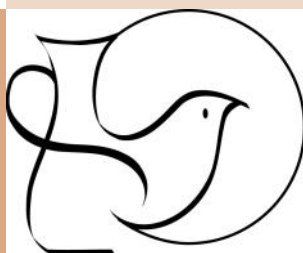


This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
12:00 p.m. - Carlos Ramos fundraiser meal



January 7, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Doug & Janette Yoder
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - Worship MT
7:00 p.m. - Neuro-Divergent Support Group

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - Venture Club, JYF
7:00 p.m. - MYF

Thursday

8:30 a.m. - Mennonite Women / MYF Rm
7:00 p.m. - FFMT

Friday

JYF/MYF leave for retreat

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

Worship Plans Until Lent

Cindy Voth, for Worship Ministry Team

Over the past six weeks we have journeyed with other Christians through the liturgical season of Advent as we waited for the arrival of the infant Jesus. We celebrated the birth of the Light of the World into a world of darkness. During our Christmas Eve service we embodied the light of Christ as we shared the flicker of a small flame with each other. Then together our tiny lights filled the space of our sanctuary, offering warmth and light. As we enter this New Year, we pray that we will continue to shine our lights near and far as followers of Jesus.

Worship Ministry Team has planned five unique stand-alone worship services from Epiphany to the beginning of Lent. We look forward to the diversity within our worship services as we welcome special guests to provide leadership. One Sunday we will also hear from our November 2023 Delegation to our partners at Benin Bible Institute, in Benin, West Africa. Join us in warmly welcoming our guests, and join us as together we worship God, the Light of the World.

Date	Preacher	Theme
Jan. 14	Becky Stoltzfus, President Goshen College	Window to Wonder
Jan. 21	Parables from Goshen College	Walk in the Light
Jan. 28	Cindy Voth	BBI Partnership and Visit
Feb. 4	John D. Roth, Project Director of MennoMedia's Anabaptist at 500	Anabaptist Distinctives
Feb. 11	JE Misz	Poetry

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 206

Nurture Hour – 170

Finances – December 31, 2023

Operating Fund 12,695.00

Mennonite Education \$1,751.40

Either Fund \$13,979.00

Budget total \$28,425.40

Sharing Fund \$150.00

Total \$28,575.40

Looking Ahead

January 14: Sermon: Rebecca Stoltzfus

(*Exodus 2:21–3:6; Isaiah 60:1-6*)

January 21: Goshen College Parables

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

Epiphany Meditation

Three Kings Day Visit to Baby Jesus

By Angel Miranda

January the 6th is also known as Epiphany Day. From epiphany comes the principle of the revelation or manifestation of Jesus Christ as the Messiah. So, in the story of the Magi (three kings), as they come from the East, they follow the star carrying three gifts.

In our culture the Magi are referred to as the three Kings. And this story indicates that Jesus came also in favor of the Gentiles. This is what Matthew says when they visited baby Jesus: Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, and of incense and of myrrh. (Matthew 2:11b)

In my mind I have discovered what I consider a parable or metaphor about Jesus Christ as the universal Messiah:

Jesus is referred to as the King of the Jews and also as the King of the ages. (Matt. 2:2, Rev. 15:3)

The gifts of the Magi can symbolize that Jesus Christ is the God-given gift to us human beings for our salvation. (John 3:16)

And the star that the kings followed is symbolic of Jesus as our guiding star. He is the bright star of the morning. (Rev. 22:16)

In summary, through the three kings narration, Jesus is the revealed gift to us as king of a new covenant and the star that guides the Christian journey of His saints.

Renovation Update

After five months, we are nearing the end of the renovation of the Fellowship Hall. We will be using it this Sunday for the benefit meal for Carlos. However, you will see that there are missing doors and room dividers. Because of supply chain issues, we will not be able to return to normal classroom space or use the new and women's restrooms before the end of January. Thank you to all of the people who worked hard this weekend to make our new space sparkle and shine!

Thank You

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

Thank you to you our faith family for supporting us with your prayers, cards, food, kind and meaningful words, and the beautiful bouquet of flowers as we grieved the death of my father and celebrated his life and faithfulness to God. Blessings,

Karen and Dave Hostetler

Fundraiser for Carlos Ramos

This Sunday January 7, the Pathfinders and Seekers Sunday school classes will once 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. While living here, haystacks became one of Carlos's favorites foods that he learned as "Mennonite Culture." I remember the questioning look on his face when my wife Marge tried to describe a Haystack meal to him.

