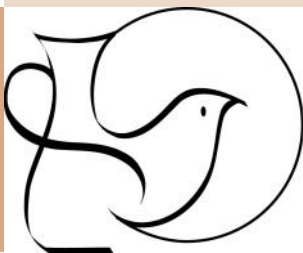




January 14, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
5:30 p.m. - Ecuador Prayers

Welcome Team

Greeters: Becky & Luke Gascho
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, Denise Diener
Audiovisuals: Shawn Stutzman, Jordan Kauffman

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - MLC

Wednesday

4:00 p.m. - Children's cluster

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks & Games / FH

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Goshen, IN 46526

Phone 574-533-5642

office@waterfordchurch.org

www.waterfordchurch.org

Karl and Ginny Birky



Karl and Ginny recently moved to Goshen from Oregon to be near family (sisters, aunt/uncle, cousins, and a dad). They met at Hesston College, graduated from Goshen College, got married (6/21/1969), and left the Goshen area 52 years ago! Since then, their jobs have taken them to Jamaica for two years, Ohio for 10 years, Colorado for four years,

and Oregon for 35 years. Some of the moves were because of Karl's job and some because of Ginny's.

Ginny grew up in Goshen (North Goshen congregation) and graduated from Bethany Christian High School. Her degrees include a BS in education from Goshen College, MS from The Ohio State University, and a PhD in educational leadership from Oregon State University. She taught at the high school level for 22 years and at the master's and doctoral levels at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon for 21 years before retiring four years ago.

Karl was born in Puerto Rico and lived there for five years before moving to LaJunta, Colorado where he graduated from high school. Between Hesston and Goshen, he was in Voluntary Service in Richmond, Virginia. His degree from Goshen was in math education, but he only taught for the two years they were in Jamaica. He received his master's degree in Health Care Administration from The Ohio State University.

Continued on next page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 193

Nurture Hour – 202

Finances – January 7, 2023

Operating Fund	4,391.50
Mennonite Education	\$1,190.00
Either Fund	\$2,342.00
<i>Budget total</i>	<i>\$7,923.50</i>
Welcome Spaces	\$100.00
Jubilee Fund	\$125.00
Total	\$8,148.50

Looking Ahead

January 21: Goshen College
Parables

January 28: Sermon: Cindy Voth
BBI Sharing

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 - January 14-18

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

He was a hospital administrator in Youngstown, Ohio and Cortez, Colorado, before becoming the CEO of the Mennonite Retirement Village/Community in Oregon. Wanting a change in careers, he went to Oregon State University and got a degree in civil engineering. Until retirement four years ago, he worked mostly as a traffic engineer in Oregon.

Karl and Ginny's favorite activity to do together is hiking. Their favorite places to hike have been several of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks, numerous trails above timberline on Mt. Hood, many miles on Oregon's Pacific Crest Trail, and Utah's deep canyons. They look forward to exploring some of what Indiana and Michigan have to offer in this area. Karl is a woodworker and bee keeper. Ginny enjoys gardening and trying new recipes. They both enjoy reading, being with people, and having company to their home.

Greeter Invitation

By Cindy Voth

Each week we are warmly welcomed to church by smiling greeters at the south entrance doors. Our greeters are usually the first contact we, and our guests, have with others at Waterford on a Sunday morning. What do greeters do? Well, they greet. They welcome. They smile. They invite all to come inside and be a part of the gathered community. Greeters can also help answer questions of our guests who come to visit.

The role of the greeter is quite important! Imagine arriving to church on Sunday and us not having greeters? Greeters help us and our guests feel safe and welcomed to our gathered community. A smile and a handshake go a long way to communicate our delight that you have arrived, and we are glad you are here.

Since early last fall Mary Ann Wieand has been our Greeter Coordinator, scheduling the weekly greeters. Her commitment ends in April and so we are looking for someone new to become the Greeter Coordinator to carry on with this ministry among us. Please let me know if you would be interested in learning more about this position!

Mennonite Action

Support a ceasefire in Israel/Palestine

(Every. Voice. Counts.):

On Tuesday, January 16, several people from Waterford Mennonite Church will join with other Mennonites from all over the country in Washington, DC, to call on federal representatives to support a permanent ceasefire. Here are ways we can speak with them and support them:

- **Sign** the Mennonite Action petition to be delivered on Tuesday: <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/us-petition>.
- **Donate** to help Mennonites take actions for peace: https://www.nonviolenceinternational.net/donate_ma
- **Join Mennos in DC from afar:** Gather with other local Mennonites as we sing and pray in solidarity with Mennos in DC calling for a ceasefire. Join this hybrid event on **Tues., Jan. 16, 12-1 p.m.**, either:
 - In person at **Assembly Menn.** (727 New York Street) or
 - Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/9995275153>
- **Join a Ceasefire Now Rally Sat., Jan. 20, 2-3 p.m., Elkhart Civic Plaza.** (contact nicoleocbauman@gmail.com for more information)
- **Hear from Gaza native Tareq Abuhallima*, Sat., Jan. 20, 7 p.m.,** hosted by Faith Mennonite Church at Assembly Mennonite (727 New York Street, Goshen). Tareq has been in the US since January 2023. Since October, Tareq has had three of his sisters killed by Israeli forces in their assault on Gaza. Tareq will give a presentation followed by a time of Q & A. A freewill offering will be taken for an honorarium for Tareq.

*Tareq is a Graduate Assistant at Bluffton University's The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center, in the Organizational Management Masters program. He grew up in Gaza City, previously taught at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and most recently was an executive manager for Youth Vision Society.



Photo courtesy of Mennonite Action

Offering Envelopes and Online Giving

For those who choose to use offering envelopes, there are unboxed giving envelopes available in the foyer by the literature racks. You may pick up as many as you need for your giving. These are not dated or numbered, and can be used at any time.

