

### **This Sunday**

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
All Saints Remembrance  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour  
5:00 p.m. - Two-Way Mission  
Update / Sanctuary



**October 27, 2024**



# *The Waterford Buzz*

### **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Jerry & Joyce Troyer  
Ushers: Ken Otto, Carla  
Miller, Wade Ramer  
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler;  
Colin Berkey

### **This Week at Waterford**

#### *Tuesday*

7:00 p.m. - MLC / FH

#### *Wednesday*

7:00 p.m. - MYF

7:00 p.m. - JYF & VC / Nick  
& Amanda Stoltzfus'

#### *Saturday*

3:30 - 9 p.m. - Men's  
Retreat / FH

#### *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

### **Invitation to Share Your Musical Gifts**

*Cindy Voth for Worship Ministry Team*

At Waterford we are blessed with a wide range of individuals who freely and joyfully share their gifts within our worship services from worship leaders, to drama participants, to AV folks, to leaders of children's time, and beyond! Worship Ministry Team (WMT) works closely with the pastoral team to plan out the broad themes of our worship services as well as some of the specific details for our weekly times of communal worship. One of those specific details is related to our music, both congregational singing and musical offerings for prelude and offertory.

Prior to the pandemic, it was common to have a pianist who accompanied the singing, and a different person who would offer the music for prelude and offertory. As with a variety of things, this pattern was modified during the pandemic. We are aware that serving as the piano accompanist to our singing is one thing, and offering special music as our prelude and offertory is something entirely different. At WMT we have named our desire to incorporate more people in our music ministry and wish to create space for those who feel comfortable with providing special music but not with accompanying.

So, WMT is calling everyone with musical gifts to consider sharing them within our communal worship services as acts of service and worship. Do you play the trombone or violin or piano or another instrument? Have you just recently started playing or have you been playing for decades? Do you have a solo piece or a piece you wish to arrange to play with several others from WMC? If so, then we invite you to contact Pastor Cindy or Nick Stoltzfus and let us know of your interest! All ages and levels of skill are welcome as together we offer our gifts to God in worship.

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 170

Nurture hour - 173

### Finances – October 20, 2024

Operating Fund \$6,477.00

Mennonite Education \$300.00

Either Fund \$2,890.00

**Budget Total \$9,667.00**

Kathy Couch Memorial \$125.00

Jubilee Fund \$120.00

Two-Way Mission \$800.00

Welcome Spaces \$200.00

**Total \$10,912.00**

### Looking Ahead

November 3: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser; Peace With

Others: Eating with Enemies

(2 Kings 6:8-23)

Noon potluck hosted by MYF

November 10: Sermon: Doug

Kaufman; Peace With Creation:

Caring for the Earth

(Genesis 2:4-23)

### Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, Pastor

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, Pastor

Monday - Thursday

### Out of Office

Karen Hostetler - Oct. 27-Nov. 5

Cindy Voth - Oct. 28 - Nov. 4

### 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?](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRLd0Ydw_QxRiQUvRhUscNV-k0HV-oTcPnu61NyBcjM/edit?)

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](mailto:buzz@waterfordchurch.org)

## A Note of Thanks

*Jim Gascho*

A spiritual practice I have enjoyed and found helpful has been to greet each new day with two thoughts. The first is more of a prayer. “God, I don’t know what you have planned for this day, but if there is any way I can join with you in what you are doing, any way I can be a blessing to others, help me to be sensitive and aware of the opportunities.” The second practice is seeking to always, “Treasure the moment with gratitude, for we don’t know what tomorrow may bring.”

This became very real Saturday evening, September 28. A strange new heart rhythm put me in the Goshen Hospital emergency room, Ventricular Tachycardia, a life threatening heart condition. This wasn’t on my agenda for the day.

The journey that followed included two more ‘code blue’ interventions in the Goshen Hospital, attempted air lift transport to IU Health in Indianapolis prevented by weather resulting in transport by ambulance, an emergency surgery for a temporary external pace maker with the hope of getting me to Indianapolis alive Monday night, arriving early Tuesday morning.

