



August 11, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

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

Welcome Team

Greeters: Dan & Diane Bodiker
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, Denise Diener
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann, Jordan Kauffman

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - Ecuador Prayers

Thursday

6:30 p.m. - Worship MT / Meeting Rm

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

Pathfinders: Still finding paths

by Lyle Miller

The Pathfinders are beloved children of God.

That's one of the few declarative statements that can be made about everyone in the Sunday school class that typically meets behind the first door in the fellowship hall's new hallway.

Oh, and that we're pathfinders. But more on that later.

Birth years in the class range from early 1950s to the early 1970s. We check a lot of boxes on the couple status question of a survey – married, never married, formerly married through death or separation. For those with children, our kids range from teenagers to those with teenagers of their own. Some of us began attending Waterford soon after the church began, while others have begun attending quite recently.

We've spent our time in many ways. Many have served overseas or domestically as volunteers. Some have had significant times of no paid employment, while some have worked part-time, some full-time and at times, more than full-time. Many of us have spent time in more than one of those groups. Educationally, we tend toward being college grads, though some are not and some have advanced degrees.

On a given Sunday, there are about 20 or so people in the room, with a few joining by Zoom, but there are about 40 individuals on the class email. Our attendance isn't that poor; we just have folks that remain connected to the group. On most Sundays Pathfinders are also elsewhere in the building, notably teaching children and youth.

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Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 237

Nurture Hour – 134

Finances – August 4, 2024

Operating Fund	\$8,030.00
Mennonite Education	\$2,375.00
Either Fund	\$3,905.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$14,310.00</i>
Welcome Spaces	\$4,000.00
Two-Way Mission	\$75.00
Total	\$18,385.00

Looking Ahead

August 18: Sermon: Cindy Voth;

Sabbatical Sharing

(Psalm 23)

August 25: Baptism

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Friday

Deron Bergstresser, Pastor

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, Pastor

Tuesday, Thursday

Monday & Wednesday p.m.

Out of Office

Katie Misz - August 11-17

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?gid=0#gid=0

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

For our own learning and nurture, we tend to alternate between using Salt and Light materials and a variety of topical books. Using both is intentional, so we can be rooted in both the Word and the world.

We've had people in visible leadership positions, with others serving behind the scenes. We're committed to the local and broader church and its ministries.

And committed to each other. We're good at both laughing together and crying together. A reason for our breadth of experience is that we have been known as warm, welcoming and inviting to anyone, supporting each other along life's journey. We've even published our own cookbook, written to collect and share recipes for the food we brought to each other following childbirths, funerals and medical procedures. Some of those cookbooks are still in service, showing the food stains of continued use. In fact, there's Chili Chicken Lasagna in this author's freezer right now.

From these paragraphs, you can see why "categorizing" the class can be difficult. On most measurable markers, the bell curve of our distribution will be a little shorter at the peak and a little broader at the base. (Another point of variance – some of us like numbers and stats; others not so much. But you could say the same about sports, reading novels, cooking and baking and any number of other things some of us do for enjoyment.)

Our class began in the early 1980s, and the name "Pathfinders" was eventually chosen to recognize the transition point many were in and as a way of committing to finding life's path together. Which leads us back to that word. As individuals in community, we've found a lot of paths, but we're still finding more.

The paths have changed, however. Once we were considering how to relate to our middle-age parents; now we're in the middle, with many of us considering how to relate to (and care for) aging parents. Once we were the younger adults just starting out; now many of us our supporting our own children as younger adults just starting out. Once we were trying to figure out how to start a working career, now many of us are trying to figure how to end one.

But the common theme in the pathfinding has been (and still is) doing the search together, committed to discipleship and faithfulness. We learn from each other. We each bring gifts to the table. And together we walk, in thankfulness and joy. If that sounds like a journey you want to be on, please join us.

Waterford Announcements

Summer is slowing down and people are returning from vacations. **As a gesture of hospitality** to our fellow church attenders and guests, please leave space at both end of the rows by filling the seats from the center so that people who come after you can find a place to sit.

It's My Coins Count time again! Your collections will help provide clean water to families around the world through Mennonite Central Committee and its partners. Families are **invited to bring coins** for the MyCC bottle at church beginning this Sunday, which will be dropped off and counted at the Elkhart Fair Grounds on September 27 and 28. Adults can support the drive by offering to match the amount collected by the children! Thank you for making a difference in the world through MyCC and MCC!

Safe Spaces training Aug 20 & Aug 21:

If you volunteer at Waterford with youth or children, or if you have never done safe spaces training at Waterford, we would like you to attend an upcoming workshop. This safe church workshop is a collaboration with local MCUSA congregations to help us be sanctuaries for the most vulnerable to know how to respond when things go awry. The gatherings will include presentations from MC USA Safe Church as well as CAPS. *All volunteers with children and youth are encouraged to attend or watch the recorded sessions if you are unable to attend in person.* There will be two different meetings, one located in Goshen and one in Elkhart:

August 20 from 6-7:30 @ Silverwood Mennonite Church

August 21 from 6-7:30 @ Belmont Mennonite Church

RSVP to Katie@waterfordchurch.org by August 10. Let Katie know which night you plan to attend and if you need childcare.

