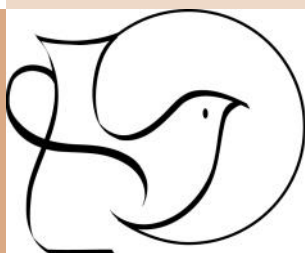


This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship

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

2:00 p.m. - O-Lent-ics / East Goshen MC



March 17, 2024

The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Sheldon & Velma Swartz

Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Glenn Reinford

Audiovisuals: Shawn Stutzman, Jeff Claassen

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - MLC / FH

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks & Games

Friday

4 - 10:00 p.m. - March Madness / FH

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

Meet Ruby Bontrager



I grew up in Elkhart County. My father had a flourishing feed mill business. His Number One love was reading and traveling, which he did rather extensively over the years. My parents often hosted family and friends, including owners of the grocery store and a few of the customers. There was always lots of noise, people of all kinds around, salesmen who treated us children like we were their nephews and nieces. Going to a friend's house who were farmers always seemed like a very

lonely life to me. My mother didn't enjoy travel much, so dad took us children with him. When it was my turn, I went to the Middle East with him and then also traveled through Europe, mostly by train, and returned on Queen Mary, docking at New York City. It was short of two months of travel. I am a graduate of Bethany Christian High School, took classes at IU South Bend, and several at AMBS. That helped me with my interest in biblical understanding, history, the meaning of life and how we are meant to live. Questions don't always have answers—only more questions.

I was married to Ellis Bontrager for 62 years. He died September 5, 2021, after being diagnosed with Prostate Cancer four years earlier. He graduated from Goshen College and from the University of New Mexico with a Masters degree in Education. We lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he began his teaching career as an elementary public school teacher teaching 4th – 6th grades and kindergarten one year. In 1974 we moved to Bristol, Ind., where Ellis taught in the Edwardsburg

Continued on next page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 150

Nurture Hour - 181

Finances – March 10, 2024

Operating Fund	\$4,010.00
Mennonite Education	\$1,430.00
Either Fund	\$4,506.00
<i>Budget total</i>	<i>\$9,946.00</i>
Welcome Spaces	\$4,000.00
Total	\$13,946.00

Looking Ahead

March 24: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Palm Sunday

(Ps 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16, Phil 2:5-11)

March 31: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Easter

(Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; Is 25:6-9, John 20:1-18, Acts 10:34-43)

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

(MI) school system. Ellis also rehabbed houses and taught our children many skills in upkeeping properties.

We have two sons and one daughter, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren, and a fourth one arrived Wednesday, December 27. Two of our children live in Arizona. One lives south of Fairfield High School. I have six brothers and one sister. My oldest brother is deceased.

In the 80's, we spent one summer at Little Eden family camp in Onekama, Michigan. Ellis worked in maintenance and I was the cook. It was a busy and interesting summer. I returned for short stints when they needed some help.

I received two weeks training in Baltimore to serve as leader for Stephen Ministry. That was an interesting ministry. I worked for a time at Oaklawn and Walnut Hill Daycare as an assistant. I also served on the Board of Elders at times. I was church secretary for 30+ years at Bonneyville Mennonite Church, Bristol, Ind. Four years ago I fell on the icy ramp by the church, which ended my job. Bonneyville then closed the church last March and since that time I have been trying to decide where to attend.

I enjoy crafts but my first love is reading. I belong to two book clubs. I also enjoy cooking and hosting friends for meals and socializing and playing table games.

Life is change, growth is optional, make decisions carefully. Be grateful for each new day!

Update from Ecuador: God's Work Continues

Jerrell Ross Richer and Steve Fath

Come hear stories and see images from Jerrell and Jane Ross Richer's recent visit to Ecuador. While violence and drug trafficking near the border of Colombia brought an end to their time as International Service Workers with Mennonite Mission Network, Jane and Jerrell were able to visit the capital city of Quito late last month in Jerrell's new role as Co-Director of Global Engagement (SST) at Goshen College. Instead of traveling to the rain forest, church leaders and friends from Zábalo and Tena accepted the invitation to visit Jerrell and Jane in Quito. They talked, broke bread, worshiped and prayed together. The Mobile Institute was resurrected. And three Cofán youth are now registered for university studies in education, pastoral theology and nursing. God is at work in the Ecuadorian rainforest and the North-South partnership that began as Two Way Mission is entering a new chapter. We invite you to join us at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 24, in the Fellowship Hall of Waterford Mennonite Church for an update.



