

**Wall Hanging in
Volunteer Center at
Peace Academic Center**

Kykotsmovi, Arizona



Native American Ten Commandments

1. The Earth is your Mother, care for her
2. Honor all your relations
3. Open your heart and soul to the Great Spirit
4. All life is sacred; treat all beings with respect
5. Take from the Earth what is needed and nothing more
6. Do what needs to be done for the good of all
7. Give constant thanks to the Great Spirit for each new day
8. Speak the truth; but only of the good in others
9. Follow the rhythms of nature; rise and retire with the sun
10. Enjoy life's journey, but leave no tracks



April 281, 2024

The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship

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

Welcome Team

Greeters: Doug & Janette Yoder

Ushers: Dennis Myers, Carla Miller, Wade Ramer

Audiovisuals: Derrick Ramer, Jordan Kauffman

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - Mentors/Mentees

Thursday

6:30 p.m. - Stephen

Ministers / MYF Rm, Rm 15

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Hopi Reservation Experience

George and Karen Thompson

The Hopis discovered they had similarities with Mennonites in the 1800s. Consequently, they provided Mennonites with 40 acres of land in Kykotsmovi, Arizona. On that land is now Peace Academic Center (formerly called Hopi Mission School) and 15 other buildings. We (George & Karen) volunteered at Peace Academic Center through the Service Opportunities with Our Partners (SOOP) Program of Mennonite Mission Network for 2.5 months in 2023.

The school thrived and produced generations of top-notch students until an administrator embezzled funds about 15 years ago. The school is still recuperating from being closed for years due to the FBI investigation and COVID.

The existing school program consisted of kindergarten through eighth grade. The 16 students were divided into 3 classes. A young Hopi lady who had graduated from Peace Academic Center worked with kindergarten-3rd grade students. A woman volunteer from Ohio guided the instruction of the 4th-6th graders. The head of school's male Hopi liaison on site assumed responsibility for the education of the two 8th graders. George drove the school bus, taught mathematics to the eighth graders, supervised noon recess, assisted in classes as needed, and made needed small repairs. Karen provided catch-up assistance to students following their frequent absences and taught students with special needs in the resource room we created for students.

Karen also discovered storerooms of unused valuable teaching supplies. Consequently, we spent many after-school hours cleaning, dusting, sorting, and arranging materials. The staff was grateful for the resource room created for teachers.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 232

Nurture hour - 221

Finances – April 21, 2024

Operating Fund	\$12,681.00
Mennonite Education	\$1,550.00
Either Fund	\$4,115.00
<i>Budget total</i>	<i>\$18,346.00</i>
Jubilee Fund	\$60.00
Two-Way Mission	\$200.00
Welcome Spaces	\$1,200.00
Total	\$19,806.00

Looking Ahead

May 5: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Biblical Character - Thomas
(John 20:19-29)

May 12: Sermon: Lyle Miller; Biblical Character - Job

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

On Sabbatical

Linda Short, Interim Pastor
Tuesday, Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, Pastor
Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, Pastor
Tuesday, Thursday
Monday & Wednesday p.m.

Out of Office

Elvina Schmidt - May 1-6

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

We stayed in the duplex of the current head of school. (She was offsite in Newton, Kansas during the time we were there.) To help the school survive financially, many of the campus buildings were rented out to agencies that benefit the Hopis.

We observed and learned about Hopi life. Hopi means “peaceful people.” Hopis believe that everyone must live in peace and harmony with nature. We were told that when conscripted by the U.S. government, some Hopi men were conscientious objectors.

We were grateful for what we knew and learned about the Doctrine of Discovery. The Hopis lost no land due to colonization. However, the Navajos took Hopi land after they lost land to colonizers. Today the small Hopi community is entirely surrounded by the Navajo reservation. There are 13 villages located on the 3 Hopi mesas (flat top mountains) in northeast Arizona’s challenging desert environment.

The thirty maternally based clans are the center of the Hopi culture. One of the major preoccupations of the Hopis is rain. (Corn is vital to Hopi subsistence and religion.) The excessive snowfall during the time we were there was expected to boost the next crops and counter the effects from recent drought years.

The Hopis are an ancient culture. The oldest continually occupied village in the United States is a Hopi settlement called Old Oraibi. (It has been in existence since 1150 AD.) We saw petroglyphs that still have meaning for the Hopi. (The Hopis have been considered the Native Americans’ memory keepers.)

