

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
2:00 p.m. - O-Lent-ics / Berkey Ave MC



February 18, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Esther Farmwald,
Karen Sommers
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Glenn Reinford, Wade Ramer
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann,
Jeff Claassen

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. - New Members class / Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks & Games / Fellowship Hall
6:45 p.m. - VBS debriefing

Thursday

7:00 p.m. - BBI Planning / Meeting Rm

Zoom prayers

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

Waterford Mennonite Church

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www.waterfordchurch.org

A Gesture of Hospitality and Inclusion

Cindy Voith, for Pastoral Team

We desire for Waterford Mennonite Church to be a vibrant community where each person is known, loved, and celebrated. A significant part of creating such a community occurs when we share our stories and receive the stories of others. And, the very beginning step of creating this type of community is learning to know each other's names.

As our congregation grows, we are presented with the delightful-to-have challenge of learning each other's names. Beginning this Sunday, we invite everyone to create a reusable nametag that we will use for the foreseeable future. It is both for us to know others and to be known by others. It is a gesture of hospitality and inclusion.

We have purchased magnetic name badges as well as lanyards for those who cannot use a magnet or would just prefer a lanyard style. Please stop by the table on Sunday, choose a name tag style, and print your name (largely and clearly). You are invited to include your pronouns as well.

Then, prior to leaving church, we ask that you put your name tag on the magnetic board or hooks on the wall outside the sanctuary door in the Pastors' Office hallway. This way your nametag will be easily accessible for when you return to the church building. A special thank you to Dee Birkey, Karen Hostetler and Loanne Harms for their work on the nametags and magnetic board!

Thank you for joining us in creating a vibrant community at Waterford Mennonite Church!

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 193

Nurture Hour - 208

Finances – February 11, 2024

Operating Fund	\$2,465.00
Mennonite Education	\$1,060.00
Either Fund	\$3,792.00
<i>Budget total</i>	<i>\$7,317.00</i>
Welcome Spaces	\$10,100.00
Anabaptism @ 500	\$150.00
Least Coin Fund	\$50.00
Jubilee Fund	\$60.00
Sharing Fund	\$125.00
Total	\$17,802.00

Looking Ahead

February 25: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Lent 2
(Mark 8:31-38)

March 3: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Lent 3
(Ex. 20:1-17, Ps 19, John 2:13-22, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

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

Janet Shoemaker - February 19

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

Mennonite School Council's Choir Festival

Opportunity to host Shalom Christian Academy Youth

By Cynthia Bontrager

On April 5-7, the Mennonite Schools Council (MSC) will gather to practice and perform a concert at Goshen College. Waterford Mennonite Church has the opportunity to host approximately 20 high school students from Shalom Christian Academy for the weekend. The choral festival is an opportunity for high school choirs across the United States to gather and share their love of choral music.

As a host, you would be responsible to:

-provide lodging for two nights, and serve breakfast Saturday and Sunday;

-provide transportation to and from Bethany/Goshen College Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday evening and Sunday morning and afternoon.

We will host the students for lunch on Sunday for a meal. After lunch, you will be asked to provide transportation to Goshen College for your guests so they can prepare for the afternoon concert which begins at 3 p.m. For the safety of our guests, a background check is needed for each person in the home over 18 years of age.

If you are willing to serve as a host, please sign up at the participation station, take and fill out a background check permission form for each household and return it to the office by February 27, 2003. For questions, please contact Cynthia Bontrager at 574-276-6413 or cynthia.bontrager@gmail.com.

Menno Media gift challenge

By Lyle Miller

When John D. Roth and Mitch Stutzman of Menno Media were with us on February 4, Mitch announced a challenge gift for the congregation. A Waterford household has agreed to match up to \$3,000 in gifts from Waterford attenders for the Anabaptism at 500 campaign. To help us reach this goal, please make your above-budget contributions to Waterford, designated for Menno Media, by March 31. To date, we have received \$350 toward the match. If you are sending money directly to Menno Media via an online gift, Qualified Charitable Distribution or Donor Advised Fund contribution and would like to have it counted toward the match, please email mitchs@mennomedia.org so that it can be included. You can make online gifts at <https://www.mennomedia.org/donate/>.