Delegate Reporting

IMMC Spring Summit Meeting

Dan Stoltzfus, WMC delegate for IN-MI Mennonite Conference

I have the privilege of reporting on the good work of the Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference [IMMC]. As delegates, we met for the in-person meeting of the Spring Summit on March 9 at Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart. There will be an additional Zoom meeting on March 16 for delegates who could not attend the in-person meeting.

The main topic of the delegate meeting was a proposed draft revision of the by-laws to provide for the inclusion of youth into the voice and voting of our conference. Broadly speaking, this would allow congregations to discern up to two persons who could be added to the congregation's delegates that may meet the definition of 'youth'.

This is not a new idea. A young seminarian named Stephen Lowe took us on a tour of "the rabbit trails" of his thinking. Stephen started with the movie *Shark Boy and Lava Girl*, where a boy named Max had to reimagine his dream world in order to save it and avoid the fears that lead to nightmares. With this analogy, Stephen led us on to the prophet Jeremiah. Because of his young age, Jeremiah believed he couldn't serve [ref. Jeremiah 1:4-9]. God called Jeremiah anyway. Stephen turned our attention to the Christian church in crisis. "Youth are not leaving the church; the church is leaving youth behind!" Stephen concluded with the prophet Joel [ref. Joel 2:28] and these three challenges:

1. The church has a responsibility to be a truth-teller.
2. We should involve the youth as the church of NOW, not the church of tomorrow.
3. Dream a better dream!

The morning group discussion highlighted the voice of youth within our congregations as bringing energy to our gatherings and adding prophetic vision. Our Waterford Mennonite Church (WMC) congregation is no different. In the lead-up to the actual vote on this change, IMMC is requesting congregational input and feedback on the proposed by-law changes in the coming weeks.

In Prairie Street Mennonite Church's tradition, we sang ourselves from the sanctuary service to the delegate session in the fellowship hall. The hosting provided by this congregation highlights their mission and role within their community. Read more about this congregation's trilingual worship service from the most recent Gospel Evangel: [2024-Jan-Feb-Mar.pdf \(mennonite.net\)](#).

We did spend some time in review of the 2024-25 IMMC budget, which was relatively straight forward. We found it helpful to frame the work of the IMMC within the following spending categories: Empowering Pastors (41%), Engaging Congregations (42%), and Equipping Leaders (17%).



See **Summit** on page ---

Sharing Our Space

Rock Run Homeschool Co-op

Eliza Smoker, Rock Run Co-op

Some of you already may know that a home school co-op is meeting in the education wing most Fridays during the school year. We wanted to take a moment and introduce our group (the Rock Run Homeschool Co-op) to the larger Waterford Mennonite Church congregation.

We are a community of families that have chosen to provide education to our children within our homes. While each family's homeschooling journey may look different, as a group we strive to educate our children holistically focusing on their minds, bodies, and spirits. We are inspired by Rudolf Steiner's (Waldorf) educational philosophy which values the use of story and play to teach along with the use of natural materials for toys and handwork projects whenever possible. In addition, we value time spent in nature and spend time outside in all weather and seasons.



Editor's note: Rock Run Co-op is in its second year of meeting on our property. We are pleased to be able to share our nurture wing, playground, and wetlands with them.

This year our group has about 29 children from 13 families ranging in age from toddlers through high school students. Our Friday mornings are spent participating in more structured activities within four age-based groups. Then following lunch and recess we often have a combination of handwork and free play. Some examples of afternoon activities include drama, nature study, painting or drawing, group games and crafts like knitting.

Clockwise from top right:

The upper elementary age class working on a local geography project.

The middle school age class working on construction of an outdoor game.

The high school age class working on a handwork project.

The preschool through first grade age class acting out a fairy tale outside.



We appreciate how your church community has been willing to share space with our group. The combination of classrooms in the education wing alongside the amazing outdoor spaces provides an enriching environment for all of us. In addition, all of the Waterford staff and church members we've been in contact with have made our group feel at home here. As a group we want to say thank you for opening these spaces to us!

