

This Sunday

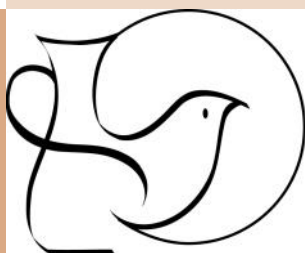
9:00 a.m. - Worship

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

12:00 p.m. - Potluck meal



March 3, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Sheldon & Velma Swartz

Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Len Harms

Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. - GDMT / Mtg Rm

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - Movie night:
Indian Horse

7:00 p.m. - Mentors/mentees

Thursday

6:30 p.m. - Stephen Ministers
MYF Rm / Rm 15

7:00 p.m. - WMT / Mtg Rm

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Restorative Rest by Bodies of Water: Sabbatical Plans and Hopes

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

Waterford's pastoral sabbatical leave policy grants a 3-month sabbatical after five years of serving the congregation and every five years thereafter (i.e. 6th, 11th, 16th years, and so on). Within the policy are noted three reasons for why WMC supports pastoral sabbaticals: To provide opportunities for pastors to experience a time of reflection on their calling, personal spiritual growth, nurture, and discernment of the congregation's future ministries. To provide opportunities for the congregation to care about the health and ongoing ministry of pastors. To provide opportunities for the congregation to nurture long-term pastorates and to enhance congregational goals and mission strategy.

I am currently in my 12th year of pastoral ministry at Waterford. I am so profoundly grateful for the gift of serving this congregation, and for the gifts that are manifested in long-term pastorates. Due to the numerous transitions we were experiencing, I asked Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) and my pastoral colleagues for their blessing for me to delay my sabbatical a year to help provide stability for the congregation and for our pastoral team. I am now joyfully anticipating my sabbatical from April 22 to July 28 (I have added a week of vacation at the end of the sabbatical to better accommodate travel plans.)

Growing up in my home congregation, a significant part of our faith formational practices was bible memorization. One of the first longer passages we were tasked to memorize was Psalm 23. I can still visualize my beloved mother sitting out in the congregation while I recited the passage; me on the platform watching my mom silently recite the

See **Sabbatical**, page 3

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 230

Nurture Hour - 216

Finances – February 25, 2024

Operating Fund \$8,258.00

Mennonite Education \$1,620.00

Either Fund \$5,850.00

Budget total \$15,728.00

Welcome Spaces \$1,000.00

Anabaptism @ 500 \$850.00

Sharing Fund \$260.00

Total **\$17,838.00**

Looking Ahead

March 10: Sermon: Cindy

Voth; Lent 4

(John 3:14-21)

March 17: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser; Lent 5

*(Jer. 31:31-34, Ps 119:9-16,
John 12:20-33, Heb. 5:5-10)*

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

Cindy Voth - March 3

Office hours this week

Monday, Thursday

9-12, 1-3

Tuesday, Friday 9-12

Wednesday Closed

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

Fellowship Activity

“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?”

By Fellowship Ministry Team

Back by popular demand!! The Fellowship Ministry Team (FMT) invites everyone to another evening of food and fellowship with others from Waterford! Instead of meeting at the church, we will be gathering in various homes of WMCers for dinner. The twist is that who you will be dining with will remain a mystery until everyone shows up that night!

This fun evening will be happening on Sunday, April 14, at 5:30 p.m. This week you will find a form in your mailbox (extras at the Participation Station) where you can sign up to HOST the dinner or to be a GUEST in someone else’s home for the meal. Hosts will choose how many guests to host in their homes (or backyards) and provide the main dish and drinks. Guests, on the other hand, will travel to someone else’s house and will provide either a salad or dessert.

Completed forms can be returned to the collection box at the Participation Station no later than Sunday, March 24. Hosts and guests will be paired by FMT and all will be notified by April 7. Hosts will only be given the number of guests that they will have in their home that evening, as well as any dietary restrictions (if any). Guests will be provided only with the address of their host, the number of guests, dietary restrictions (if any), and whether they should bring a salad or a dessert.

Come and join others for a delight-filled evening of “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?”