Hopis are deeply rooted in the traditions and experiences of their ancestors. They look to the wisdom of the past to assist in decisions which determine the future of their children.

Hopis are deeply religious. The most important part of all ceremonies occurs in the Kiva. (The kiva is an underground chamber where rituals are held by the priest of the clan.) They are intentionally secretive about what happens in the kiva. Hopis believe that Kachina dances are vital for continued harmony and balance of the world.

A highlight for us was attending church services on Sundays. We participated in the Mennonite church in Kykotsmovi. (Although “Mennonite” is still part of the signage, it no longer has any connection with the Mennonite denomination.) We also attended the First Mesa Baptist in Polacca, and visited the Bacavi Community Church in Bacavi one Sunday. Our Sunday at Black Mountain Mennonite Church pastored by Daniel Smiley, a Navajo, was especially memorable.

Our time at Peace Academic Center was bittersweet. There seemed to be a real need for greater indigenous involvement and a need for future envisioning for the buildings and land. The limited time spans of volunteers made it difficult to provide the consistency and stability needed by the students and staff. The sweetness came from learnings gained from Native Americans and positive interactions with students, staff, community members, and church attenders.

Event Host – job opening

In order to maintain our newly renovated fellowship hall, WMC is making a change to our rental policy for outside renters (those renters that have no immediate connection with WMC). One of those changes is that we now require a host to be present at the church during the event. We are looking for applicants that are interested in this position of **Event Host**. This work schedule is irregular and only will be needed for the duration of each event. The main role of this position is opening and closing of the building and being present during the event. Due to the irregularity of these events we're looking for multiple applicants that are interested to be on a call list. The Event Host pay rate is \$15.00 per hour which is paid from the increase in rental fee. The Event Host is allowed to read books, watch Tik-Tok videos, scroll Instagram or Facebook post, even do homework, as long as they are available to assist the renter and answer any questions they may have. Please contact Jan Oostland at facilities@waterfordchurch.org for a brief job description or to answer any questions.

Waterford Announcements

Volunteers are still needed for Summer VBS June 25-28. This year we will be traveling back in time to the early church. We will follow the life and work of Paul the apostle, hide from the Roman soldiers, and learn how to walk the Way of Jesus when the path is not easy. The theme of *This is the Way: The Underground Church* invites adult and youth participants to create a reenactment of Bible times. You could act out stories of biblical Characters, be a shopkeeper in the marketplace, accompany a group of time travelers, decorate for an ancient Roman world, lead singing, cook international foods, and more. Contact Mariko at Marikomc@gmail.com with questions and turn in the form in your mailbox to the participation station today!

Please remember to **return your card indicating which June elective(s) you are likely to attend** to the box at the Participation Station by this Sunday. There are extra cards at the Participation Station. Multiple members of a household may mark the same card. Please note that some electives are only available on certain dates.

Our **spring congregational meeting** will be next Sunday, May 5, at 1:00 p.m., immediately following our potluck meal. The packet of budget materials, meeting agenda and ballot in your mailbox that were in your mailbox will be discussed and voted on in the meeting. Absentee ballots must be placed in the basket outside the office door by noon on May 5.

Upcoming Events

Goshen College's **Combined Senior Art Exhibit** will run from April 27-29 in the Music Center's Hershberger Art Gallery. The combined senior art exhibit will feature senior art majors Sarah Corbitt (paintings), **Anna Myers** (ceramics), Jackelyn Resendiz Palos (pattern designs), Shayne Wassell (graphic design), Saige Lind (ceramics), Anna Kauffman (drawings) and Annika Alderfer Fisher (drawings).

MCUSA

The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board, meeting via Zoom on March 15-16, 2024, **affirmed a clean audit and a new strategic plan** that seeks to reimagine church in new ways. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/executive-board-plan

The Schowalter Foundation, North Newton, Kansas, has provided \$10,000 to fund up to four semester-long internships at the Mennonite Church USA Archives and to **help digitize fragile resources** in 2024. Oscar J. Murguia, a third-year history major at Goshen College, has been awarded the 2024 spring semester internship. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/schowalter-archive-interns

Dr. Lesley F. McClendon presented this devotional at the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board meeting recently. She reflects on **what reimagining the church means** and how we can stay true to the gospel message, while also accommodating our rapidly changing needs as a culture. Read it here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/reimagining-church

MCC

You can make a difference in the world! **MCC is seeking applicants for two-year Canner Operators:** Since 1946, MCC's mobile meat cannery has preserved hundreds of thousands of cans of meat for communities in need around the world. But this is only possible with the assistance of MCC canner operators and volunteers.