If you have envelopes left from last year, you may continue to use from the same box. Just remember to put the correct date, or Sunday, at the top of the envelope.

You can also give online or by bill pay. There is an Online Giving link on the front page of our website with instructions about how to set it up your giving. If you have questions about either method of electronic payment, please contact the bookkeeper, Elvina Schmidt.

Winter Weather Cancellations

With the possibility of winter weather interrupting our regular schedules, we will have a system to notify the congregation of any cancellations.

The decision to cancel worship will be made Sunday morning by 6 a.m. All other weekly activities will be decided two hours prior to a scheduled event.

We will post Sunday morning cancellations and those of other activities, on WNDU (TV and online), on our Website home page, and send out an all-church email. Be sure to check the posting to obtain the proper information.

Thank You

The fundraiser was a huge success. Approximately 160 people attended the meal. From the date of our announcement for a fundraiser meal in December through the middle of this week, we've received donations totaling over \$6,300.00. This will cover financial support for Carlos through another year. It is very humbling.

Thank you,
David Gingerich and Karen Sommers

Hello everyone from WMC. I'm so very grateful for your kindness and to be so supportive when it comes to helping others in need. I'm wordless. All that comes to mind is saying THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOUR HEARTS. I also want to give a special thanks to those who worked very hard to make it possible. Thanks to Pathfinders and Seekers Sunday School Classes.

Carlos Ramos

Waterford Announcements

3rd Wednesday game nights (with Haystacks) this Wednesday, January 17, for all ages, from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Bring your friends, your favorite board games, and a haystack topping to share (chips, crackers, cheese, lettuce, tomato, beans, salsa, etc.). Meat and rice will be provided.

Current and prospective Mennonite college students, and parents of current and prospective grades 3-12 Bethany students should have received an email this week with the **Mennonite Education Fund application** and guidelines. If you or your student wish to participate in this program, the deadline for submitting your application is February 28, 2024. If you did not receive the application form and wish to participate in this program, contact Karen Hostetler at karen@waterfordchurch.org for the form and guidelines. If you have questions about this program, contact one of the committee members: Becky Bateman, Audrey Oostland or Glenn Reinford.

Salt & Light additional resource for [January 14](#).

MCUSA

Safe Church Webinar: Join Mennonite Church USA's Nancy Kauffmann, Michael Danner and Glen Guyton for a webinar on Monday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. EST/4 p.m. PST, in which they will discuss the vision and direction of the new Safe Church ministry, share resources for congregations and conferences, and answer questions about the future vision for Safe Church advocacy in our denomination. View the PDF here:

mennoniteusa.org/slide/safe-webinar-jan Register here: mennoniteusa.org/registration-safechurch-jan22

As the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues to rage on, Chris Hoover Seidel, who is part of the Mennonite Spiritual Directors Network, reflects on how she has learned to handle her own grief, while also holding space for those grieving around her. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: mennoniteusa.org/grief-work

AMBS

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](https://www.ambs.edu/online-short-courses)

Grow in leadership and faith at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Join our vibrant learning community — on campus or at a distance, full time or part time — and focus on areas such as pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, faith formation, theology, peace studies, global Anabaptism or environmental sustainability leadership. We offer generous need-based financial aid and scholarships. Start your application today! [ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs](https://www.ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs)

Upcoming Events

Join us at Goshen College for the **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration** from Jan. 13-15. This year's theme is "*Black Housing and Unsung Heroes, Champions of Change in Elkhart County.*" Highlights include a **Poetry Reading with Allison Joseph** on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in Umble Center; **Worship Service: Sermon by Cyneatha Millsaps** on Jan. 14 at 9:30 a.m. at College Mennonite Church; **Convocation: Cyneatha Millsaps** on Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. in the Church-Chapel; and a **Documentary Screening: "What Happened at Benham West: African American Stories of Community, Displacement and Hope"** on Jan. 15 at 2:15 p.m. in Umble Center. Events are free with a reception to follow. For the full schedule and details, visit [goshen.edu/mlk](https://www.goshen.edu/mlk).

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College welcomes you to the 6th annual **Michiana Regional Seed Swap** on Jan. 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at College Mennonite Church. This free event provides a platform for exchanging and learning about seeds, featuring vegetable/garden crops and native plants. Join fellow gardeners and plant enthusiasts for educational sessions and seed exchange. To learn more, visit [goshen.edu/merrylea/seedswap](https://www.goshen.edu/merrylea/seedswap).

The next meeting of the **Mennonite Public Educators group** is Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at 7 p.m. Eastern. This group is intended for all Mennonite education professionals working in public school settings. The conversation topic will be "CRT, Social-Emotional Learning, and book banning." Registration is required. Email info@MennoniteEducation.org to receive registration information. Please feel free to share this announcement on your own social media accounts and/or within your circles.

Opportunities

AMBS currently has a job opening for a **part-time Caterer in Residence**. Any one interested in applying for the position, should visit the website at www.AMBS.edu for the complete job description and how to apply.

English classes for immigrant neighbors started again Saturday, January 6, 6:30-8 p.m. at North Goshen Mennonite Church. Call Anne Meyer Byler (574-621-3924) if you are interested in helping or in more information.

Come work at Goshen College! GC has many employment opportunities for teaching faculty, administrative staff and more. Visit [goshen.edu/employment](https://www.goshen.edu/employment) to see all job openings and learn more.

Pathways Retreat is offering a variety of contemplative experiences this winter: Open Heart Living, Transition Journeys, Meditative Zentangle-inspired Art, and weekly yoga. The annual Candlemas service will be held February 1 at 7 p.m. Daily prayers resume January 9 and are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at [pathwaysretreat.org](https://www.pathwaysretreat.org).