



July 7, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jim & Lila Gascho
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - Ecuador prayers

Thursday

8:30 a.m. - Mennonite Women / MYF Room

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

7:00 p.m. - FFMT

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Summer Fest 2024 brought to us by Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC)

Aaron Lehman, WMC Delegate

Many times, church gatherings can have a heavy feel. Weighty decisions are being made about who we understand God to be. Who we understand our neighbor to be. Or long-standing friendships and relationships seem to be at risk. The very heart of Jesus is in flux.

But not always...

Summer Fest 2024 in Indianapolis had a light, joyful feel. And it wasn't just the name change from the mundane Annual Gathering, to the free and inviting Summer Fest. There were youth participating. The host church, Mara Christian Church of America, exuded warmth and a sense of optimism about their growing congregation and the work being done within the Mara community in Indy. First Mennonite Church of Indy led upbeat worship with a band ranging in age from 13 to 60. And sure, a budget was passed, minutes were approved, and committees were joined. And the agenda included a lesson on a third way between unanimity and division. A pathway together based upon consensus. Consensus is an acceptable outcome for all to move forward. The IN-MI spring meetings provided a time for questions, conversation, responses, and testing consensus. And when Summer Fest's agenda called for a vote, they turned out to be unanimous. Surely agendas in future years will be more contentious than this year. But a vision for consensus offers hope. Yet the spirit of this gathering was not an agenda nor any particular votes. Not this year.

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Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 189

Nurture hour - 127

Finances – July 7, 2024

Operating Fund \$4,405.00

Mennonite Education \$2,097.03

Either Fund \$18,210.00

Budget total \$24,712.03

Sharing Fund \$175.00

Two-Way Mission \$930.51

VBS Offering (MCC) \$189.25

Total **\$26,006.79**

Looking Ahead

July 14: Sermon: Jane Ross Richer;

(*Esther 4:10-16*)

July 21: Sermon: Sharon Yoder; Hagar

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

Katie Misz - July 7-8

Deron Bergstresser - July 12-19

Janet Shoemaker - July 8

Office hours this week

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9-12, 1-3

Tuesday, Friday 9-12

Greeter signup: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRLd0Ydw_QxRiQUvRhUscNV-k0HV-oTcPnu61NyBcjm/edit?usp=sharing

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

The spirit of Summer Fest was found playing lawn games, worshipping together, eating ice cream with youth, spending an hour appreciating nature in the midst of urban sprawl. I met church friends I haven't seen in years, and spoke Amharic with my Goshen College SST leader, Gashe Zenebe Abebe. I learned about the Spirit of God moving in my fellow IN-MI churches locally in Goshen, Indianapolis and Fort Wayne. I learned about Its movement in Bangladesh and Myanmar. And in immigration detention centers in Indiana and Arizona.

IMMC's Summer Fest 2024 was the very best of church brothers and sisters worshipping and being family together. Long may it be so.

Spoiler Alert: Summer Fest 2025 is being hosted by Waterford! I look forward to all of you joining in—as delegates, leadership, volunteers, and all others who belong to the IMMC family.

By Aaron Lehman along with other WMC delegates: Deron Bergstresser, Katie and JE Misz, Dom Ramer, Isaac Pfahler and Rose Shetler

Business Manager Needed

Ministry Leadership Council is in search of our next Business Manager. If you are interested or if you want you want more information before you decide that you are interested, please get in touch with Rose Shetler at roseshetler2@gmail.com. A job description and more details including compensation will be shared. This is a paid position that averages 2-5 hours per week.

Waterford Announcements

Beginning this Sunday, the regular children's nurture hour classes will not meet for the month of July. Adult classes are welcome to meet in their usual places if they wish. All classes will resume in August.

Next week **Mennonite Women** will meet on Thursday in the MYF room at church. Doors are open from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. As usual we will work on MCC projects. Bring a dish to share if you stay for lunch.

Save the Date: The next Guess Who's Coming to Dinner will be Sunday, August 18.

Upcoming Events

Semilla Seminary Update: There will be an Ice Cream Social at Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen, on Sunday, July 14, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Come celebrate SEMILLA, including an update on the new degree program in Cuba, by Jerry Kennell, SEMILLA North American Ambassador. Please RSVP by July 10 to ambassadors@semillagt.org. If interested, you are also welcome to attend Jerry's presentation/message at Assembly Mennonite at 9:30 a.m., that Sunday morning.

Touch the Earth Lightly. The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and Mennonite Action are partnering to sponsor a delegation of undergraduate student activists to travel to Arizona and participate in the Mt. Graham Run with Apache Stronghold from July 18-21. This is an opportunity for the next generation of activists to hear firsthand from Indigenous activists and support Apache Stronghold's defense of sacred sites from the devastation of the extractive industry. If you're interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Doe from the Coalition by emailing: doe@dismantleddiscovery.org.

Parents and grandparents: Consider Amigo's MDS Family Camp, July 21-25. A family camp for children ages 4 and up to participate in age appropriate construction projects alongside their parents or grandparents. Each day includes work projects and fun camp activities. Meals provided, lodging in West Shore Lodge. \$140 for ages 16 and up, \$110 for ages 4-15. See orange flyer on the bulletin board for more details and contact information.