Intensive Care Unit until October 8, not allowed to get out of bed, three more ‘code blue’ interventions in Indianapolis, two more surgical procedures, one six and one half hours without general anesthesia, fully awake and trying to hold still. The song “Be Still and Know That I Am God” kept running through my mind. And I am wondering what God has in mind. What is His plan? Is this the end of life here? If not, how do I join with Him in His work in my little part of the world? I am confined to a not so comfortable bed with wires and tubes covering me like a bowl of spaghetti, and a symphony of alarms sounding almost all the time. My body is in distress, but I feel God’s presence. How do I bring His peace and love to those who are attending to me? What is God doing, or seeking to do in the lives of the doctors and nurses attending to me and trying to keep me alive? Or is this the end of my time on this earth? Is God just focusing on giving Lila and I peace? Lila and I both felt the end had come more than once. Paul’s words “to die is gain” went through my mind. And I felt peace. Lila also felt that peace. God was very present, even in the really difficult and painful times. A testimony of God’s presence was the question from a doctor the day after one of the really difficult ‘code blue’ interventions. He said, “You were the calmest person in the room. Why? How could you be so calm?”

Lila and I both knew our Waterford church family, the Seekers class, friends, and family were praying for us. We felt it and lived it. Thank you for being our caring community. Our children were tremendous in making sure at least one of them were with us, which meant time off work, air flights, and schedule changes for them. A soup meal when we arrived home on October 9, flowers, many cards, a mug of chocolate, nuts and balloon, visits, all have been tangible ways we have been cared for. Thank you. And may you know God’s peace and presence with you as you seek to be a part of what God is doing wherever you are.

## Election Day Communion Service

From Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

**Tuesday, November 5**, is election day in the United States, and many of us feel very strongly about how or whether Christians should vote during this election cycle. However, our deeper commitment as Christians is to Christ, and we are therefore inviting you to join us for a **virtual communion service at 7 p.m.** that evening (11/5) in which we will remind ourselves of this by partaking of the body and blood of Christ together. This will be a virtual communion service, which means that you will need to [register here](#) to get the Zoom link and bring your own bread and juice (or whatever substitutes you may have). Feel free to share this registration link with anyone who wants to participate.

## Waterford Announcements

### This Week:

- **Ecuador Two Way Mission Update**, Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Jerrell Ross Richer and Steve Fath will talk about recent developments in the Ecuador Two Way Mission. You will learn how generous contributions from members of the Waterford congregation have made it possible for students from the Cofán community of Zabalo to advance their education at Ruminahui University in Sangolqui. This event will be livestreamed through the Waterford Mennonite Church website.
- **Last chance to sign up for the mini-men's retreat** with Steve Thomas next Saturday, Nov 2, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the church. The sub-title of Steve's book is "Honest Conversations for Men of Faith." We all know it is difficult to be honest at times, but the rewards are worth it! **Sign-up at the participation table** or you can email me [sheldonws@yahoo.com](mailto:sheldonws@yahoo.com) and I'll get you signed up.
- **Last week to submit and application for the Endowment Fund!** Applications are being accepted until November 1. Application forms can be found on the church website at [www.waterfordchurch.org](http://www.waterfordchurch.org) under the "resources" tab, and there are hard copies in the literature rack under the big bulletin board. Completed applications should be emailed to Doug Yoder, chair ([yoder.ld@gmail.com](mailto:yoder.ld@gmail.com)), or put in his church mailbox. Contact Doug Yoder, Phil Habecker or Susan Gingerich with any questions.

**Volunteer needed to mow the church lawn.** Our summer mower, Ed Swartzendruber, is heading to Texas in a week or two. We need someone to do the weekly mowing on the church grounds for the next several weeks until the cold takes over. If you would like to do this, please contact Jan Oostland at [facilities@waterfordchurch.org](mailto:facilities@waterfordchurch.org).

Next Sunday, November 3, will be our **monthly fellowship meal** after the nurture hour, hosted by the MYF. Plan to bring a dish to share.

We are **seeking to purchase a used vehicle** that holds five people for one of the Ukrainian families. Please notify Dave Gingerich or John Birkey.