Donation to Support MCUSA Siblings

Cindy Voth for Pastoral Team

Recently, as a welcoming and inclusive congregation, we received an invitation to contribute to the expenses for two delegates from the Mennonite Church USA’s new Queer Constituency Council (QCC) to participate in the upcoming Constituency Leadership Council (CLC of MCUSA). The QCC is an outcome of the Resolution for Repentance and Transformation, passed at the last MCUSA delegate gathering in Kansas City.

On behalf of the congregation, I’ve made a donation of \$150 toward the fundraising goal of \$1,620. The two delegates from QCC will be Rev. Randy Spaulding (he/him), Pastor of Boulder Mennonite Church, and Rev. Shana Green (they/them) who recently became pastor of New Creation Fellowship Church in Newton, KS. From the invitation letter, “It will be a new moment for MCUSA to have two queer folks representing themselves and queer interests generally at the CLC.”

I am grateful for this invitation for our congregation to partner with other congregations in celebrating that everyone is created in God’s image and is welcomed at the table and in the faith community.

Sabbatical, (cont. from page 1)

passage with me while making signs with her hands that we had practiced together to help incite memorization. A cherished memory and a faith formational passage that guides me now as I move toward sabbatical.

My sabbatical theme is Restorative Rest by Bodies of Water. Within Psalm 23 I especially appreciate the directive language — the Lord makes me to lie down, leads me beside the still waters, and restores my soul. There is also this delightful image of being chased down by goodness and mercy. I am not one who rests well or easily. I am a doer and thrive on being engaged. Sabbatical rest, though, invites me to a different rhythm of living, loving, and relating. It invites me to rest (which I am learning is an action word) in the tender loving presence of God and to claim for myself that I too am a beloved child of God.

My travels will take to me different bodies of water as I allow God to lead me to still waters to find rest, inspiration, and rejuvenation.

Psalm 23: 1-3, 6 (NKJV, translation I memorized)

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

²He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

³He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD

Forever.

Dates	Location	
April 26 – May 6	Kineo Center, Puerto Rico A partner with MCUSA that offers guided retreats for pastors https://www.thekineocenter.com/	I will participate in their guided one-on-two retreat of "Pain and Possibilities" with their 2 leaders Dan & Tonya (you can read more about it on their website). In addition to the guided retreat sessions, my best friend Aimee Weishaupt (pastor at Silverwood Mennonite Church) and I will also explore a local coffee farm, the area beaches, El Yunque National Forest and waterfalls, and take kayak tour of Bio-Luminescent Bay.
May 15-20	Across the state of Ohio https://ohioerietrail.org/	Over 4.5 days Luke and I will bike around 340 miles from the Ohio River in Cincinnati to Lake Erie in Cleveland.
May 24-27	Hocking Hills, Ohio	Luke and I will enjoy a long weekend away with our best friends, Jon & Aimee Weishaupt, which will include hiking to local waterfalls.
June 29- July 7	Anna Maria Island, Florida https://www.beside-stillwaters.org/home/	Luke and I, along with our four children, will spend a week on Anna Maria Island, made possible by a generous family foundation who provides rentals for pastors and missionaries who need space beside still waters. We will explore the island, the beaches, as well as make a trip to the Everglades National Park.
July 17-23	Isle Royale National Park https://www.nps.gov/isro/index.htm	Luke and I will spend five days backpacking our way across the island of IRNP, located way north in Lake Superior. First though, we will drive to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and then take a little seaplane to the island. We will be dropped off at one end of the island, and then, Lord willing, that little seaplane will pick us up on the other end of the island 5 days later after backpacking 48 miles.

Along with the planned trips, I also have scheduled 11 retreat days at Pathways Retreat Center in Goshen (<https://www.pathwaysretreat.org/>). During these days I will reflect on experiences I have been having during sabbatical, dream about future opportunities for us at Waterford, and prayerfully walk their outdoor labyrinth.

Continued on next page

I have chosen the following books to accompany me through my sabbatical leave. Some of them will guide daily formational faith practices, some will stretch my theological understandings, and some will serve as resources to me in this role of pastoral team leader. I am also aware that additional resources might be added to this list, following my time at the Kineo Center and what all the Spirit unearths during my sessions.

Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves by Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes

Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story by Meghan Larissa Good

Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith by Sarah Bessey (along with a guided journal that accompanies the book)

Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human by Cole Arthur Riley

Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day! Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and In-Betweens by Kate Bowler

Preaching that Matters: Reflective Practices for Transforming Sermons by Lori J. Carrell and Alban Institute

Eight Dates: Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love by John & Julie Gottman

Thank you, my beloved congregation, for the gift of this sabbatical leave. I leave feeling energized and excited about all that is happening at Waterford, and know I will return with even more energy and excitement. I also hope I return feeling rested, restored, and ready with new inspiration for my next phase of ministry at Waterford. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I have worked with Marty Lehman, our congregational coach; MLC; and my pastoral colleagues, Deron and Katie, to create pastoral coverage during my sabbatical. I am excited to share with you that our very own Linda Short has accepted the invitation to join the pastoral team as Interim Pastoral Team Member. Within this role (~12-20 hours a week) Linda will coordinate our worship details along with Worship Ministry Team, provide pastoral care for those ages 30-59, and assist Deron and Katie with ministry and pastoral care needs. Linda has previously served in several interim pastorate roles while she and LaVon were still living in Ohio. In addition to Linda's role, we have also invited 7 guest preachers from within and beyond Waterford to preach in my absence. I am excited for WMC to hear from others as they lead us in thinking about various biblical characters (May & July), and themes related to Creation (June).



Racial Justice Course

Are you longing to deepen into your commitments to racial justice in community with other white folks?

Unraveling Whiteness is a course co-facilitated by Nicole Bauman and Kara Bender that invites you into conversation and learning through the body with other white folks living into racial justice commitments. Participants will be invited into practice around gratitude, tapping into emotions, re-inhabiting time, and leaning into our interconnectedness to the more-than-human world, as some ways to embody anti-racism. Five Wednesday's **online** starting April 3, 7 -9 p.m. ET. [Details and Registration Here](#) or email nicoleocbauman@gmail.com for info.



Waterford Announcements

There will be a potluck meal this Sunday after the nurture hour. Please bring a dish or two to share: hot dishes (preferably in crock pots), sides, salads or deserts. You are welcome to bring your own table service.

Come watch the movie “Indian Horse” on Wednesday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m., in the sanctuary. The story follows a young Anishanaabe (Ojibway) boy through boarding school to becoming a professional hockey player. All are welcome.

We are still needing **hosts for the Mennonite Schools Council choir weekend**, April 5-7. Along with 20 students, we also need housing for 6 adults. As a host, you would be responsible to provide lodging for two nights, and serve breakfast Saturday and Sunday; and provide transportation to and from Bethany/Goshen College as needed. **Please sign up at the participation station this Sunday** or contact Cynthia Bontrager at cynthia.bontrager@gmail.com if you can help out.

The **Window’s Haystack Fundraising Dinner** will be Saturday, March 23 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Grace Community Church. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children in advance. You can purchase them at the front desk of The Window, 223 S Main St, online at www.thewindowofgoshe.com/haystack-tickets, or **contact Karon Weaver** at 574 343 4168 or 574-534-1075 and she’ll bring them to you at church.

Salt & Light additional resource for [March 3](#).

MCUSA

Energized by a Super Bowl commercial, MC USA Executive Director **Glen Guyton calls us to reclaim foot washing** as a tangible expression of our Anabaptist faith. Read his reflections here:

mennoniteusa.org/act-of-foot-washing

Talashia Keim Yoder, a pastor at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana, and author of Mennonite Education Agency’s “Lent at Home 2024” downloadable worship guide for families, **reframes Lenten confession and penitence** with the life-giving ways we can find God in the desert. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: mennoniteusa.org/lent24-jesus-desert

Opportunities

Community Peacemaker Teams Delegation Virtual Information Session: March 9, 2024: 11 a.m. Are you passionate about peace and justice? Do you crave an immersive experience that challenges your perspective and empowers you to act? In this informative session, you’ll hear firsthand accounts from CPT team members of delegations in Palestine, Colombia, the US/Mexico Borderlands, Iraqi Kurdistan, Lesbos and Turtle Island. Find more information and register at https://cpt.org/delegations/delegation-information?blm_aid=29906

The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation: June 10–24. Participants in this nine-day pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military’s 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatimie, Kansas. This intensive AMBS course can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. Sign up by May 1. ambs.edu/trail-of-death

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes is seeking a Church and Community Liaison. This role will be responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with congregations and constituent groups in the Great Lakes region. This includes speaking in churches, representing MCC in various settings and promoting MCC programs, resources and materials. This position may be remote or hybrid in the Great Lakes region where MCC U.S. is a registered employer. For more information and to apply by March 10, visit mcc.org/gl-church-community.