MCC School Kits: We're up to 137 school kits! We will be collecting kits until August 25. There are bags and content lists on a table near the library, and metal pencil sharpeners that you may use. Get your supplies while the sales are on!

Business Manager Needed: Ministry Leadership Council is in search of our next Business Manager. If you are interested or if 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.

Upcoming Community Events

MCC Storytelling in Goshen: You are invited to join MCC for two opportunities to hear stories from Vurayayi Pugeni, MCC Area Director for Southern Central Africa and Nigeria.

- **MCC Alumni & Friends Potluck:** Thursday, August 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship (2509 Berkey Avenue in Goshen). Please bring a favorite dish to share (tableware will be provided), and join an evening of stories from Pugeni about MCC's work in Africa. If possible, please RSVP by August 19 at mcc.org/goshen-potluck. Or contact our office at 574.534.4133 or GreatLakes@mcc.org.
- **MCC Stories from Africa:** Friday, August 23 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at Jennings Auditorium at Greencroft (1820 Greencroft Blvd in Goshen). Opportunity to hear first-hand stories from Pugeni about MCC's work in Southern Central Africa and Nigeria. The public is invited to this free event. No RSVP required.

Amigo Centre Scrapbooking, Quilting, & Crafting Retreat, September 27-29. Whether you scrapbook, quilt, or have another craft that you love, Amigo invites you to join us for a weekend to enjoy crafting and good fellowship. See the details at <https://www.amigocentre.org/scrap-quilt-craft-retreat.html>.

Mennonite Church USA

Rachel Ringenberg Miller denominational minister for ministerial leadership for MC USA, explains how pastors fill their work week with various activities that congregants may or may not be aware of, answering the question, **"What does my pastor do all day?"** Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/pastor-all-day

Subscribe to PeaceMail to receive MC USA's blogs, news and resources in one weekly email. Subscribe to PeaceMail here: mennoniteusa.org/peacemail

MEDA

MEDA Dessert Banquet. The Michiana Hub of Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) is hosting a dessert banquet at Maple City Chapel on **Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.** Werner Franz, from MEDA Paraguay, will share MEDA's origin story—the story of how Anabaptists in North America joined together to support international business development—and what that has meant for the dairy industry in Paraguay. Dr. Dorothy Nyambi, MEDA President & CEO, will share about MEDA's vision and mission through stories of personal change. Please come for this opportunity to explore the relationship of faith, entrepreneurship, and creativity to reduce poverty around the world! [Follow this link for more information or to register as a table sponsor or individual.](#)

AMBS

Online Short Course: Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible: Sept. 11 – Oct. 22.

Join Drew Strait, PhD, and Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD, to study pertinent Scripture passages and reflect on how these texts form a robust and biblically based practice of peace and justice today. This online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course lasts six weeks. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by Aug. 21 to save \$50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

Gain leadership skills through AMBS's Practical Leadership Training modules!

Online modules beginning in September include Moving through Congregational Changes; Living Outside the "Man Box"; Leadership Practices for Spiritual Vitality; and Leading Congregations in Transition. CEUs available. Check out our full list of modules for September through November: ambs.edu/plt

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale

The Relief Sale is a little over a month away - September 27 and 28!

There are many ways you can support the sale. Be thinking about what you can donate to support the sale - plants, baked goods, hand-crafted items, your time, etc. Everything helps support MCC's development, peacebuilding and relief work around the world.

You can bring on the joy at the **kids' carnival activities** at the MCC Relief Sale this September! Anyone 12 years or older can sign up to run a game booth. Even better, get a group of your best friends, small group, Sunday School class, sports team, or youth group and sign up together to make it even more fun! Kids under the age of 12 are welcome to run a game with the help of an adult. Your gift of time will make amazing memories while also helping kids learn about the work MCC does around the world. Sign up at [Signup Genius 2024 Relief Sale Children's Activities](#) or use this QR code to access the site. Contact Kay Miller, 574-312-4130, for more information.

Opportunities

Online Registration is Open for 2024 Fall Spanish Language Program:

Goshen College will offer evening beginner to advanced conversational **Spanish classes for adults** in the fall semester. These classes, will be held in person on Tuesdays (beginning Aug. 20) and Thursdays (ending Dec. 19) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for 16 weeks. No classes will take place on October 22 & 24, and November 26 & 28. The cost is \$300. The Spanish classes will take place at the same time as classes offered for adults who are learning English. **Shared conversation sessions** will allow students from both Spanish and English classes to advance their language skills in real-life and natural settings as they build relationships with one another. For more information, please contact Rocio Diaz at srociod@goshen.edu. To register go to: goshen.edu/spanishclass

Some churches in Elkhart are again organizing English as a Second (ESL) classes for adults. **Volunteer teachers are needed** for the next session of classes, September 3-November 21, 2024, meeting at Prairie Street Mennonite Church. Sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6:30-8:00 p.m. Volunteering once or twice a week is your choice. Materials are provided. You do not need to be a trained teacher. If desired, you may start as an assistant-in-training working with a veteran teacher. You do not need to be able to speak Spanish. Substitutes are available for illness and vacations. Please contact Sueann VonGunten, vonalter2@gmail.com or 574-612-3108 with your interest or questions. Approximately 20 teachers are needed to teach all of the classes. If you have friends who might be interested encourage them to call or write. Please consider helping your neighbors learn English.