



October 6, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

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

Welcome Team

Greeters: John, Diana, Jeff
Hershberger
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken
Otto, Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Jordan
Kauffman, Bob Hochstedler

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - VC, JYF
7:00 p.m. - MYF

Thursday

8:30 a.m. - Menn. Women /
MYF Rm
7:00 p.m. - FFMT

Zoom prayers

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

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Goshen, IN 46526
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office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Small Group Profile

Ursula Hess

We are a group of seven people, one couple and four widows, widowers and one single. Our age range is between 70 and 89. We have met as a group for a long time, only being interrupted by the pandemic. We meet once per month.

Our group's main focus is Bible study. We choose a book of the Bible and reflect on it chapter by chapter. One person prepares the next lesson in more detail, the others participate as they feel led. We have a time of sharing and praying together.

We value our group because of the people that are in it, who have a similar focus. We search our answers to our questions about a difficult passage in the Bible. We pray together. We respect each other, care deeply for each other, and visit each other outside of our small group meetings.

Once we finish one book of the Bible, we discuss which one we want to study next. We decide together. We text each other with regard to organizational questions.

The challenges we face are age, illness and forgetfulness. Some travel more than others.

We meet regularly in one person's home, which is small. Thus, space is an issue when others want to join us.

For more information contact either Ursula Hess or LaVera Ressler.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 210

Nurture hour - 228

Finances – Sept. 29, 2024

Operating Fund	\$3,106.60
Mennonite Education	\$1090.00
Either Fund	\$3,910.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$8,106.60</i>
Two-Way Mission	25.00
MyCoinsCount	\$1,200.00
Total	\$9,331.60

Looking Ahead

October 13: Sermon: Cindy Voth
Peace With Others:
Peacemakers Forgive
(Genesis 25:19-34; 27; 32:1-12; 33:1-17)

October 20: Sermon: Luke
Gascho; Peace With Others:
Walk Away from Conflict
(Genesis 26:12-33)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team
Leader
Monday - Thursday
Deron Bergstresser, Pastor
Tuesday - Friday
Katie Misz, Pastor
Monday - Thursday

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?

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



Update from Andrew Smucker

Editor's note: Andrew is beginning a year-long assignment with the MCC SALT program in Bolivia.

So the past month has been my first month in Bolivia. I have been adjusting to life with a host family here in Santa Cruz. I have two younger siblings, a younger sister and younger brother both in high school, and an older brother living in his own place. I have enjoyed being a part of this family and feel comfortable.

I have been working at Talita Cumi starting at the beginning of September. At Talita Cumi, a foster home, I have been working with kids ages 4 to 16, tutoring with Math homework and playing soccer with them. I have enjoyed helping out and interacting with the kids wherever I can.

Overall, things have been going well. It has mostly been getting used to a different culture, way of life, government, and all that comes with being in a Latin American country. If you want to see specifics of trips or what I've seen, you can visit my Facebook page: Andrew Smucker.

Thanks for your support,
Andrew

P.S. from JD and Beth: Andrew's birthday is coming up on October 14. Everyone is invited to send him a birthday greeting. Email is the best option, as the mail service in Bolivia is much slower than ours. If you would like to send a birthday greeting to Andrew, his email is andyrew146@gmail.com. It may not seem like much, but we are sure it will be appreciated.

Bylaws Review

Rose Shetler, co-chair, Ministry Leadership Council

Hello friends! On September 7, Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) and pastors met for a joint retreat. Thanks to Esther Farmwald, Fancheon Resler, and Vance Weaver, we enjoyed a light breakfast and coffee. Thanks also to Velma Swartz, who prepared and served our delicious lunch, as well as Doug and Janette Yoder for providing The Chief ice cream! It was a working retreat interspersed with some spiritual practices led by Marty Lehman, our congregational coach, and Pastor Deron.

Ahead of the retreat, we were asked to read through the Bylaws of Waterford Mennonite Church. The most current version was last revised more than 17 years ago in April 2007. One of our activities during the retreat was to spend time with this document as individuals as well as in a group process answering questions such as:

- Why review the Bylaws? Why does this matter?
- What in our Bylaws are we doing well?
- What did we notice that we aren't doing? (or are not sure if we are)
- What needs changing or updating?

We identified answers, but this process also raised more questions. In answering the first question above, we believe this detailed and at times tedious work is important for the following reasons.

The Bylaws

- Provide a common understanding of how to work together.
- Help us organize.
- Give continuity for turnover in MLC positions.
- Assure accountability.
- Create stability in the congregation.
- Empower the congregation to be actively involved in church life.
- Assure balance in leadership.
- Keep us true to our mission (printed in the Bulletin every week).
- Contribute to long-lasting vision.

- Contain theological and relational language (that needs updating from time to time).
- Are a legal basis (they satisfy a legal requirement for being a congregation).
- Bring clarity about roles and who is responsible for what, the lack of which causes uncertainty, anxiety, confusion, overreach of roles, or sometimes things not getting done at all.

While the document is not a statement of our theological beliefs, it is a guide to working together. And though no major changes to church structure and policy are needed, we agreed that it is time for some revisions. We believe a shared understanding and interpretation of the Bylaws is an important framework from which our growing congregation can more effectively carry out the work and ministries the Spirit is calling us to.