Senior Adult Profile

WMC member at Greencroft, Jean Oyer

Ursula Hess, Senior Adult Ministry Team



Jean Oyer has been a member of Waterford Mennonite Church for 15 years. She belongs to the Sojourners Sunday School Class. She loves receiving the news from WMC, watches the church service on Channel 13, and receives updates about her Sunday School Class. Currently, she lives in Healthcare, Greencroft.

She was born in Guthrie, Oklahoma, where she did most of her schooling. Her parents attended the Presbyterian Church, where her faith was formed. For her nursing studies, she went to Chicago.

During one of her clinicals in a Psychiatric Hospital, she met her husband, who was working there as a volunteer, fulfilling his duties in alternative service during the Vietnam War. He was a Mennonite, and Jean found it easy to adapt to his faith and join the Mennonite Church. Her husband worked as an electrical engineer, while she continued to work as an RN. Together they had two children, a son and a daughter, and now, have two grandchildren. They loved to go on motorcycle rides together and explored many beautiful sites in the US. As a family, they traveled by car to places in California, Arkansas and Canada.

They attended Lombard Mennonite Church where they were active members for 49 years. They led Bible studies, women's groups, were involved in Advent Giving Projects, participated in Menno Haven Rally Days and in many quilting projects.

Lombard Mennonite Church keeps Jean in fond memory. And Jean remembers with joy her spiritual journey with God, fed by many Sunday and mid-week services, where she felt nurtured, cherished, and encouraged in her spiritual walk with Jesus. She is happy that she has met some of her friends from Lombard here in Goshen, at Greencroft.

Fifteen Years ago, she moved to Greencroft, Manor IV, after her husband died. Her son is living in the area to give her support. Even though in healthcare, Jean likes to stay active. She walks around with a walker, spends as much time outside as weather and situation allow, and participates in the various activities offered at Greencroft. She loves to stay connected with people of Waterford Mennonite Church, and receive visitors. She continues to receive caring letters from friends at Lombard. She is grateful that she is still able to read and to hear well without hearing aids. "Even though, I am 87 years old now!"

Mennonite Action's bi-national Holy Week of Action

Our Michiana action will be **Wednesday, March 27, 4-6 p.m.**, at Congressperson Rudy Yakym's office in Mishawaka (2410 Grape Rd), calling for a ceasefire, release of all hostages and to send aid not bombs. (Meet in the Planet Fitness parking lot, 424 W. McKinley Ave, at 3:30 to walk as a group to Yakym's office.)

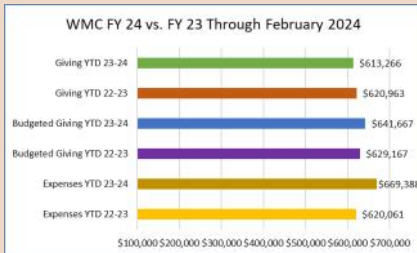
To prepare for the March 27 action, we invite you to join us **Monday, March 18, 7 p.m. at Kern Road Mennonite Church** (18211 Kern Rd, South Bend). We will be creating signs and symbols to offer at Yakym's office, as well as designating roles and providing more details for the direct actions we plan to take.

Around the building

Giving Update

Total giving needed to meet
annual budgeted giving target:
\$131,444

Weekly giving needed to meet
annual budgeted giving target:
\$18,778



Our fiscal year ends April 30.
Please prayerfully consider how
you can help us meet our
budget.

Sanctuary Technology Upgrades

Colin Berkey, AV Coordinator

I'm thrilled to share some exciting lighting and video upgrades coming this summer! Last summer, we experienced some technical failures in the 23-year-old system that controls the Sanctuary lights. Bob Hochstedler and I were able to rewire the system to get it into a working state to hold it over until we can replace the system, making this project a major priority. The new lighting system will have brand-new LED platform lighting and all-new system controls making maintenance easier and a lot safer. Better positioning of the platform lights and better control of the house lights are just some of the improvements planned for this project.

Another project happening this summer will be to upgrade our aging video projector. Our current projector was purchased in November of 2010, and it has been increasingly difficult to find parts for it. There is currently a promotional deal that saves us \$2,000 for the projector, making it an ideal time for us to complete this project now. We are planning on completing these projects during the first two weeks of June while we are doing outdoor worship. All the installation will be done using in-house volunteers thus saving us significantly on the cost of these projects. The lighting project is budgeted to cost \$28,330 and the projector is budgeted to cost \$4,876.25.

