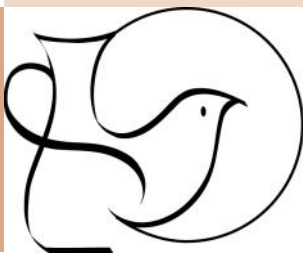


Ministry Leadership Council

Left to right: Chris Judson, co-chair; Zoë Brown, secretary; Ann Lehman; Jim Gascho, treasurer (on Zoom); photo of Rose Shelter, co-chair; JD Smucker, John Kaufman and pastor Cindy Voht



March 24, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
12:00 p.m. - Baptism Group
Meal / FH
5:30 p.m. - Two-Way Mission
Update / Fellowship Hall

Welcome Team

Greeters: Sheldon & Velma Swartz
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, Carla Miller
Audiovisuals: Derrick Ramer, Dominic Ramer

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday
6:00 p.m. - Maundy Wed.
Meal & Service
Friday - CLOSED
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

Ministry Teams at Waterford

This week's Buzz is devoted to introducing the ministry teams at Waterford Mennonite Church. Each team was asked to answer three questions:

1. What does your ministry team do?
2. How can others at Waterford participate in your ministry?
3. Looking to the next nine months, what is your team looking forward to with excitement?

In the following pages, you will find their responses to these questions, see who is on these teams, and discover how you can participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.

Ministry Leadership Council (MLC)

The Ministry Leadership Council's core responsibility is to ensure that the congregation stays true to and serves its mission to:

*Welcome everyone to faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ,
Minister to the needs of one another and our neighbors through the Holy Spirit, and
Call out each other's gifts for the joyful work of God's reconciling mission.*

MLC gives broad oversight (not direct management) to the operations and ministries of the congregation according to the bylaws and policies. We also give oversight to the financial viability of the congregational budget.

Continued on next page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 207

Nurture Hour - 206

Finances – March 17, 2024

Operating Fund \$6,911.00

Mennonite Education \$4,185.00

Either Fund \$6,155.00

Budget total \$17,251.00

Welcome Spaces \$1,700.00

Least Coin Fund \$14.00

Jubilee Fund \$100.00

Total **\$19,065.00**

*Total giving needed to meet
annual budgeted giving target:*
\$118,158

*Weekly giving needed to meet
annual budgeted giving target:*
\$19,693

Looking Ahead

March 31: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Easter

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

April 7: Receiving New Members

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

MLC gives support to Pastor Cindy who regularly attends MLC meetings, leads the process of regular evaluations of the pastors and gives encouragement in their ministry goals.

Together with the Pastoral Team, MLC leads the congregation in processes to:

assess the effectiveness of our ministry areas;

discern together where God might be leading the congregation, cast a vision of where we want to go and what we want to do to follow this call, and then create a framework (roadmap) of how best to join in God's mission in the world.

You can support MLC by: prayerfully considering serving on MLC; participating in congregational meetings and processes led by MLC and the Pastoral Team; praying for wisdom and discernment for MLC; and talking to a member of MLC with ideas, questions and suggestions you may have.

MLC looks forward to continuing to invite the ministry teams to meet with us so that we can learn about their joys and challenges and support them in their areas of ministry.

We will bless Pastor Cindy as she leaves for her sabbatical in April, joyfully welcome her back in July, and plan a fall MLC retreat for teambuilding and space to discern MLC's identity and purpose to guide us into the coming year.

Mission & Service Ministry Team



Left to right: Arnold Roth, pastor Deron Bergstresser, Tami Schlabach and Denise Diener, lay ministry partner.

Our ministry team seeks to build relationships with the ministries supported in our budget. The team seeks to stay in touch with the ministries' needs, accomplishments and goals and then communicate that information to the members at WMC to build support for their ministries.

We welcome members interested in this work to join us on the ministry team to improve our ability to communicate with all the members of WMC. It is exciting to see and hear how the Holy Spirit is at work in our community and around the world!

