementary education is highly preferred. Interested candidates should email their resume to Amy Redar, preschool director preschool@hivelymennonite.org

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.](#)