Note from Pastor Cindy Voth, for Ministry Leadership Council

Since the total cost of the project is over \$20,000, the Facilities and Finance Ministry Team, per our policy, submitted a proposal to Ministry Leadership Council for their review and approval. MLC approved the proposal during our February meeting. We are so grateful for Colin and his leadership and collaboration with Bob and the FFMT. We are also grateful that we have the financial reserves set aside for our building upkeep to cover the cost of this project. Please contact Colin or Bob if you have any questions about the upgrades, and a member of MLC if you have any questions about the process.

Summit, (cont. from p. 3)

Sharon Yoder closed the delegate session with this message of hope from Isaiah [ref. Isaiah 43:19] stated here from the CEB: "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."

I believe we have an opportunity to begin discerning the calling of 1-2 youth delegates. This is a powerful responsibility. We should consider how this would take place at WMC, including a nomination process and the criteria for a youth delegate.

Let us "dream a better dream!"

Waterford Announcements

Join others this Wednesday for the **haystacks and games night in the Fellowship Hall**. Supper is at 6:00, games begin right after. Bring your favorite haystack topping and table games.

March Madness Party, next Friday, March 22 from 4:00 p.m. till the last game ends or everyone has gone home! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a night of watching basketball, spending time together, and some basketball trivia. Bring a snack to share and sign up at the Participation Station if you plan to eat pizza served at 6:00. We welcome donations to cover the cost of pizza.

Don't forget to sign up for the April 14 **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** event! Completed forms need to be returned to the collection box at the Participation Station **no later than Sunday, March 24**. There are extra forms at the table if you need one.

Maundy Wednesday, March 27, all are invited to share in a simple meal together in our fellowship hall at 6 p.m., followed by a service of footwashing. At the Participation Station you may sign up to bring food (soup, bread, or fruit to serve 8), as well as to help with set up for the meal. Thank you to the JYF for taking care of the cleanup after the meal!

Salt & Light additional resource for [March 17](#).

Opportunities

A Ukrainian coworker of Denise Diener's is looking for a **sponsor for her former supervisor in Ukraine through the program Uniting For Ukraine** [Uniting for Ukraine | Homeland Security](#). They have a place to stay with friends, but need an official sponsor. Please let Denise know if you are interested in this opportunity.

Eighth Street Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year. See the information flier on the bulletin board under their Open House poster.

MCC is seeking a full-time Thrift Coordinator for the Great Lakes region. This position provides support and services to the 14 MCC Thrift shops within the region who annually contribute upwards of \$3 million to the ministries of MCC. Working from Goshen, Indiana, the Thrift Coordinator works with shops to encourage growth, assist with problem solving, support board development, nurture manager skill development and connect with the MCC Thrift Shop Network. Apply by March 25 at mcc.org/gl-thrift-coordinator.

MCC is hiring an administrative assistant to help with a variety of tasks right here in Goshen! This job will provide the opportunity for someone with flexible hours to support the relief, development and peace efforts of MCC. Apply by April 1 at: mcc.org/administrative-assistant-GL

Pathways Retreat is offering a variety of contemplative experiences in the coming months: God's Wonderful Creatures (a clay experience for children), Embracing Joy, Transition Journeys, Zentangle-inspired Art, and weekly yoga. Stations of the Cross will be available at Pathways and online March 24-30 and a Good Friday service will be held on March 29 at noon. Daily prayers are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org.

MCUSA

MC USA signed a letter to Congress, along with 62 faith-based organizations, asking for strengthened funding for **Victims of Crime Act grants**. Read the letter here: mennoniteusa.org/news/letter-funding-victims

On Monday, March 25 at 7 p.m. ET on Zoom, join Nancy Kauffmann, MC USA's interim denominational minister for Church Safety and Marlene Bogard, former minister of Christian Formation for Western District conference, former executive director of Mennonite Women USA, and current interim pastor at Salem Mennonite Church, to **learn more about safe protection policy guidelines** during an informational webinar. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/registraiton-safechurch-march25 View the slide here: mennoniteusa.org/safe-church-protection-policy-webinar

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, MC USA's denominational minister for Peace and Justice, calls attention to the destructive nature of capital punishment and **advocates for the abolishment of the death penalty** in her Menno Snapshots blog here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/capital-punishment

AMBS

Grow in leadership through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Practical Leadership Training modules!