The process to revise the Bylaws will take time. According to the Bylaws, proposed amendments are to be presented to MLC, the body responsible to interpret the Bylaws. The revisions will then be brought to the congregation for consideration and later, a vote. Rose Shetler, co-chair, and Zoë Brown, secretary, are taking the lead and forming an ad hoc group to help them with this project. MLC is inviting you to consider if you might join this ad hoc group. If you are interested in helping with further review and revisions of the Bylaws, please contact Rose Shetler.



Waterford Announcements

This Sunday (October 6), we will share in communion. Let's prepare ourselves in our relationships with others, with ourselves, and with God in anticipation of sharing the bread and the cup. As did the early church (Acts 2:43-47), we will collect offerings for the Sharing Fund. This fund benefits people in need within the congregation.



It's College Care Package time again! You are invited to contribute items for care packages to send to 32 college students. Please bring items such as fresh baked goods, nuts, granola bars, and healthy snacks. **(We will not be including fresh fruit this year.)** Please place your donations in the box on the table near the library by October 9. You are also invited to write a note to individual students to go into the packages. Paper and pens will be provided at the table.



Mennonite Women will meet next Thursday at the MYF room. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. If you have never attended before, come and check us out! There's no entrance fee. If you want to join us for lunch, bring a small dish to pass. Enjoy the fellowship.

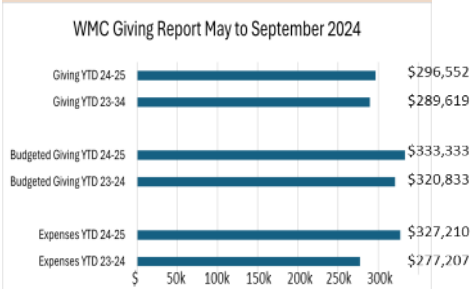
WMC Fall Festival, October 13, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Come join WMC to celebrate the fall season! Food will be served starting at 4:30 p.m. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please plan to bring a side dish or dessert to share, along with your table service. You are also invited to bring blankets or chairs to sit on and your favorite lawn games. Please sign up at the Participation Station if you plan on attending.

Makers Day, October 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own craft or art project or take part in one we'll have ready—like paints and canvas, comforters to knot, puzzles and coloring books. Breakfast will be provided and we'll have a potluck lunch, so bring a dish to share. **Please sign up** at the Participation Station if you plan to join for the entire time or even an hour or two. All are invited!

Meet & Greet with the Pastors for new attenders. If you have recently begun attending Waterford, the pastoral team would like to officially meet you! Pastors Cindy, Deron, Katie will be available during the nurture hour on Sunday, October 20, to meet you and to answer any questions you might have about Waterford. This time would also allow you to meet other recent new attenders at Waterford. Grab your coffee or tea and come to the sanctuary.

A reminder to WMC men! Do you have the mini-men's retreat with Steve Thomas on your calendar yet for Saturday, Nov 2, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.? Do you know of a man you think would benefit from this? (See the announcement in the Aug 25th Buzz) 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 and I'll get you signed up.

Endowment Fund applications are being accepted until November 1. Application forms can be found on the church website at 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), or put in his church mailbox. Contact Doug Yoder, Phil Habecker or Susan Gingerich with any questions.



Upcoming Community Events

Goshen College is celebrating **Homecoming Weekend** on October 4-6. This year's celebration will include class reunions, a new student-directed one-act play (Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 p.m. Sunday at 2 p.m.), an alumni book signing on Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m., a hymn sing at 2 p.m. Saturday, and much more! Two other events include:

- **Connectapalooza**, a special event hosted by Goshen College, on Friday, Oct. 4, during First Friday at the Goshen Theater! Connectapalooza will feature live music, free snacks and Menno Tea, pictures with Goshen College's mascot Dash, and a very special announcement by President Rebecca Stoltzfus!
- The Goshen College Music Department will cap off Homecoming weekend with the annual **Homecoming Music Gala** on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Sauder Concert Hall. All three Goshen College choirs will perform, alongside the Goshen College Symphony Orchestra. The choirs are directed by Scott Hochstetler and H. Roz Woll, with the orchestra conducted by Jimin Seo. Tickets are available at goshen.edu/tickets.

Michiana Voices for Middle East Peace is hosting **Archbishop Emeritus Elias Chacour** in Goshen for two events: Wednesday, October 9 at Greencrofts's Jennings Auditorium at 1:00 p.m. and again on Friday, October 11 at Eighth Street Mennonite Church at 7:00 p.m. As a Palestinian Christian, three-time Nobel Prize nominee Archbishop Elias Chacour has a perspective on the Middle East which is often overlooked. His vision for a future peace is one which needs to be heard. Author of *Blood Brothers, We Belong to the Land*, and *Faith Beyond Despair: Building Hope in the Holy Land* – his message of hope, peace, and reconciliation for all in the Holy Land is what is needed in this devastating moment.