## 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](http://mennoniteusa.org/convention)

**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](http://mennoniteusa.org/form-choice-request)

**Susan Kragt**, co-founder and spiritual director with Grand Rapids (Michigan) Mennonite Fellowship, a congregation affiliated with Central District Conference, grew up in the Reformed Church of America, but found herself co-leading a small house church that had Anabaptist leanings, which led her and her church on a journey to joining Mennonite Church USA. Read more about her journey here: [mennoniteusa.org/why-mennonite](http://mennoniteusa.org/why-mennonite)

## AMBS

### Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program.

Encourage someone you know who has gifts for ministry to check out this distance-friendly undergraduate-level program of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! 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 Spring 2025 cohort begins Jan. 24; those who apply by Dec. 4 can save \$100! [ambs.edu/journey](https://ambs.edu/journey)

Documentary: ***What Happened at Benham West: African American Stories of Community, Displacement and Hope.*** Your church or organization can **host a screening** of this 80-minute documentary about the exclusion of African Americans in the city of Elkhart, Indiana, as told through the stories of local elders. The film can be a helpful introduction to the lasting economic and social impacts of White supremacy and structural racism, and you can opt to include a presentation after the film for additional context. Schedule a screening through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary: [ambs.edu/benham-west-project](https://ambs.edu/benham-west-project)

## Upcoming Community Events

Waterford Mennonite, you are warmly welcomed to join us at Camp Friedenswald for our **Restoration Retreat with Sarah Augustine**. From November 1-3 we'll "connect with the land and life through...restoring healthy relationships with all of creation." This retreat is open to all ages. Interested individuals, families, youth groups, green teams, repair network teams, and small groups are all welcome. Please consider coming for the full weekend, or commute and get a discount.

**Friends of Amigo Dinner**, November 7 at 6:00 p.m., College Mennonite Church. [RSVP here](#) or at (269) 651-2811 by October 30.

**Northern Indiana MCC Comforter Bash**, November 8-9, at Pleasant View Church (58529 County Road 23). People of all ages are invited to knot comforters on Friday the 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and/or Saturday the 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information about the event visit [mcc.org/northern-in-comforter-bash](https://mcc.org/northern-in-comforter-bash). *Volunteers are especially needed on Saturday! Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day on Saturday. Must be present to win.*

**Pathways Retreat 5th Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser**, November 9-16. Pathways Retreat is seeking items to add to the silent auction fundraiser. The theme this year is "Connections" and the focus is on non-tangible experiences that will bring people together. **Accepting items now through November 4.** Visit the [silent auction page](#) for ideas of experiential items and for information on how to donate.

## Opportunities

Indiana-Michigan Conference is partnering with Mennonite Mission Network to provide an opportunity for growing intercultural capacity and racial justice by offering a **United States Civil Rights Tour**. Dates: February 18-25, 2025. Cost: \$300 + travel to/from Tennessee/Georgia. You can learn details about the trip in the [information flyer](#) (also available on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. **if you'd like to be a part of this, reply to Clayton Gladish by November 13 at [imoffice@im.mennonite.net](mailto:imoffice@im.mennonite.net).**

**Responding to the crisis in Lebanon and Gaza:** Up to a million people in Lebanon have been displaced in the last few days due to increasing military attacks. And the grave humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues. You can donate and **provide relief today**. MCC continues to respond to the needs of displaced people in Lebanon and Gaza. MCC is providing relief to recently displaced people in Lebanon with food, hygiene, bedding and psychosocial support. Please pray for an end to the violence and for a just peace in Israel and Palestine. Donate online at [mcc.org/palestine-israel](https://mcc.org/palestine-israel)

Invitation to young adults: [Register to participate](#) in the **Borderlands Peace Camp, January 19-25, 2025!** Explore topics of peace and justice through the lens of migration, including the Biblical mandate of hospitality. Learn about the migration experience, identity and our perception of "strangers," migration trauma and resilience, the complexity of ethics and law, and the ways in which the church can respond to these challenges. Join us in Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, where we will see the current realities at the Mexico-U.S. border, explore the root causes of migration from a peacebuilding perspective, and learn how community-based organizations and churches are accompanying migrants.