Requirements:

- Ready to serve in the name of Christ
- Mechanical aptitude
- 21 years or older, single and male preferred

To learn more, visit mcc.org/canner-operator or call Joe Miller at 717-808-2417.

AMBS

Spiritual Direction:

Foundations. Strengthen your skills in offering spiritual direction through the first level of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's supervised spiritual direction program. This course — which can be done either in person or online — will help you grow in confidence and competence as a spiritual director. The seminar begins Sept. 3; apply by July 15 to save \$200. ambs.edu/seminars

Anabaptist Short Course

Bundle. Deepen your understanding of Anabaptist history, thought, witness and practice through discussion-based online short courses from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Take four noncredit online courses in 2024–25 for only \$995 total and save more than \$400. (The regular price is \$350/course.) No grades, no papers! Each course lasts six weeks. CEUs available. ambs.edu/bundle

MDS

The April edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King shares a truly uplifting story of MDS work in Maryland, volunteers are transforming lives in Mississippi, and long-time project in Jennings, Louisiana comes to a close. Plus, check out the volunteer opportunities for this summer and fall. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3UjUriu>

Sewing and Crafting Workshop: Come to a sewing and crafting workshop at East Goshen Mennonite Church, 2019 E. Lincoln Ave, this Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Everything needed for these projects has been donated and all items made will be sold at the Relief Sale (Sept 27-28, 2024). Taco Salad will be provided so bring a snack, side dish or dessert to share for lunch. Please **RSVP to crafting.mmrs@gmail.com by April 29** or email if you have questions. Feel free to bring your own projects along to work on.

Goshen Public Library will partner with Kerry Ann Sandsmark, the Homestead Adult Day Center Manager at Greencroft Communities, to present **“Five Empowerment Tools for Memory Care at Home”** on Tuesday, May 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the GPL Auditorium and home setup can help, using unexpected things to help keep a routine, and meaningful sensory activities. **This event is free and open to the public.**

Looking for a creative event for children? **God’s Wonderful Creatures** is a two-session experience for children in grades K-8 at Pathways Retreat in Goshen on May 11 and 18. Led by John Nafziger and Steve Thomas, children will learn in session one about native birds and animals and spend time looking for some animals in the woods. They will then create several creatures out of clay. In session two, children will glaze their animal sculptures and look for animal habitats in the woods as they walk the trails. After May 25, children may pick up their finished sculptures. One sculpture will stay at Pathways to be hidden along the trails and one may be taken home. For more information or to come clay with us, [Register here](#).

Reserve the dates of Friday, June 7, 2024 from 7 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, June 8, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the 2024 **Puerto Rico Menno Reunion**. The reunion will take place at Greencroft Goshen Community Center. This event promises to be spectacular with Puerto Rican music, updates about some of the projects started by the Mennonites and a wonderful potluck lunch with your favorite Puerto Rican recipes. Please feel free to spread the word. The WMC Spanish-speaking June elective will attend this event that morning.

Opportunities

Mennonite Disaster Service will be working in **Westside Chicago neighborhoods** beginning May 3 in homes affected by flooding in July, 2023. Volunteers will be needed to remove damaged belongings and fixtures, such as drywall and flooring, and perform mold remediation. The work will be conducted on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as Memorial Day, recruiting daily volunteers within driving distance of Chicago. This will be a cooperative effort with a number of disaster response organizations. The work involves energy but not advanced skills or construction knowledge. Youth who are 14 years or older and accompanied by parents/adults are welcomed. Volunteers should plan to get dirty, bring their own lunch for the day. Water and snacks will be provided. The days currently being scheduled are: May 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 23-25, 27, 31-June 1. If interested and available, please contact George Kalopisis at cookcounty@mds.org.

[Navigation Feedback: Deepening Collaboration in the Conversations We Need](#) Imagine you are supported to approach conversations you usually dread feeling grounded, clear, confident and compassionate. This five-session online workshop from May 3 to May 17 is focused on deepening collaboration in feedback conversations with practical guidance for how we can prepare and communicate in ways that are rooted in empathy for ourselves and others. [Details on fees, sliding scale, and scholarship options here.](#)* Or contact nicoleocbauman@gmail.com.