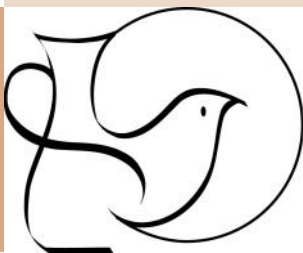




December 3, 2023



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jim & Lila Gascho
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Mentors/Mentees
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

Stephen Ministers Gather for Annual Retreat

By WMC Stephen Leader Team

Reconfigured classroom space in the nurture wing of the church building provided the setting for the congregation's Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders to gather for a morning retreat on Saturday, November 18. Karla Minter, pastor of Open Table Mennonite Fellowship in Goshen, guided the group in reflecting about "Experiencing God's Presence During Transitions."



As a spiritual director, Karla works with many people who are in the midst of a transition in their lives. She asked us to consider the important spiritual work that can occur when a person is willing to stay a bit longer in the "in-between-time." She had us first focus on our own life experiences, and then how we as Stephen Ministers can be alert to what our care receivers are likely experiencing in the midst of the transition from saying "goodbye" to what was lost...to saying "hello" to the "new normal." ...

Pastor Deron led Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders in a ritual of recommitment to service for the year ahead. Note was made of the three new Stephen Ministers (Bonnie Miller, Bill Minter, Karen

See SM Retreat on page 3

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 199

Nurture Hour – 186

Finances – Nov. 26, 2023

Operating Fund \$2,756.00

Mennonite Education \$6,730.00

Either Fund \$2,635.00

Budget total \$12,121.00

Jubilee Fund \$100.00

Total \$12,221.00

Looking Ahead

December 10: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Advent 2

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

December 17: Children's

Christmas Program; Advent 3

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

Thanksgiving Offering



The Window received 410 pounds of food from our Thanksgiving offering on November 26. Loanne Harms delivered the food last week and was a blessed by the blessing for them.



Make your voice heard

Waterford is invited to stand up for Palestine

Over 800 people from 250 congregations across Canada and the U.S. met online Nov. 28 to talk about ways to respond together to the war in Gaza and Palestine.

The meeting was organized by Mennonite Action, a new group seeking to mobilize Mennonites and Anabaptists across North America to use creative nonviolent actions to demand a cease-fire in Gaza and an end to the occupation of Palestine. Pastor Katie joined the call and would like to invite you to join her in participating in the following activities by signing up at mennoniteaction.org.

Mennonite Day of Action for a Ceasefire: Dec 19

Mennonites across Canada and the US will hold demonstrations at their representatives offices to ask them to support a ceasefire. Over 200 Mennonites from 93 different congregations have already signed up to participate. [Sign up now to get involved.](#)

Action Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Beginning next week (Dec. 5 & 7), on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Mennonite Action will hold action hours where we will call our representatives together, as a Mennonite community. [We encourage you to join as many of these action hours as you're able, as our representatives need to continue to hear from us.](#)

Peace School: Dec. 7

Mennonite Action will hold a public action training on Zoom called *Peace School* next Thursday, Dec. 7 at 8:15 p.m. EST. This training is for anyone that wants to participate in public action as a Mennonite. [At Peace School we will answer your questions and give you everything you need to hold your action on Dec 19.](#)

Next Mass Meeting: Dec 12

The 2nd Mennonite Action Mass Meeting will be held on December 12 at 8 p.m. EST.

SM Retreat, cont. from page 1

Thompson) and new Stephen Leader (Kenneth Blount) joining this year. Rachel Brenneman, Lorna Claassen, Marge Gingerich, Kay Miller and Anita Myers will be continuing their service as Stephen Ministers. Gary Shetler was recognized for 12 years as a Stephen Minister as he completes his service at the end of this year. The retreat experience concluded by having lunch together.

The "4-H" Advent Prayer

By Angel L Miranda (Inspired by the 4-H slogan)

Our heavenly Father, during this Advent season, help us to have a heart full of love and compassion for those in need. We also ask you to put in us a desire in our heads to render true worship to you in the midst of the conflicting issues of our times.

Also, guide our hands in service to our neighbor by doing good and not harm. And for the sake of our health, help us to exercise good discipline in the choices we make. We pray in the name of our coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Waterford Announcements

Cena Nandena: 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.

There is still time to sign up to play in the **Christmas Orchestra** on December 10. See the signup sheet at the participation station.

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](#).

Upcoming Community Events

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. 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/>

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

Mennonite Church USA issued a **statement on the Israel-Hamas War** on Nov. 15. The statement laments the loss of life and stands on our shared Anabaptist faith values in a call for a ceasefire. Read it here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/ceasefire/

The **Center for Community Justice** in Elkhart, Indiana, honored **Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz**, Mennonite Church USA's denominational minister for Peace & Justice, for her work in restorative justice at an event celebrating the 45th anniversary of its Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP). Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/ccj-honors

This fall, several Mennonite Church USA congregations from Northwest Ohio worked with **RAWtools and Mennonite Central Committee** to host a community event about gun safety. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/gun-safety-ohio

Amy Yoder McGloughlin, pastor at Frazer Mennonite Church, shares how **gun violence** and the death of a young neighbor in a drive-by shooting created lasting trauma for her and her family. Read about how leaning into that pain helps her cope: mennoniteusa.org/lean-in

Pathways Retreat

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

AMBS

New *Vision* issue on “Family” available for free online. The Fall 2023 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Andy Brubacher Kaethler, PhD — explores how the church can play a positive role in supporting families without relying on a narrow understanding of the ideal family unit itself. ambs.edu/vision

Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Jan. 31 – March 12. Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. Instructors for this six-week AMBS Online Short Course are Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 10 to save \$50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

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. 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. 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

Northern Indiana Hispanic Health Coalition (NIHHC) is thrilled to host a **Winter Wellness Wonderland Fundraiser** on December 8 in the Crystal Ballroom at the Lerner Theatre in Elkhart. Enjoy an enchanting evening dedicated to building a healthy community in northern Indiana. Share wonderful food, drinks, music, company, and more. Embrace the spirit of giving and celebrate a season of goodwill with us! Purchase **[your tickets](#)** or **[make a donation](#)** to support NIHHC’s mission and health initiatives.

Mennonite Men: Living that Matters Retreat December 9, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Pathways Retreat in Goshen. 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)

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!

Opportunities

Hively Avenue Mennonite Church is seeking a half-time Administrative Secretary by March 1, 2024. We seek an office manager who will maintain records, supplies and equipment, and be responsible for communication within the congregation and online. This position involves regular office hours M–F with flexibility for personal needs. Requirements assume familiarity with office software and equipment and the ability to work independently and interact easily with adults and children. For information, see the job description: www.hivelymennonite.org/About/staff. To apply, send a letter and resume to Moderator@hivelymennonite.org

From Sojourners: 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.

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/>.