Spiritual Formation Ministry Team (SFMT)



Left to right: Pastor Deron, Aaron Lehman, Ursula Hess; Sheldon Swartz, lay ministry partner.

The purpose of the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team at WMC is to foster spiritual growth within individuals, small groups, and the congregation as a whole. A belief at the core of WMC's vision is the desire that all that we do must come from our connection with God, Jesus being the human expression of God, and the Holy Spirit being the life-giving energy of God expressed in the way we live our lives.

One primary focus of SFMT in the past number of months has been to identify the small groups at WMC and to emphasize the value of these groups

in fostering the kind of connection that can help those involved live out more fully their own passions and callings. Persons not in small groups were invited to express their interest in being in a group and several new groups were formed out of the interest shown. At any time, anyone who is interested in joining a small group or adult nurture class can make their desire known to us so that we can see that that need gets met. SFMT will seek to be especially aware of newcomers and their potential desire to join a small group.

Currently, we are holding a Spiritual Practices Class as an elective for the March-May quarter of this year. During the first four weeks in June, a spiritual formation option will be offered along with other classes as was done last year. These experiences may lead to interest in centering prayer groups, lectio divina groups, and other groups specifically designed to foster spiritual connection. We are considering scheduling a Saturday morning mini-spiritual retreat in the fall. We also hope to become more aware of how a variety of spiritual practices could enhance the corporate worship experience.

We would like at least one or more persons to join our ministry team and will be working towards that.

Senior Adult Ministry Team (SAMT)



Left to right: Elmer Wyse, Don Miller, Ursula Hess; Cheryl Snyder, lay ministry partner; Barbara Landes; pastor Deron with Kathy Miller on Zoom.

The Senior Adult Ministry Team seeks to help senior adults continue to participate, grow, and share their gifts in the congregation and community.

The work of this team includes: regular visits to WMC senior adults who are no longer able to

attend worship regularly in person; a monthly gathering for sharing, singing and prayer with residents of Assisted living at Greencroft; and providing communion 2-3 times per year at Greencroft. We also send birthday and anniversary cards to seniors. Finally, SAMT is delighted to share the stories and gifts of our senior adults, as we've been able to do in Buzz articles and interviews this past year.

SAMT would be happy for one or two additional members. We would welcome anyone who could be available to provide rides to and from church for seniors who no longer drive. And valet service for seniors who do drive, but struggle with wintry weather on the parking lot.

We are excited to begin planning activities for all seniors 70 and over at WMC. Feel free to share your great ideas!

Gifts Discernment Ministry Team (GDMT)



Left to right: Beth Smucker; Ken Otto, lay ministry partner; Bonnie Miller, Ron Weirich, Catie Kauffman, Jason Herrmann, pastor Cindy

We connect passions with opportunities by calling out each other's gifts for the joyful work of God's reconciling mission. We also seek opportunities to acknowledge those who are currently using their gifts in service to the church.

Our team is structured with diverse demographics in mind in order to gain wider perspectives and representation. During our monthly meetings, we review the upcoming open leadership positions at WMC and spend time discerning who amongst us might have passions that align with the leadership needs. We also spend time formulating plans of ways to encourage and celebrate everyone using the gifts given to them by God.

We invite individuals to positions that require ballot affirmation from the congregation. Examples of these positions include members of Ministry Leadership Council, all Lay Ministry Partners for our ministries teams, as well as the delegates for MC USA and IN-MI conferences.

Members who are interested in the work and ministry of GDMT may reach out to any team member to arrange participation in a future meeting to see if this committee aligns with their interests and gifts. We also invite all participants at Waterford to consider how they are using their gifts here among us! From being on one of our ministry teams, to volunteering as a youth sponsor, to reading scripture in worship, to weeding the flower beds . . . it takes all of us, using our gifts and our passions, to be a faith community together.

We look forward to celebrating the willingness of WMC members to share their gifts and participate in the life of our church family!

