



August 25, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
4:00 p.m. - JYF @ Claassens

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jerry & Joyce Troyer
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Carla Miller, Ken Otto
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey, Bob Hochstedler, Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - MYF

Thursday

4:00 p.m. - Fellowship MT
Zoom prayers
Monday - 8:30 a.m.
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Seeking Peace Together

Cindy Voth, for Worship Ministry Team

Since the beginning of the Anabaptist movement, clear back in the 1500s, the Anabaptists have been a body of believers who are committed to seeking peace together. Peace does not just mean the absence of war or violence. Instead, we understand it to be a way of life that impacts and informs our relationships with God, self, others, and God's creation.

In the spring of 2024, the Worship Ministry Team and Pastoral Team were discerning themes for our fall worship series. In a world that feels more polarized day after day, and in our awareness that we would be in the middle of a conflictual presidential election, we felt God inviting us to reenter into our long history of seeking peace together.

Beginning September 1, we will spend 13 weeks of digging into biblical texts that invite us to consider the ways we are being asked to be people of peace. The Hebrew word shalom means "peace," and it signifies all of life being complete, healthy, and whole. One of my favorite definitions of shalom is "nothing broken, nothing missing." Shalom is a broad vision for what God intends our world to be.

The worship series, published by MennoMedia, also comes with Sunday School curriculum for children through adults. Many of our nurture classes will be using this material to allow for deeper engagement and discussion with the weekly themes. The series is divided into 4 sections: Peace with God (September 1, 8, 15), Peace Within (September 22, 29; October 6), Peace with Others (October 13, 20, 27; November 3), and Peace with Creation (November 10, 17, 24).

We invite you to join us in praying for our congregation as we do the difficult and yet necessary work of "Seeking Peace Together."

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 233

Nurture Hour – 211

Finances – August 18, 2024

Operating Fund \$11,222.00

Mennonite Education \$1,525.00

Either Fund \$5,368.00

Budget Total \$18,115.00

Welcome Spaces \$400.00

Jubilee Fund \$60.00

Sharing Fund \$125.00

2-Way Mission \$50.00

Total \$18,750.00

Looking Ahead

September 1: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Peace with God: Seeking God's Kingdom
(*Matthew 6:5-13*)

September 8: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Believing in God
(*John 3:1-21*)

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

Cindy Voth - August 30-Sept. 2

Janet Shoemaker -

August 26-September 2

Office hours this week

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

Friday
9 - 12

Tuesday - Office 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

Class Profile

Gelassenheit Class

Chad Horning

Our group, which consists of about 12-16 on a typical Sunday morning and close to double that in total, enjoys walking with each other through life's journey. We are firmly in the "sandwich" part of our lives. Most children of our members are moving into young adulthood and many of us have living parents who need our help at times.

We typically alternate between the Salt and Light quarterly and another book study to guide our conversations through the year. We share the responsibility for facilitating the lesson and are blessed with several gifted members whose teaching skills make for engaging conversations.

If you don't see us on certain Sundays, we are having brunch together, either at one another's homes or at a restaurant. We also aim to do something together outside of Sunday morning once a month, sometimes just to enjoy each other's company and other times to engage in service or learning.

We are generally in our 50s - some a little younger and a few more mature. What binds us is friendship, the space to ask hard questions about faith, and a place to be known and cared for. When we ask each other, "how are you doing", we mean it.

Yieldedness to God's will is one translation of Gelassenheit into English. Outside of the theological realm, it can mean self-surrender, serenity, and resignation, but also unhurried, calm, or easy going. Do we practice the Anabaptist ideal of Gelassenheit? I think so. We're serious about living out our faith in community with each other while enjoying ourselves along the way - a sort of easy-going yieldedness.

Men's Day Retreat

LIVING A LIFE THAT MATTERS (for men)

A few of us men are planning a mini men's retreat for Saturday, November 2, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Steve Thomas will lead us from the book he wrote (with Don Neufeld): *Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith*. It is about just that: addressing our longing to live our lives for what truly matters, along with other men who long for the same thing. This retreat is intended for men from MYF age and up and is a great opportunity to invite someone from outside the congregation. There will be a sign-up sheet at the participation station if you want to join in this event.

