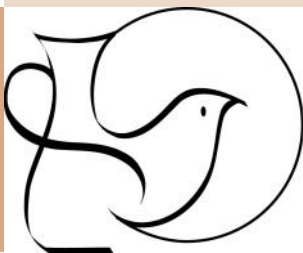




December 31, 2023



# The Waterford Buzz

## **This Sunday**

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

## **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Jon. & Mary Ann Wieand  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, Mark King  
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey, Steve Fath

## **This Week at Waterford**

### **Monday**

Office Closed

### **Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Mentor/Mentee mtg

### **Thursday**

6:30 p.m. - Stephen Minister mtg / MYF Rm, 15

### **Zoom prayers**

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

## **Waterford Mennonite Church**

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## **Gary Shetler Completes His Stephen Ministry Service**

*By the Stephen Leader Team*



After serving our congregation as a Stephen Minister for twelve years, Gary Shetler recently chose to complete his ministry. Gary was trained in the second cohort of Stephen Ministers in 2011. During his tenure he accompanied nine congregational members during a portion of their life journey through loss.

Asked what influenced him to become a Stephen Minister, Gary stated, “Two events influenced me. In 2004, the seeds were planted when I participated in the Uniquely You [Combining 23 Spiritual Gifts and 4 (DISC) Personality Types] workshops facilitated by Cynthia Kauffmann, Bill Minter and Ron Weirich. Then in 2011, after I inquired about Stephen Ministry, Bill Minter kindly met with me to answer my further questions.”

Reflecting on how serving as a Stephen Minister impacted his spiritual journey, Gary shared, “I like what John Mattis wrote in Salt & Light (Fall 2023, page 75). ‘Incarnation implies a practical wisdom that dares the love, intimacy, and friendship as we accompany one another...come what may. . .’ Accompanying others did influence my spiritual life.”

Gary continued, “All my caring relationships in Stephen Ministry have been rewarding. Small miracles do happen! When it seemed that there was no way clear to go forward, God was there with us and provided for us. The words ‘be still’ and ‘wait on the Lord’ have a much deeper meaning for me now.”

*Continued on next page*

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 240

### Finances – December 24, 2023

Operating Fund	11,528.25
Mennonite Education	\$1,475.00
Either Fund	\$8,325.00
<i>Budget total</i>	<i>\$21,328.25</i>
Welcome Spaces	\$6,000.00
Two-Way Mission	\$2,150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,478.25</b>

### Looking Ahead

January 7: Sermon: Katie Misz;

Epiphany

January 14: Sermon: Rebecca

Stoltzfus

(Exodus 2:21–3:6; Isaiah 60:1-6)

### 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 -

December 31-January 4

### 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)

Asked what skills a Stephen Minister best exhibited, Gary shared, “In my training to become a Stephen Minister, one learning I continuously found to be very helpful was knowing the key elements of the ‘safe house’ for a caring relationship. A ‘safe house’ is built when there is grace-based acceptance, listening, trust, empathy, and confidentiality.”

For those in the congregation who have been reluctant to consider becoming a Stephen Minister Gary advised, “If the idea comes to anyone about the possibility of serving in Stephen Ministry, I encourage you to consider it (and talk to a Stephen Leader). What I learned and experienced as a Stephen Minister has been a blessing beyond measure!

## New Attenders

### Meet the Hershbergers—John, Diana and Jeff



John was born in Iowa, the oldest of five children, and lived with his family on farms near Kalona and Wellman. At age 10 the family moved to a farm near Middlebury, Indiana. This was a major, disruptive move away from extended family and a protective small school. After graduating from Middlebury High School in 1968 he entered

Goshen College. He completed a degree in history. He met Diana Nafziger in college and they married in 1972. But an inability to coach or drive a school bus required a change in career path. So, he worked for two years as Director of Alumni Relations at the college. Then a scholarship offer led to a seminary year at AMBS. In 1975 they moved to Iowa City where John worked for four years on the pastoral team at First Mennonite Church and began graduate studies. In 1981 he completed a PhD in Religion and Personality at the University of Iowa. They returned to Goshen where John worked at Oaklawn for over 27 years as a licensed mental health clinician. After nine additional years combined at Elkhart General Hospital and Maple City Health Care, he retired in 2017.