Celebrate our community at the 4th annual **Festival of Hope**, July 27, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Goshen Brewing Company. Live music, taco truck, ice cream truck, Makers Market, local nonprofits, children's activities, and more! FREE to attend and all are welcome. Donate online or onsite to help Center for Healing & Hope raise \$25,000 for 25 years of service! All donations support the affordable healthcare and immigrant advocacy programs of CHH. Sponsorships available. Email Daniel at dtackett@chhclinics.org to become a sponsor of this great community event!

Opportunities

Racial Justice Pilgrimage: South Africa. October 15-28, 2024. Church groups, friends and family are invited to join in exploring South Africa's beauty and culture as we learn the country's history and its ongoing struggles while pursuing peace and reconciliation.

Raise funds to replace olive tree in Palestine. Israelis have destroyed over one million olive trees belonging to Palestinians. Why? To strike at their livelihoods, create economic hardships, and displace them from their land. Once trees are removed and farmers are forced to leave their land, Israelis may claim and add this land to their settlements in occupied Palestine. This is one of many aggravating factors leading to Palestinian resistance and the current war. **Help MennoPIN and the Mennonite Men JoinTrees campaign raise \$50,000 to replace 2,500-3,000 olive trees and enable Palestinian families to remain on their land.**

Seeking an Administrative Assistant for the Anabaptist Thriving Congregations Grant. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is accepting applications for this 0.5 to 0.75 FTE position. The person in this role will provide support for a program that will train pastors and lay leaders to lead their congregations in a process of investigating their context, facilitating innovative Bible study and guiding group discernment. The program and position are funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. and will end after five years. See the full job description: ambs.edu/jobs

MCUSA

The **Mennonite Church USA Executive Board and MC USA's Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference** filed an amicus brief on April 25, 2024, in support of Apache-Stronghold's petition for a new full-court hearing on the potential destruction of Oak Flat, a sacred Indigenous site in Arizona. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/apache-stronghold

“Lead/Follow” is a video podcast for pastors and congregational leaders, hosted by MC USA's executive director, Glen Guyton. Find season one here: mennoniteusa.org/leadfollow View the PDF here: mennoniteusa.org/leadfollow-pdf

Carol Penner describes the history of the **Together in Worship team** and their website, which offers **free worship resources** in one convenient location. Read her blog here: mennoniteusa.org/resourcing-church-community

Brenda L. Yoder, author of “Uncomplicated: Simple Secrets for a Compelling Life,” has found that the uncomplicated life of living in a rural Amish/Mennonite community has appeal for many people, due to the slower lifestyle and values that come with living this way. Read her blog here: mennoniteusa.org/uncomplicated

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program.

Encourage someone you know who has gifts for ministry to check out this distance-friendly undergraduate-level AMBS program! Journey helps participants nurture their leadership abilities, grow in spiritual practices, and deepen their understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry with the guidance of a dedicated pastoral mentor and experienced facilitators. The Fall 2024 cohort begins Sept. 6; those who apply by July 11 can save \$100! ambs.edu/journey

Mennonite Action

Mennonite Action Prayers at College Mennonite Church on Tuesday, July 16, will include times of prayer in song, spoken prayer, silence, scripture, and candle lighting. This month we will meet in the sanctuary from 12 noon to 1 p.m. In addition to praying for peace in Gaza and throughout the world, we will pray for those Mennonites and other Anabaptists and Allies who will be “marching in the light of God” from Harrisonburg, Virginia, to Washington, DC. They will use bodies and voices to bring messages of peace through the hills of Virginia and to the halls of power. We will also pray for the Mennonite Action activities in Washington, DC, between July 28 and 30, which will include joining a multifaith coalition to peacefully call for a permanent ceasefire. See (<https://www.mennoniteaction.org/>) for more about Mennonite Action and information about joining in its peaceful witness.

We are marching in the light of God. July 18-28, Mennonite Action calls for Mennonites, Christians, and friends of Mennonite to march from Harrisonburg, VA to Washington, DC across a 10 day, 140 mile march. Together, we will use our bodies and voices to bring our message of peace through the hills of Virginia and to the halls of power. [Learn how to join and support in our march toolkit.](#)

The next **Boycott/Divest/Sanction (BDS) teach-in** will be July 24, 5:30-7:30pm at the Goshen Public Library. Come learn more about BDS from our panel of speakers, and explore how this strategy can be a way to support a ceasefire and Palestinian liberation through your economic choices at home every day.

We are people of God’s peace. July 28-30, we will mobilize in Washington, DC during the Christians United for Israel (CUFI) conference to promote an alternative theology to one of genocide and hate. CUFI is the largest “pro-Israel” organization in the United States that promotes Christian Zionist policies. We will join a multiracial, multifaith coalition to demand a permanent ceasefire. Visit Mennonite Action’s website (<https://www.mennoniteaction.org/>) for additional information and to register for these action days. **Mennonite Action Michiana** is coordinating carpooling to Washington, DC. **PLEASE fill out [this survey](#) as soon as possible** if you want to receive carpooling information.