



August 18, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
5:30 p.m. - Guess Who's
Coming to Dinner

Welcome Team

Greeters: Carla Miller,
Karen Thompson
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade
Ramer, LaVon Short
Audiovisuals: Jeff Claassen,
Shawn Stutzman

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - MLC / FH

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks &
Games/ FH

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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www.waterfordchurch.org

Koinonia Class

JE Misz

Koinonia is Greek for “fellowship,” and, while most of us in our Sunday school class aren’t casually speaking or reading much Greek, we do like to embody the concept of fellowship. What was once the young adults group, we are struggling to justify that claim anymore as the range of ages in our group extends from 20’s to 40’s and beyond. Some are single, some are married. Some have kids, and some have well-loved pets.

While much of our interaction is on Sunday mornings where we do our best to read books or Bible studies together, we also enjoy simply spending time with one another outside of church. We might interact with each other throughout the week playing board games, disc golfing, doing puzzles, crocheting, helping each other with house projects, or letting our kids run around together in a park.

When we can muster the energy and focus, we have planned movie nights, Super Bowl parties, an annual fondue party, and trips to a nearby beach.

We are always open to visitors that are Koinonia-curious and will probably spend an entire class session getting to know you—and not just because we probably didn’t plan a discussion for that day.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 197

Nurture Hour – 175

Finances – August 11, 2024

Operating Fund \$2,000.00

Mennonite Education \$3,942.00

Either Fund \$3,359.55

Budget Total \$9,301.55

Least Coin Fund \$28.00

Total **\$9,329.55**

Looking Ahead

August 25: Baptism/Testimonies

September 1: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser; Peace with God:

Seeking God's Kingdom

(*Matthew 6:5-13*)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Friday

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

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

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday night is Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. If you signed up to participate, you should have received a paper in your box last week with the address of the home you will be going to. If you have questions, contact Pastor Cindy or Rita Herrmann. The fun begins at 5:30 p.m.!

On **Sunday, September 8, 2024, during the Nurture hour**, any interested adult or youth Sunday school classes are invited to join the Seekers Sunday School Class to hear **Tareq Abuhlima, a Palestinian from Gaza**, tell his story and reflections of his experiences since the Israel/Gaza war started last year. Following is a brief bio:

Gaza native, Tareq Abuhlima, is a Graduate Assistant at Bluffton University's Peace Arts Center. Tareq is also doing his master's in Business Administration at Bluffton University. He grew up in Gaza City, previously taught at the United Nations Relief and Work Agency, and most recently was a Project Manager for Youth Vision Society, which is a Gaza-based non-profit. Tareq has been in the U.S. since January, 2023.

We will meet in the sanctuary to accommodate as many as would like to come.

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, which will be located outside the main doors into the sanctuary. 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!

One more week to collect supplies for MCC School Kits. Please have your donated kits to the church by 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!

Upcoming Community Events

Mennonite Action Michiana is co-hosting an Interfaith Prayer for Palestine with the Islamic Society of Michiana and Gus Zuehlke from St. Bavo Parish. Dr. Atalia Omer, professor of religion, conflict and peace studies at Notre Dame, will be a guest speaker. Join us to pray for peace at the Main Stage of Central Park in Mishawaka (295 E. Mishawaka Ave) at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday August 17.

The next **Mennonite Action prayer time at College Mennonite Church** will be on **Tuesday, August 20**, from noon to 1 p.m. in the gathering rooms, 141–142. This is open to the community to pray for a ceasefire in Gaza and in other parts of the world and will include times for silence, songs, spoken prayers, scripture reading, and candle-lighting. In addition, David Janzen who was among the Mennonites mobilizing in Washington DC in July, will share his story. **Come for the hour or come and go** as your schedule permits.

More upcoming community events on page 5.

Benin Bible Institute

Steve Fath, on behalf of the BBI Planning Group

From September 12 to 25, 2024, we as a congregation will participate in the 22nd fraternal visit between the Benin Bible Institute and Waterford Mennonite Church. Our Beninese guests will be Jocelyne Ahoga and Germain Dossou. Due to visa issues, they will be arriving at different times. Jocelyne will arrive on September 12 and Germain will arrive on September 17.

Jocelyne was the original architect of the building that now houses the training center located in Cotonou, Benin. She currently works as a marriage and family therapist and serves on the BBI Board of Directors.