Diana was born in Goshen, the second of four children born to Marvin and Edith Nafziger. She attended schools in Goshen and graduated from Bethany Christian High School in 1967. She then attended Goshen College, graduating in 1971 with a degree in education. After marriage she worked several years at Menno Travel Service. In Iowa City she again was employed as a travel agent and then at a university program. Katie and Jeff were born in this era. After moving back to Goshen in 1981, she stayed home to care for the two young children. Her main focus over the next years morphed into learning about autism and helping navigate Jeff through years of special education. She and John helped form the Elkhart Area Autism Chapter and she did a lot of public speaking about autism in the schools Jeff attended as well as the

wider community. She participated in the development of a state-wide autism advocacy organization during this time. She also worked at several part-time jobs including as a mental health worker at Oaklawn and in the Goshen College Health Center. After Jeff finished high school, she worked a number of years at Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference and in the College Mennonite Church office before retiring in 2017.



After a lengthy and tumultuous process Jeff was diagnosed with autism in 1989. These were the early days when knowledge was limited and services meager. With special education assistance and accommodations Jeff proudly graduated from Goshen High School in 2000. He continues to live at home with his parents, who are his guardians. He has received a variety of services from agencies over the years. But the course has been intermittent and unpredictable.

However, his part-time job at Maple City Health Care Clinic has been a highly valued opportunity for 22 years now. He enjoys watching sports, attending movies, playing video and board games, listening to music of all genres, and a wide range of cuisine in sizeable amounts. Fortunately he exercises faithfully and vigorously. His sister Katie, her husband, and two young children live nearby in Elkhart.

John, Diana, and Jeff have been long-time members of College Mennonite Church. They are grateful for the warm and gracious welcome received from Waterford Mennonite.

## Waterford Announcements

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.

**Salt & Light additional resource** for [December 31](#).

## Upcoming Events

**Everence®** is offering a new **stewardship training program**. The **FreedUp program** is a way for everyone to get their finances in order at any economic level and gain a deeper faith perspective on your money. FreedUp is a 7-week app-based lesson series that includes a workbook and opportunities for discussion in interactive small group sessions led by Everence facilitators. See the poster on the bulletin board for dates and times. **To register**, go to [everence.com/national](http://everence.com/national). After registering, you'll get a message with the Zoom link and a reminder to download and sign up for the FreedUp app. Everence has a discount code to get the sessions for \$19 instead of the regular price of \$99.

## AMBS

### Do you want to take concrete steps toward doing justice?

Through customized workshops and strategic planning sessions, Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, MA, Intercultural Competence and Undoing Racism Consultant, can provide the resources, tools and support you need to increase your ability to interact across cultural differences; take tangible steps toward your antiracism goals; and transform the culture and practices of your congregation, educational institution or workplace. Contact Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary to request a consultation today! [ambs.edu/invoke](http://ambs.edu/invoke)

### Thinking about seminary?

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary offers generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and church matching grants for students learning on campus or at a distance. Complete your Admissions Application now so you can be eligible to apply for merit-based scholarships by March 15 and ministry scholarships by April 1. [ambs.edu/affordability](http://ambs.edu/affordability)

### The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation:

**June 10–24**. Participants in this nine-day pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military's 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas. This intensive AMBS course can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. Sign up by May 1. [ambs.edu/trail-of-death](http://ambs.edu/trail-of-death)

## MCUSA

H.A Penner, war tax resister/redirector, explains the benefits of the **Mennonite Church USA Church Peace Tax Fund**, which offers an opportunity for Mennonites to redirect the portion of their taxes that would have otherwise supported war efforts toward peacebuilding efforts. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/war-tax-redirection](https://mennoniteusa.org/war-tax-redirection)

# Opportunities

**MCC meat canning donations welcome.** The annual meat canning will be January 6-17. WMC is not scheduled to help with the actual canning this year, but you can still help feed the world by donating toward the \$175,000 project. See the sheet on the bulletin board about where to send your donations.

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. [Read Vision Here](#)

# Thank You

Mennonite Church USA is helping to fuel growth and diversity with its 2023 **Thrive Church Planting Grants**. This year's repeat award recipients, Brooklyn (New York) Peace Church and Community of Hope Mennonite Church, Bellingham, Washington, are building circles of community in creative, Jesus-centered ways. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/church-plants-thrive](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/church-plants-thrive)

We want to thank the congregation for all of your spiritual support for Rosie, and for the lovely poinsettia.

The family of Rosie Hershberger

## The cleaning has begun!

Many thanks to Dee Birkey, Diane Bodiker and Julie Zehr who thoroughly cleaned the nursery, nursery bathroom, crib room and the now open hallway on Wednesday afternoon.

## MDS

The **December edition of On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King share stories of people "moving toward Jesus;" meet two women who enjoy cooking and painting with MDS; learn why a retired Army General in Kentucky says, "only God could have made that happen;" and we are now accepting registration for our Annual Celebration in Fresno in February. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3v4fpYd>