Carlos used to live in Goshen and Elkhart. In 2012 while living and working here, he contracted bacterial meningitis and had both legs, all his fingers, and part of his nose amputated. In 2013, Darrel and Karen Sommers and myself, with help from Galen Kauffmann, set up the Samaritan Trust to assist him financially. Since 2016, he has been living in Mexico City. Beginning in April of this year we increased his assistance from \$400 to \$500 a month to cover inflation and reduced working hours. As he is aging, he has become more prone to developing ulcers or pressure wounds on the skin where his prosthetics attach to his legs. This requires him to stay off his prosthetics for longer periods of time.

He still uses the electric scooter we helped him purchase a couple of years ago. He got a different style of prosthetics in the spring of this year to help with the issue of ulcers. But as it turns out, the liners that go with these prosthetics wear out sooner and cost more. This fall his sister purchased a used electric wheel chair and shipped it to him. Pathfinders SS Class had an offering project for him to purchase batteries for the wheel chair. For two Sundays in December, he zoomed with the MYF class to talk about struggles in life and faith in God.

At last year's benefit meal, we raised over \$4,000.00 which covered most of the year. Carlos continues to appreciate our support. I communicate with him almost weekly. This will be the fourth fundraiser/benefit/donation request since 2019. If you are unable to attend the benefit meal, but wish to contribute, your donation may be made in cash or check made out to Samaritan Trust and given to Karen Sommers. This is not a tax deductible donation.

Thank you,
David Gingerich

Mennonite Action for an Israel/Palestine Ceasefire: Opportunities to take action.

1. Join the DC Day of Action for a Permanent Ceasefire

On **Tuesday, January 16**, hundreds of Mennonites will gather in Washington DC to take peaceful action calling for an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Hundreds more Mennonites will hold a public peace service, praying, and singing while their loved ones take peaceful action.

On **Monday, January 15**, Mennonite Action will host a training in Washington, DC to prepare all those who plan to take peaceful action. **If you plan on participating in peaceful action, coming to the training on January 15 is strongly recommended.**

Email info@mennoniteaction.org for support or with questions. Fill out this fill out [this DC action interest form](#) to submit your RSVP for January 15-16.

2. Join with other US Mennonites to call on federal representatives to support a permanent ceasefire

On Tuesday, January 16, those taking action in DC will take a petition with them, to demonstrate that thousands of Mennonites from across the United States stand together for a permanent ceasefire and an end to occupation.

The goal is to collect at least 5,000 names. You can sign the petition at https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/mennonites-call-on-us-representatives-to-support-a-ceasefire?clear_id=true&link_id=4&can_id=88e570fdbf4abf31b769f1df99822c06&source=email-mass-meeting-tonight-join-us-as-we-build-mlks-beloved-community&email_referrer=email_2159480&email_subject=mass-meeting-tonight-join-us-as-we-build-mlks-beloved-community

MCUSA

Safe Church, Mennonite Church USA's newly formed **abuse prevention ministry**, now has a webpage available on the MC USA website. The webpage offers resources, including the updated Circle of Grace curriculum, to help faith communities keep children, youth and vulnerable adults safe from all abuse. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/safechurch

Mennonite Action, a grassroots movement, united more than 800 Mennonites representing 250 congregations across the U.S. and Canada in a **mobilizing call for peace**, on Tuesday, Nov. 28, on Zoom. The "Call to Action" served as a resounding demand for a ceasefire, an end to the U.S.- and Western-funded occupation of Palestine, and a push for lasting peace. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/mennonite-action

Join us for **Hope for the Future** in Dallas, Texas on February 9-11, 2024. Hope for the Future is an annual gathering that brings together Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) leaders connected to Mennonite Church USA from across the

Waterford Announcements

Neurodivergent Support Group open to all ages. 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. The group meets 2nd Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m., beginning January 9, at the church and is led by Emily Hunsberger and John Zehr. If you are interested in joining this group, email Emily Hunsberger at emhunsber@gmail.com.

Next Thursday, January 11, is the day for **Mennonite Women** to meet in the MYF room to complete MCC projects. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Bring your lunch if you plan to stay over lunch hour. If you do not quilt or knot comforters, there are cutting projects. Also, if you knit or crochet, we have instructions for prayer shawls. If we have enough shawls for our own needs, MDS always appreciates more to give to those who have lost everything.

Salt & Light additional resource for [January 7](#).

Upcoming Events

January 13-15 is Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at Goshen College. The public is invited to the various events over the three days. See the website <https://www.goshen.edu/ciie/intercultural/mlk/> for the schedule.

The 6th annual [Michiana Regional Seed Swap](#) is a resource for residents in Michiana and beyond to exchange and learn about seeds. On Saturday, January 20, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. join fellow gardeners, growers, and plant enthusiasts in the Goshen College Church-Chapel to exchange and gather free seeds, compare and discuss varieties, attend educational sessions and more. The swap will include vegetable/garden crops as well as native plants. Participants are not required to bring seeds to the event, but if you save seed, please bring them along! Food for purchase will be available as well. The event is free.

Opportunities

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.

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