Germain Dossou currently serves as the Chair of the BBI Board of Directors. He is a pastor and an agricultural development expert.

The Planning Group is coordinating their time in our community and has scheduled several events for the whole congregation. Jocelyne will be preaching on Sunday, September 15 in the morning worship. Germain will be preaching on Sunday, September 22, in the morning worship.

On Wednesday evening, September 18, we are planning an intercultural time of sharing and discussion around our varied experiences of women's roles in Beninese and American churches and cultures.

On Sunday, September 22, we will follow the morning worship with a joint adult nurture hour to learn about developments at the Bible Institute. That evening there will be an international-themed carry-in supper with traditional foods from different cultures.

We are also planning fraternal visits to Mennonite Mission Network, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, The Tolson Center in Elkhart, The Hermitage and Clay Bottom Farms.

You will have the opportunity to host a meal in your home with our guests. A sign-up sheet will be available online or at the church.

In her November 2023 report, Lynda Hollinger-Janzen wrote: "IBB and WMC share news and prayer requests throughout the year from their respective continents and, once a year, there is an in-person gathering. Until 2019, these annual

exchanges took place, with Benin sending a delegation to WMC one year and, the following year, a WMC delegation would travel to Benin. Some years, more than one visit happened. Although financial support is peripheral to the partnership, WMC does contribute to Mennonite Mission Network's budget for IBB and has helped with special projects, such as the training of a new generation of IBB faculty and staff."

The goal of these mutual exchanges has been to strengthen our partnership between the congregation and the Bible school, which was formalized in 2003.

In her earlier July 2012 report on the BBI graduation ceremonies, Lynda wrote how she interviewed Bonaventure Akowanou, head administrator who observed: "I don't mean to boast, but today in Benin, the majority of top-level church leadership in 45 denominations has been trained at Benin Bible Institute. We are thrilled at how these leaders are faithfully living out their Christian commitment. This is the true test of the quality of our education."

The graduates of this 2012 class joined the ranks of more than 1,000 Benin Bible Institute alumni, who are leavening agents in West Africa. "Christians are increasingly working in businesses, government services, schools and universities. This leads to the development of our nation," Akowanou said.

She continued by saying, "IBB connections with WMC began long before the partnership. In 1997, WMC sent people to work alongside their Beninese siblings in the construction of the IBB building to house the institute which serves the rapidly growing Beninese churches by training the leaders of 70 denominations. IBB's curriculum focuses on adult learners of all academic levels, creates an environment in which different theological perspectives are shared respectfully and seeks to build greater unity in Christ's body through inductive study of the Bible."



Left to right:
Pastor Agustin and Jocelyne Ahoga,
son Rodolphe & Christiane (spouse) and children Naharel (12), Grace (3), Jean-Baptiste (3 months), Shelomel (9) and Baruck (14), daughter Thehilatel, daughter Carole & Christian (spouse), children Yathirah (13) and Daniel (15)



BBI Board Chair Germain Dossou and his family. Left to right: Paul (completed 10th grade), Fidele (graduated from high school), Odile (received her Master's degree), Christelle, (starting 4th grade), Seraphine Adjibola, (Germain's spouse) and Germain.

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 to 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.

Thrift at Woodland Crossing is celebrating its 2nd anniversary on Saturday, August 24, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. There will be a lot of fun activities, sales, and live auctions. Please help us have a successful celebration by shopping, donating your gently used items and of course volunteering! We can't wait to see you!

MCC Great Lakes Open House on Thursday, August 29, from 4 to 6 p.m. You are invited to visit our office in The Depot building in Goshen (1013 Division Street) for an informal time of conversation and fellowship with MCC Great Lakes staff. Vurayayi Pugeni and Thelma Sadzamari, MCC Area Directors for Southern Central Africa and Nigeria, will also be available to share stories from their work. For more information and to register, visit mcc.org/gl-open-house or **RSVP** to 574-534-4133 or GreatLakes@mcc.org by August 23.

Gather with Mennonite Action Michiana for a [potluck and evening of community-building and planning](#) on Thursday, August 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Rooms at College Mennonite Church. Activities for children provided. The evening will include reports from the [interfaith coalition actions in DC](#) and the [Mennonite Action march](#), as well as ideas for how to get involved in your community. Bring a dish to share as well as your own table service. See you soon!