Worship Ministry Team (WMT)



Left to right: Pastor Cindy; interim pastor Linda Short, Jerry Landes; Erin Smeltzer, lay ministry partner; Nick Stoltzfus, Veronica Berkey

Worship Ministry Team is in charge of planning communal worship at Waterford Mennonite Church. Our goal is to plan meaningful and purposeful worship experiences that represent a diverse community of people. We work closely with the pastors to look at the themes and resources that will shape our planning, we coordinate the details of each worship service, and we take time to evaluate and reflect afterwards. Our team meets monthly, and many team members are responsible for coordinating a certain aspect of worship such as worship leaders, preachers, music, children's time, drama, or visual arts.

All are welcome to participate in worship, and we are always expanding our lists of people willing to participate in the different aspects of worship. If you are interested in being involved, or if you have a suggestion of someone who we should ask to be involved, please let a member of our team know!

We are always looking forward to the upcoming worship services and to the next series. One thing we have been brainstorming about is what worship might look like as our congregation continues to grow and the sanctuary nears capacity. This is a wonderful situation to be in, and while there are no plans to move to two services, we are beginning to dream about how we might create an additional space for worship beyond the sanctuary that would be attractive to some in our congregation. We are looking for people with energy, passion, and vision for this kind of planning, so please let us know if this describes you or someone else in our congregation!

Facilities and Finance Ministry Team (FFMT)



Left to right: Douglas Graber, lay ministry partner; David Hostetler; Andrew Hartzler, business manager; Jan Oostland, facilities manager.

The team facilitates the physical space of Waterford Mennonite Church from Roof top to Sanctuary, to Fellowship Hall, to parking lot and on to the Wet Lands.

The team guides the use of the financial resources of the church for all areas of ministry such as worship, nurture, and fellowship. They also work on budget-building, monitoring overall financial activity throughout the year, and give guidance to the replacement, repair and maintenance of all aspects of the facilities such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, etc.

Persons with experience and knowledge in finance and building maintenance have key positions within the team. The Team needs members who care about all the Welcoming Spaces of WMC and have a passion to tend to our physical spaces and our financial landscape.

The Facilities and Finance ministry team, which is a part of a dynamic, ever changing congregation, stands ready to facilitate new, emerging needs and foci of ministry which are anticipated. The FFMT works to be nimble and flexible to these innovations by considering options and adjusting the spaces of our structures and land as needed.

Fellowship Ministry Team (FMT)



Left to right: Jon. Wieand, Rita Herrmann, pastor Cindy; Melissa Chupp, lay ministry partner; Mariko Claassen; not pictured: Camila Pérez Diener

The purpose of the Fellowship team is to provide opportunities for the congregation to interact and build relationships with one another and to come up with creative ways that we can be together in less structured settings.

We currently have six members on our team, but welcome anyone who would like to join us. See Pastor Cindy or Melissa Chupp if you are interested. We meet on an as-needed basis to brainstorm new ideas and plan the specifics of upcoming fellowship events. Some events that we have spearheaded in the past are a night at the South Bend Cubs game, bike rides on the Pumpkinvine Trail, a chili cook-off, a Fall Festival, Christmas Caroling, and the Guess Who's Coming to Dinner meals.

The Fellowship Team also partners with members of the congregation who have ideas for events and would like some help in making them happen. Two examples of this are the Cars and Coffee car show that was held in our parking lot last fall and the Maker's Day that will be coming up on April 6. Please share your ideas with us!

The biggest way you can participate in our area of ministry is to attend the events!

We look forward to the changing of the seasons and the new opportunities for activities they present. With warmer weather on the horizon we are excited to begin planning events that get us back outdoors.