Opportunities

Waterford remembers Indigenous ancestors and neighbors

By Lynda Hollinger-Janzen

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God tells people to remember. “Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you.” (Deut. 15:15) The bread and cup of communion are in remembrance of Jesus’ covenant of salvation. (1 Cor. 11: 24, 25) Sometimes God’s people placed markers to help them remember God’s work in their lives, like Ebenezer (Stone of Help) in 1 Samuel 7:12.

Waterford Mennonite Church has a new marker in the foyer placed by Sharon Hoogstraten’s lovely photo of Selphie, Lilly and Mimike of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi in their dance regalia. (Just a reminder that these young women aren’t frozen in time. They are now 17, 15 and 19 years old.) The marker helps us remember that the people who lived on land, on which the church building now stands, had far-ranging influence and a well-developed transportation network. One of these commercial arteries, established about 10,000 years ago, connected the Maumee watershed (present-day Ft. Wayne, Indiana) with the area around the southern tip of Lake Michigan (now called Chicago, Illinois).

A group of nine Elkhart County residents is working to place markers along this route, which they, in consultation with Potawatomi and Miami tribal officers, have named the Bodéwadmí-Myaamia (Potawatomi-Miami) Trail. Luke Gascho provides leadership for the project and Lynda Hollinger-Janzen is also a member. The map on the marker shows that the trail ran 1.4 miles east of the church building, near the intersection of County Road 27 (Dierdorff) and County Road 40. The trail continues northwest through Greencroft’s campus and the Goshen Court House on its way to Elkhart. Parts of the trail are paved over and used as roads, such as U.S. 33.

With this sign, the Waterford congregation remembers the lives and the culture of those who were violently forced from their homelands by the U.S. government following the Indian Removal Act of 1830. We also acknowledge through the portrait of the three Potawatomi dancers that many Indigenous people still live on the land we call home.

We recognize and lament that some of us are heirs of the Amish and Mennonite settlers, who were among the first to occupy the land after the U.S. government moved large numbers of its Indigenous inhabitants westward at gunpoint. We name and lament the genocide and desecration of Indigenous cultures by White settlers. Waterford also has a Reparative Justice Group that seeks to go beyond acknowledgement and lament. This group is studying how we, as a congregation, can begin to repair the harm that has been done.

Cynthia Friesen Coyle, a graphic designer at Mennonite Mission Network and member of the trail marker group, designed the sign with input and edits from historic preservation officers and other members



Do you have an idea?

In June, we will be having a variety of intergenerational electives during the nurture hour as we did last summer. Do you have an idea for an elective? It can be for adults, adults and youth, or something that anyone from children to adults can enjoy. If there is something you would like to organize or have someone lead, contact Pastor Deron or Mariko Claassen and give them your idea.

of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. The sign logo's center depicts a trail with sandhill cranes flying overhead. The cranes are a symbol for the Miami Peoples. Encircling the center are the colors of the Potawatomi medicine wheel. Medicine wheels are specific to each culture and represent the interconnections of all of life and foundational teachings. A turtle, important in many Indigenous creation stories, frames the inner circles and reminds the viewer that the North American continent was often referred to as Turtle Island before it became the nations of Canada, Mexico and the United States. The strawberries, significant symbols for the Potawatomi Peoples, on either side of the turtle were drawn by the Potawatomi artist, Aaron Martin. The outer ring displays the colors of the Miami medicine wheel, and the black and red ribbon work is a traditional artform of the tribe.

The trail marker group hopes to put up additional signs as funds and land become available. Interested people may contact Luke, Lynda or info@potawatomi-miamitrail.org to make donations to help place markers along the path.

WMC Library

Additional New Books in the Library

Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story, by *Meghan Larissa Good*. New technologies, ecclesial scandals, and a crisis of biblical authority leave many Christians adrift or deconstructing the faith they once took for granted. There is hope, and Good invites readers into a growing movement to find ways to tell a better Christian Story. Readers will encounter core rediscoveries of this authentic, Jesus-centered Christianity.