Come and join a learning experience led by Jared Nally, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma on Sunday, **September 15, 2024, at Eighth Street Mennonite Church**. The Miami people have been—and are—an important part of this region for centuries. The presentation topics will include Miami history, the impact of European settlement, the forced removal to Oklahoma, contemporary Miami life, the work of culture and language recovery, and youth development programs. There will be time for discussing roles for white settlers who are committed to seeking healing and repair.

The event will begin in the fellowship hall at 12:30 p.m. with lunch and conversations. Bring a salad to share. Jared's presentation will begin at 1:15 p.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. You are also welcome to attend a presentation by Jared during the adult formation time in the sanctuary from 11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Contact Eileen Saner with questions and to register. eksaner@gmail.com
574-206-5752

Mennonite Church USA

Save the date! MC USA is pleased to announce that the 2025 biennial national gathering and leading faith formation event, Follow Jesus '25, will take place July 8-12, 2025, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/convention

Spiritual director **Jane Hooper Peifer** laments the difficulties of staying present while at her listening post. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/confessions-spiritual-director

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

Take a seminary course this fall!

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's distance-friendly options include Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture; Introduction to Biblical Languages; Psalms; Reading Cultural Contexts; Spiritual Practices: Prayer and Scripture; Understanding Trauma in Ministry and Peacebuilding; and more. In-person courses are also available. Some courses may be audited. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours! Classes run Sept. 3 – Dec. 13; sign up by Aug. 26. ambs.edu/upcoming-courses

Spiritual Direction Seminar:

Wisdom. Cultivate your ministry of spiritual direction through this advanced level of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's supervised program. Participants in this seminar, which focuses primarily on the perceptive insights and concrete skills that spiritual directors bring to their work, will meet online via Zoom for eight days in 2024-25. Begins Oct. 3; apply by Sept. 6 to save \$200! ambs.edu/spiritual-direction-wisdom

Pathways Retreat

Pathways Retreat will be offering a variety of programs and reflection groups this Fall including Inner Soul Groups for clergy and people experiencing transitions, Zentangle meditative practice, Enneagram workshop, Enneagram Practice group, Nature and Narrative, a "We are the Great Turning Podcast" reflection group, and weekly yoga. Daily prayers resume in-person and online. Learn more information at pathwaysretreat.org.

Women's Retreat: Join us September 20-22 for spirit-filled worship, relaxation among women, trails to wander, and water to rest by. MW USA is delighted to be planning a time of connection and gathering for this year's Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald in Cassapolis, Mich. It is a tradition of the Central District Conference, but it is open to ALL women. [Register now.](#)

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>.

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.

The **registration deadline for quilts** for the Relief Sale Quilt Auction is August 25. Bless others and the work of MCC with your donation of a comforter, quilted wall-hanging, or a knitted or crocheted afghan. See the website for how to register your item at <https://www.mennonitesale.org/quilt-auction>. For more information contact Gail Shetler, 574-333-7142.

The Relief Sale's **Composting and Recycling Committee is looking for people willing to work two hour shifts** during the sale. You can also help us run a low-waste event by bringing a water bottle, taking care to sort the items you are throwing out into the correct bins and helping your friends and family do the same. Contact Jennifer Schrock, jhschrock9@gmail.com, to volunteer.

Opportunities

Living that Matters in Retirement. Come and experience a company of brothers seeking a meaningful life that matters in retirement October 18-19. Mennonite Men is hosting a retreat for men who are contemplating retirement, recently starting retirement, or have been retired for significant periods of time. Led by Leon Bauman, participants will examine habits for a healthy retirement, define "doing" and "being," set goals for this life stage beyond financial matters and find purpose in and beyond "work." Gatherings will include focused conversations, meaningful rituals, and delicious meals together. There will also be time for solitude in the rolling hills, meadows, and woods of The Hermitage in Three Rivers, Mich. Find more details and register at mennonitemen.org/Pages/Living-that-Matters-in-Retirement.aspx or contact Steve Thomas at SteveT@MennoniteMen.org.

Job openings with MCC Appalachia Build: MCC has two exciting positions available with our Appalachia Build (formerly SWAP) program in Kimball, West Virginia. Focused on home repairs for low-income households, Appalachia Build is an MCC program that provides week-long service and learning opportunities.

1. **Site Manager** to serve as an overall construction project lead. They choose projects and then schedule and oversee the work.

2. **Hospitality Manager** to provide overall responsibility for hosting volunteers and guests.

Application deadlines are September 2, and you can find both opportunities at mcc.org/careers.