Family Life Ministry Team (FLMT)



The Family Life Ministry Team is focused on faith formation, Biblical learnings, and social interactions for all Waterford participants from Birth to Age 30. Katie Misz is our pastoral leader for FLMT, and she is an integral part of many of the activities. Mariko Claassen is the Coordinator for Children's activities—from Birth to Grade 5. Mariko leads the Children's Cluster—a group of four or five interested persons in planning

activities for Birth to Grade 5. Helen Bowman is finishing her second term as lay ministry partner, and Karen Hostetler oversees administration. FLMT coordinates the Sunday School hour each Sunday for all children. We have Wednesday night programming for Venture Club for Grades 3-5; Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF) for Grades 6-8; Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF) for Grades 9-12; and Young Adult Fellowship (YAF) which meets as a Sunday School Class and for monthly activities.

We are so grateful for our many volunteers who bring their gifts and enthusiasm to our many activities. We are always eager to have more persons interested in joining the different groupings: whether that be as a Sunday School teacher for a whole year, several months, or working with a team of teachers; being a part of a team of sponsors for Venture Club, JYF, MYF, YAF; being a mentor; or helping with special projects like Intergenerational Summer Sunday School or Vacation Bible School (June 25-28).

Stephen Ministry at WMC (SM)



Waterford Mennonite Church has been a Stephen Ministry (stephenministry.org) congregation since 2008. Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Stephen Ministry is accountable to the pastoral team and is a part of the congregation's care model that includes nurture hour class shepherds.

Waterford's Stephen Ministry is led by *Stephen Leaders* who recruit, train, and match *Stephen*

Ministers with persons in our congregation who are experiencing life difficulties. *Stephen Ministers* meet weekly, for about an hour, with their care receiver. These caregiving relationships can last for a few months to several years. *Stephen Ministers* meet together monthly for peer group support and continuing education led by *Stephen Leaders*.

A new cohort of *Stephen Ministers* is trained every few years. Those who are newly trained commit to a two-year term of service, and are then given an opportunity to recommit to serving in the ministry on an annual basis. Some of our current ones have served over 10 years.

If you are interested in knowing how you might participate in this ministry feel free to reach out to any of our *Stephen Leaders*—Kenneth Blount, Mel or Lorna Claassen, Liz Gingrich, or Bill Minter. If you are interested in knowing more about the experience of serving as a *Stephen Minister*, feel free to reach out to those who are currently serving in this role—Rachel Brenneman, Lorna Claassen, Marge Gingerich, Bonnie Miller, Kay Miller, Bill Minter, Anita Myers or Karen Thompson.

Waterford Announcements

Update from Ecuador: God's Work Continues: Please join Jerrell Ross Richer and Steve Fath in the Fellowship Hall at **5:30 p.m. this Sunday, March 24**, to hear about some of the ways God has been working in the lives of Hiter, Irene, Charles, Tarquino, Paul, Betty and Katheryn! Jerrell and Jane spent a few precious days with our Cofán and Kichwa brothers and sisters during a visit to Ecuador in late February. Dreams of going to college, church visits to other communities, the return of the Mobile Institute—the Spirit is at work and the Church is alive and well on the other side of the equator!

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. **Please sign up by this Sunday** to bring food (soup, bread, or fruit to serve 8). We also need people to help get the tables ready for the meal. Thank you to the JYF for taking care of the cleanup after the meal!

If you want to participate in the April 14 **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** event, **this Sunday, March 24**, is your last chance to sign up! Completed forms can be returned to the collection box at the Participation Station.

Easter Sunday events:

- **7:00 a.m. Gathered outdoor Sunrise Service** at Jackson Cemetery (southeast of Goshen on CR 44, between CR 127 and CR 31). Bring your own blankets and lawn chairs.
- **9:00 a.m. Easter brunch.** Bring breads or breakfast casseroles to share.
- **10:00 a.m. Easter worship.** We will worship together through song and word and sharing in Communion. We invite you to prepare your hearts for this sign of God's peace by making peace with God and with your brothers and sisters. We will collect a special offering for the Goshen Ministerial Association's Emergency Fund administered by First Light Mission.

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**.

Salt & Light additional resource for [March 24](#).