Employment openings at AMBS. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is accepting applications for a Caterer in Residence; a Development Associate; a Program Administrator for Anabaptist Thriving Congregations; and an Administrative Assistant for Anabaptist Thriving Congregations. See job descriptions: ambs.edu/jobs

An Invitation from the Northern Indiana Mennonite Action Team:

If you are committed to a theology of peace and justice and have been distressed by the news from Israel/Palestine, please join us on March 9 & 10 to learn how Mennonite Action is carrying forward the call for a ceasefire, release of all hostages, and providing humanitarian aid rather than weapons of war. Nick Martin, national coordinator of Mennonite Action, will lead us in envisioning how we can build a coalition to organize local actions calling for a just peace for all Palestinians and Israelis.

Come for organizing and training sessions at Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, on Saturday, March 9, 1:00-6:00 p.m., and Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, Elkhart, on Sunday, March 10, at 1:30 p.m., closing with a hymn sing at 5:15 p.m. There is a home for you in this Mennonite movement! Click here for more details about the weekend sessions. [MA Schedule](#). Click here to let us know you hope to attend! [RSVP](#)

AMBS

Mary Oyer hymn sing audio recordings available online.

“Wade in the Water: Singing our Faith” — a community hymn sing organized and led by Mary K. Oyer and Kent Dutchersmith with musicians from Faith Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana — is now available as a YouTube playlist in honor of Mary, a longtime music professor who died Jan. 11, 2024. The hymn sing was held June 15, 2007, at Goshen College’s Sauder Hall as part of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference’s Annual Sessions, and the recordings are shared by Faith Mennonite Church with the permission and blessing of the conference. The recordings illuminate Mary’s warm, open and gracious way of leading people in creating music together and of introducing music from across the world. ambs.edu/in-mi-hymn-sing

MDS

The **February edition of On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King shares his insights on Jesus passion for sharing meals, learn how MDS volunteers are finding additional work along the Texas border, and find out why one woman says MDS is the light of Canada. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/49pNHoc>

Upcoming Events

Dinner & A Movie Fundraiser for the Goshen High School band, Wednesday, March 6, in downtown Goshen. All sales at selected downtown businesses between 4 and 7 p.m. will donate 20% of their sales to GHS Band. There will also be a showing of “Coco” at the theatre. See poster on the bulletin board for details.

Lacasa’s annual luncheon is March 13, 2024. Find information and register at <https://lacasainc.net/annual-luncheon/>.

“Heart for Wood”: Eco-art wooden book exhibit at AMBS. A collection of books carved out of discarded wood by artist Christine Langerhorst of Utrecht, Netherlands has been donated to the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Library. On Thursday, March 14, 9-11 a.m., view the books on display in the AMBS Library; and at 9:45-10:15 a.m., join a reception with snacks and an artist talk in the AMBS Lounge. The reception is free; **advance registration is required as space is limited.** ambs.edu/langerhorst

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.

Upcoming Events at Goshen College:

- **Voices of the Earth Choir Tour Home Concert**, Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in Sauder Concert Hall. Free and open to the public.
- Dr. Robert Brennehan, professor of criminal justice and sociology at GC, will present the **C. Henry Smith Peace Lecture**, titled “The New Peacebuilders: Shifting Violence, Shifting Peace in Northern Central America,” on Tuesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. in the College Mennonite Church Koinonia Room. The lecture is free and open to the public.
- Annual **Goshen College Conference on Religion and Science**, March 8-10. Warren S. Brown, professor of psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary, will explore the topic “Neuroscience and Christian Life.” Brown will present two free, public lectures on March 8 and 9. More information at goshen.edu/religionscience.
- Performing Arts Series will host **International Guitar Night**, March 9, 7:30 p.m., Sauder Concert Hall. International Guitar Night is the world’s premier touring guitar festival, with each show bringing together the most interesting and innovative acoustic guitar luminaries for a special evening of solos, duets and quartets that highlight the dexterity and diversity within the world of acoustic guitar. Tickets at <https://goshen.universitytickets.com/>
- **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>.
- **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 comment by photographer at 2:20 p.m. Free and open to the public.