Climate Pollinator: Stories on Anabaptists and the Climate, by *Sierra Ross Richer*. A collection of stories from Anabaptists around the globe exploring the myriad ways in which they engage in climate action and think about the human and non-human natural world. This is a product of the Global Voices Program of the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative.

Saving Grayson (a novel), by *Chris Fabry*. Diagnosed with early on-set Alzheimer's, Grayson Hayes doesn't remember things as well as he used to and is sure time is running out. He realizes he has a small window of time left to right a terrible injustice, he just can't remember what it is. Convinced of the importance of his mission, he embarks on a journey to the small West Virginia town of his childhood. A wrenching, yet hopeful story of a journey to right unknown wrongs, and of holding on to what you know, even when it feels like everything is slipping away.

Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility (donated), by *Duane Elmer*. Elmer gives Christians practical advice for serving other cultures with sensitivity and humility.

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday, February 18, we will share in communion. Let's prepare ourselves in our relationships with others, with ourselves, and with God in anticipation of sharing the bread and the cup. As did the early church (Acts 2:43-47), we will collect offerings for the Sharing Fund. This fund benefits people in need within the congregation.

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.

An elective nurture hour class on Spiritual Practices for the March-May spring 2024 quarter. Join with others who would like to use Christ-centered spiritual practices to honor their deepest longing for God and live more authentically. Contact Sheldon Swartz at sheldonws@yahoo.com or sign up at the participation station by Sunday, February 25, if you would like to join. You can find details about the class in the February 4 Buzz.

Everyone is invited to a Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, February 25 at 5:30 p.m. You don't have to make chili to come, but we do need people to come and eat it! Just bring a side of veggies or desert. Sign up at the participation station and indicate what food you plan to bring.

We are looking for **someone to take care of the potted plants** in the church. If you are interested in plants and know how to keep them alive, please contact Jan Oostland at facilities@waterfordchurch.org or give him a call.

Reminder: Mennonite Education Fund applications for current and prospective Mennonite college students, and parents of current and prospective grades 3-12 Bethany students are due by February 28, 2024. The application can be found at <https://waterfordchurch.org/resources/>

Salt & Light additional resource for [February 18](#).

Opportunities

Center for Healing & Hope is in need of volunteers who are fluent in Spanish and English to interpret for non-Spanish speaking medical providers who are giving care to uninsured and low-income patients at our office. Shifts are mornings from 9-12 or afternoons from 1-5. We also need volunteer LPNs, RNs, pharmacy techs, or pharmacists to dispense medicines from our on-site pharmacy. Volunteers do not need to be binlingual, but medical literacy is important. Shifts can be mornings, afternoons, or all day. contact Missy Schrock at mkschrock@chhclinics.org or 574-534-4744 ext 206.

Mennonite Central Committee is looking ahead to summer 2024, when we invite young adults of color from across the U.S. to participate in Summer Service. This grant program lets the next generation of peacemakers gain spiritual direction, work experience and extra income while serving their churches or communities for 10 weeks. In turn, host churches benefit from fresh perspectives, seasonal assistance and the time-tested joy that comes with mentoring tomorrow's leaders. MCC covers 75% of costs associated with the program. We invite you to work with interested young adults to create a role that aligns church and community needs with their unique talents, goals and interests. Learn more and apply at mcc.org/summerservice. Or email Brooke Strayer at BrookeStrayer@mcc.org.

MCUSA

Jonathan Kuttab, international human rights attorney and Mennonite Church USA 2023 Bring the Peace Legacy Peacemaker honoree, describes how his **work as a human rights lawyer relates to peace and justice**. Read more and watch the interview here: mennoniteusa.org/kuttab-btp

Beryl Jantzi, director of stewardship education for Everence, a ministry partner of Mennonite Church USA, shares **congregational stewardship resources** in his recent Menno Snapshots blog. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/new-year-stewardship

MCC

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](#).

Pathways Retreat

Pathways Retreat is excited to announce a **Capital Campaign raising funds for a pavilion and land restoration**. Pathways is offering a variety of contemplative experiences in the coming months: Embracing Joy, Transition Journeys, Meditative Zentangle-inspired Art, and weekly yoga. The annual Ash Wednesday Noon Service will be held February 14. Daily prayers are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org.