MCUSA

MC USA's Climate Justice Ministry will begin receiving applications for the **Pam De Young Net Zero Energy Fund grant**, starting April 1, 2024. This fund assists MC USA congregations interested in various forms of renewable energy. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/apply-energy-grants View the slide here: mennoniteusa.org/apply-renewable-energy-grants

Tori Jones Long, a local organizer for Mennonite Action and a member of Salford Mennonite Church, Harleysville, Pa., reflects on why she participated in an act of civil disobedience that led to her arrest during the Jan. 16 Mennonite Action demonstration for a ceasefire. Read more about her experience in her Menno Snapshots blog here: mennoniteusa.org/civil-disobedience

On Jan. 16, 2024, **Lynn Hur**, a member of Pasadena (California) Mennonite Church participated in an outdoor peace vigil with about 200 Mennonites in front of the House of Representatives' Cannon House Office Building in Washington D.C. She reflects on "**finding people who grieve the same way you do.**" Read more about her experience here: mennoniteusa.org/grieve-same-way

MDS

The **March edition of On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King explores where we would see Jesus in disaster responses, get the latest on the damage left by the Midwest tornadoes, and learn how a remote electrician is adding a spark to an MDS project. Plus, check out the volunteer opportunities for this summer and fall. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/4adqxsS>

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.

Restorative Justice Peace Camp, Chicago, May 26-31

This Peace Camp for young adults ages 18-30 will dive into several creative ways to implement justice in local communities. Learning from experienced practitioners in Chicago, we will witness incredible ways that transformation is possible through restorative justice.

AMBS

Take a summer course at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Hybrid courses

(combining online work and one week on campus) include Christian Leadership in the 21st Century and History of Christian Spirituality. **In-person courses** (also open to auditors) include Biblical Storytelling; Spiritual Practices: Trees of Life; and The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours! Register by April 29. ambs.edu/upcoming-courses

Anabaptist Witness: Call for submissions. *Anabaptist Witness* welcomes submissions on “**Witness in Palestine and Israel**” for its October 2024 issue. *AW* is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes academic essays, reflection pieces, sermons, poetry, interviews and visual art. Historical, biblical, theological and missiological approaches are welcome. Submissions are due July 1, 2024. View guidelines: anabaptistwitness.org

MCC

Climate Action for Peace: Take the challenge: Sign up to get your free calendar with a different climate action you can take each day in April. From learning to praying to advocating, this month of activities will help you take action to address climate change. Join the challenge as an individual, family, church or small group.

Take action: [A Month of Climate Actions for Peace](#)

Upcoming Events

“Resistance, Revolution, Reconciliation!” Goshen College Spring musical, 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.

The **Window’s Haystack Fundraising Dinner** will be Saturday, March 23 at 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Grace Community Church. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children in advance, \$12 at the door. You can purchase them at the front desk of The Window, 223 S Main St or online at www.thewindowofgoshen.com/haystack-tickets.

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 to 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.

Join us for our **Michiana Vigil for Gaza** (part of Mennonite Action’s bi-national Holy Week of Action), on 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.) If you haven’t participated in an action like this before, consider watching Mennonite Action’s [Peace School webinar](#) in preparation. If you want to organize your congregation or community to make signs and banners, the Mennonite Action [toolkit](#) has lots of ideas to check out. RSVP for the event [here](#). If you’re able to provide rides for people or are looking to carpool, fill out [this spreadsheet](#).

Bethany Christian Schools is pleased to host the **Mennonite Schools Council Choir Festival 2024**. Nine participating schools from across the United States will present a concert for the community at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2024, in Sauder Concert Hall on the Goshen College campus. This concert is free and open to the public — no tickets required. A free will offering opportunity will be provided at the end of the performance.

Thanks to the diligent work of many creative people, our comforter bash committee has been overwhelmed with comforter tops that need to be made into blankets to be shipped around the world. Our committee is putting together **comforter “packets”** which will include a top, a back, batting and thread to knot it. These are available to pick up at The Depot Material Resources Center in Goshen, 1013 Division Street (Door #2), on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or by appointment (please call Nadine at 574-534-4071). Packets available while supplies last.