Here is a link in the Mennonite Men website about this:

<https://www.mennonitemen.org/Documents/Retreats%202023/Living%20that%20Matters%20RETREAT.pdf>

From the front of his book, Steve and Don say this is about a "vision of men embracing themselves as beloved sons of God, respecting others as

beloved children of God, following Jesus, the image of God and model human; partnering with marginalized people seeking justice; protecting the earth as stewards of God's creation; serving the mission of God's shalom on earth; becoming strong, loving, and wise in the Spirit."

It could be that out of this retreat more men may want to use the book as a guide for men's groups — this mini-retreat is just a taste of what that could be. There is at least one men's group already using this book as a resource for their meetings. If you have further questions, contact one of the persons below.

Sheldon Swartz, Deron Bergstresser, Dan Stoltzfus, Dominic Ramer, Isaac Pfahler

Derrick Ramer has requested his church membership be transferred to Benton Mennonite Church where he is now serving as their pastor. We pray for God's blessings on Derrick and his new congregation.

Cindy Voth, for Ministry Leadership Council

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday will be a baptism service. We will meet in the sanctuary and then move down to the pond for the baptisms. Be sure to **bring chairs or blankets if you prefer to not sit on the grass or stand** during the ceremony. There will be 4-wheel transport for mobility needs. The worship at the pond will also be livestreamed into the sanctuary.

This is the last Sunday to bring your school supplies for MCC School Kits. Please leave your donated kits on the table near the library.

It's My Coins Count time again! Bring your 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!

Upcoming Community Events

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 Pugen 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.

Mennonite Church USA

Call for blogs! Members of MC USA who were not raised in a Mennonite tradition or people who grew up in MC USA but feel that they have actively chosen to remain Mennonite as they grew into their faith are **invited to submit a 500-900 word "Menno by Choice" blog** about why they have actively chosen to be a Mennonite. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/form-choice-request.

Steve Griffin, the pastor of Bellwood Mennonite Church, Milford, Nebraska, chronicles his journey from leaving the Pentecostal church to Calvinism and to finally finding his home in Anabaptism. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/pentecostalism-to-anabaptism

MDS

Our **August Edition of On the Level** is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares our need for volunteers at our warehouse in Mississippi, read the latest on our flood response in Vermont, meet an inspirational 22 year-old volunteer and get the back story on a popular MDS photo. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/46Ym9WM>

AMBS

Online Short Course: Resisting Christian Nationalism with the Gospel of Peace: Oct. 23 – Dec. 10.

Join Drew Strait, PhD, in this six-week online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course to deepen your understanding of White Christian nationalism and explore practical and effective nonviolent strategies for resisting it — drawing insights from how Jesus countered oppression. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by Oct. 2 to save \$50. ambs.edu/nationalism

Gain peacebuilding skills at AMBS! Prepare for work and scholarship at the cross-section of theology and transformative peacebuilding through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies** program. Explore a topic of your choice from multiple angles and design a peacebuilding internship in your area of interest. ambs.edu/matps

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.

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!

The Goshen office of the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) warmly invites you to participate in our **sixth annual 5K for Immigrant Justice** on October 12, 2024, on the Millrace Trail in Goshen. Registration is here: <https://immigrantjustice.org/5k>

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 Relief Sale's **Online Silent Auction is accepting donations** of works of art, tickets/certificates for services and experiences, wooden toys, new, antique or gently used items in excellent condition, with a value of \$50 or more. Please contact Bob/Deb Kauffman at Kauffman.mMrs@gmail.com or call/text 574-849-0053.

Do you enjoy walking/running? Consider registering for the **2024 MCC Run for Relief** which will take place on Saturday, September 28 at 8:00 a.m. It's a great way to start your day at the Michiana MCC Relief Sale. To register, go to the relief sale website at <http://www.mennonitesale.org/run-for-relief> and download the registration form or sign up on-line at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Goshen/MCCRunforRelief>

Opportunities

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.