Mennonite Men

[Raise funds to replace olive tree in Palestine](#)

Israelis have destroyed over one million olive trees belonging to Palestinians. Why? To strike at their livelihoods, create economic hardships, and displace them from their land. Once trees are removed and farmers are forced to leave their land, Israelis may claim and add this land to their settlements in occupied Palestine. This is one of many aggravating factors leading to Palestinian resistance and the current war.

Help MennoPIN and the Mennonite Men JoinTrees campaign raise \$50,000 to replace 2,500-3,000 olive trees and enable Palestinian families to remain on their land.

MMN

Mennonite Mission Network has published three articles of Waterford's involvement in mission:

1. A photo essay by Jerrell and Jane Ross Richer of their work in Ecuador: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/news/5036/A-family-two-way-mission-unites-them-in-Christ-with-brothers-and-sisters-in-Ecuador>.
2. An article about the WMC delegation to Benin and our partnership with BBI: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/news/5038/Benin-Bible-Institute-renews-a-20-year-partnership-with-Indiana-congregation>;
3. A reflection by Cindy Voth on the what such a partnership has to offer us: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/blog/5037/Mission-partnerships-help-each-participant-to-experience-more-of-God>.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming events at Goshen College: Tickets for concerts available at goshen.edu/tickets. Lectures are free.

- **64th Annual Concerto-Aria Concert**, February 17, at 7:30 p.m., Sauder Concert Hall. The student winners of the 2023 Goshen College Concerto-Aria Competition will perform arias and individual concerto movements with the Goshen College Symphony Orchestra.
- **C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest**, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m., Umble Center. Five GC students will compete by delivering an 8- to 10-minute speech on themes of peace and justice. Speakers include Mariela Esparza, senior English and secondary education double major; Sarah Lopez Ramirez, senior film production major; Annika Fisher, senior sociology and art double major; Tyson Miller, junior journalism and English double major; and Cassidy (Cassi) Cwiertnia, senior American Sign Language interpretation major.
- Goshen College invites high school seniors and current college students to attend **College Goal Sunday** at the Union Building Welcome Center at 1 p.m. on Feb. 25. Financial aid professionals will help college-bound Indiana students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Spanish interpretation will be available.

The **10th Annual Run/March for Oak Flat** is happening from February 15- to 18 in Arizona. The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery is asking Repair Network congregations to pray in solidarity with Apache Stronghold and those running for Oak Flat. In response, **One Circle, an affinity group at Goshen College is hosting a Run/March on February 18 at 2 p.m.** The event will begin at the start of the Millrace by the Goshen Dam Pond with a prayer, and plan to end at the courthouse downtown. You can also join in along the way, at Shanklin Park or GBCO, or join at the courthouse where we will gather with snacks, drinks, prayer, and song.

Youth Venture/Service Adventure information nights for youth and parents will be held [Wednesday, February 21, 8 p.m. Eastern](#). Register to meet via Zoom with Mission Network staff to find out about all the enriching growth experiences awaiting volunteers ages 15-22. From international learning trips to domestic service terms, [Youth Venture](#) and [Service Adventure](#) have options for you!

Anabaptist Climate Collaborative (ACC) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) are pleased to bring two speakers, Caroline Pugini (Zimbabwe) and Victor Odinda (Cambodia) to this area with the [Global Voices Tour](#). On Thursday, February 22, each speaker will share ways their communities are finding climate solutions and how you can get involved. Join us from 2:00-3:30, at Greencroft (1820 Greencroft Blvd) in the Jennings Auditorium.

A revamped **Crafter's Marketplace** is in the works for the 2024 Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale and we need your help. Come to a **sewing and crafting workshop** at East Goshen Mennonite Church, on **Saturday, February 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** All items made will be sold at the Relief Sale on Sept. 27-28, 2024. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Main course, coffee, water and table service will be provided. Please [RSVP to \[crafting.mMrs@gmail.com\]\(mailto:crafting.mMrs@gmail.com\)](#) by February 16. Hope to meet you!