Upcoming modules include Leading Congregations in Transition (online short course); Practicing Resilience in Response to Trauma (webinar); and Beyond Boring Bible Studies (online short course). CEUs available. Register for one or more modules! ambs.edu/plt

Online Short Course: Biblical Interpretation Across the Two Testaments: April 10 – May 21.

Explore the harmful claim that the New Testament supersedes the Old Testament. How can we as Anabaptists read our Scriptures faithfully, creatively and respectfully? Instructors for this six-week AMBS Online Short Course are Mary Schertz, PhD, and Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by March 20 to save \$50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

Goshen College Visit Days

Spring African American Open House: 9:30 a.m. on March 20.

African American high school juniors and seniors can visit GC and be welcomed by the Black Student Union, followed by a convocation about Study-Service Term (SST). Email lgiden@goshen.edu for additional details and to register.

Spend the day getting to know future classmates and current Goshen College students at the [Spring Explore Goshen Day](#) on April 5 at 9 a.m. in the Union Building Welcome Center. Sit in on a class or meet with a faculty member in an academic area of your interest, take a campus tour, have lunch in our dining hall and talk with GC admissions counselors. You won't want to miss it!

Upcoming Events

Goshen High School presents Rogers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* March 14-17. Come support students and staff connected to Waterford: David Stutzman, Sophia Kauffman, Monica Stutzman, and Steve Snyder. Tickets on sale at goshenhighschool.ludus.com

The **Bethany Christian Schools Concert Choir** will be performing at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship for a concert on Sunday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m. Come for an evening of worship and fellowship through beautiful choral music. Come also for this opportunity to support the choir as Bethany prepares to host the Mennonite Schools Council (MSC) Choir Festival in April.

The **First Light Mission/Clay Artist Guild Empty Bowl Event** is taking place on Saturday, March 23. You can pre-purchase bowls by going to <https://firstlightmission.org/donate/>, then press the Donate Now button, and then choose the Empty Bowl as the purpose for the donation (\$20 per bowl). (Note: This is NOT a drive-thru event.)

Michiana Anabaptist Historians will meet Saturday March 23, from 8:30-11:30 a.m., at East Goshen Mennonite Church. Presentations include: **9:00 a.m. Elizabeth Miller**, Director of Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism and Mennonite Historical Library at Goshen College: "Colombian Mennonite Stories and the Necessity of Global Anabaptisms." Elizabeth lived in Colombia nine years and has published several books related to global Anabaptism. **10:30 a.m. Dan Eash-Scott and Daniel Stoltzfus**, Goshen College students: "1918 Flu Pandemic Impact in Amish Communities: Mining The Budget." The students will report on their research as Maple Scholars. Willis Miller and Owen Borkholder, local Old Order Amish historians, researched local Amish church records during the Spanish flu pandemic years. They will also bring their findings. All are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events at Goshen College:

- **2024 Goshen College International Student Club Coffeehouse Potluck Dinner and Show**, March 16, College Mennonite Church Fellowship Halls. The dinner will start at 6 p.m., with the show to follow in the Fellowship Halls. Attendees are asked to bring a (preferably international) dish to share. This is the major annual fundraiser for the International Student Club. Get tickets at <http://tinyurl.com/3a7fmdax>.
- Goshen College **Senior Art Exhibit** will feature senior art majors Sarah Corbitt (paintings), **Anna Myers** (ceramics), Jackelyn Resendiz Palos (pattern designs) and Shayne Wassell (graphic design), with a free public reception at 6 p.m. on March 17. Free and open to the public in the Music Center's Hershberger Art Gallery.
- **Seasons of Amish Life:** In photographs by Danny Graber, Goshen College Library Gallery, March 10 to July 18. Scenes from the Old Order Amish community of LaGrange County where Graber was raised. Public reception is Sunday, March 17, 2 to 4 p.m., with comments by the photographer at 2:20 p.m. Free and open to the public.
- Spring musical, "**Resistance, Revolution, Reconciliation!**" on March 22 at 7:30 p.m. and March 23 & 24 at 2:30 p.m. in Umble Center. Variety theater forms around the world have lifted audience spirits for thousands of years while posing vital questions. We join that tradition with a selection of songs, spoken word, dances and sketches that drive us forward in the face of strife, oppression and disaster. The performance may include adult themes and language, so it is suitable for ages 13+. Tickets are available at goshen.edu/tickets.