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>

A Season of Prayer: For the next five weeks, Silverwood Mennonite Church will be providing a time for **prayer on Tuesday evenings leading up to and including Election Day in the United States**. These gatherings will take place from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary until November 5. We will begin with a focused time of praying together using the book *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book*. We will be using the section on the Beatitudes to focus our prayers, reorienting us toward God's Kingdom. This focused time will use about 15 minutes of the hour. During the remainder of the hour, you may pray quietly, leaving whenever you are ready within that hour. All are welcome to join us in prayer.

Join us for **Center for Healing & Hope's 25th Anniversary Gala**, on Friday, October 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at The Spohn Ballroom in downtown Goshen. Gourmet dinner and drinks, stories of impact, special awards, and unforgettable auction items. All funds raised support the people, programs, and services of Center for Healing & Hope. Please be prepared to select the entree choice for each guest at the time of purchase. Options are Tuscan Chicken served with roasted Yukon gold potato and broccolini with red pepper (gluten free, dairy free) OR Vegan Quinoa Red Pepper (vegan, gluten free). Tickets are \$100. Tables of 8 are \$800. Tickets can be purchased at <https://centerforhealingandhope.betterworld.org/events/silver-silver>.

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA's Peace and Justice ministry has launched the latest **Learn, Pray, Join initiative** this week, with a focus **on conflict transformation**. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/lpj-conflict-transformation/

The **Mennonite Church USA Executive Board** focused on healthy processes for denominational decision-making and reimagining organizational change at its meeting on August 22-25, 2024, in Greensboro, North Carolina, the site of the upcoming Follow Jesus '25 convention. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/executive-board-reimagination

Mennonite Church USA has named the **worship planning committee for the Follow Jesus '25** biennial convention, which will take place at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12, 2025. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/follow-jesus-25-worship

Deb Byler, spiritual director for the Spiritual Directors Network and member at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church and Piedra Viva Mennonite Church, shares how **having a spiritual director** at various points in her life has led her to share the gift and provide direction to others, across cultures, on their spiritual journeys. Read more about her story here: mennoniteusa.org/cross-cultural-blessing

Mira Grieser and Kimberly Schmidt, members of Hyattsville (Maryland) Mennonite Church, have been working to transform Hyattsville Mennonite Church's back swamp into a **native species habitat**. Mira shares about their progress thus far: mennoniteusa.org/transforming-back-swamp

AMBS

AMBS Forming Leaders Together Campaign

Celebration: Thursday, Oct. 24, 7–8:30 p.m., in the AMBS Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount (3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana). Please join the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary learning community, the AMBS Board of Directors, and guests from collaborating organizations to celebrate the successful conclusion of the seminary's Forming Leaders Together campaign! The celebration will include a musical interlude led by pianist and hymn leader Beverly Lapp, AMBS Academic Dean, with organist Juan Carlos Alarcon, Musical Director of the Elkhart Community Chorus. The event will conclude with a dessert reception. Please RSVP by Oct. 15: ams.edu/celebrate

Free lecture: How to Challenge Christian Nationalism: Building Peace in an Age of Extremism: Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7–8 p.m. EDT

at Kern Road Mennonite Church, 18211 Kern Road, South Bend, Indiana; and livestreamed. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Associate Professor Drew Strait, PhD, will share insights from his new book, *Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism*. Learn about why Christian nationalism is a threat to democracy and the church's witness, and how faith communities can counter political idolatry, radicalization and violent extremism. **For in-person participants:** A book signing will follow the lecture; no registration is required to attend in person.

For online participants:

Registration is required to receive the livestream link.

ams.edu/christian-nationalism

It is that time of year for **First Light Mission's annual "A Place at the Table"** fundraiser, Thursday, October 17. You're invited to purchase a ticket or a table and come out for a night of stories, a great dinner, and a silent auction with Vince Turner as our MC. This is our main fundraiser and helps us grow and serve. With record numbers of people in need (over 400 initial calls in 2 months and a full shelter) we need this year to be our best year yet. See poster on bulletin board for details.

Join Merry Lea this fall for an "enchanted" night hike, on Oct. 18 & 19 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.! Trail guides will lead groups by lantern-light to meet real "live" animals on our trails. These friendly creatures will tell you about their diets, habits and favorite places. Our costumed staff and volunteers will answer questions about life as a native Indiana animal. End the evening sipping hot cocoa around a campfire! This family-friendly evening is a great alternative to Halloween events that are too scary for young children. \$5/person, which includes snacks and hot cocoa, extra refreshments available for additional fee. No registration required! Location: Farmstead | 2152 S 425 W, Albion, IN

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 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, MI. Find more details and registration at mennonitemen.org/Pages/Living-that-Matters-in-Retirement.aspx or contact Steve Thomas at SteveT@MennoniteMen.org.

The **Sherer International Violin & Piano Competition** will take place on Oct. 19 and 20, in the Goshen College Music Center. A performance from the judges will be held on Saturday night at 7 p.m., and after adjudication, the winners' concert will be held on Sunday at 4 p.m. Both concerts are free for the public.

Dr. Wendsler Nosie, Sr., will speak at Goshen College's annual **Beechy Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Lecture** on Oct. 24. Nosie is a former chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, which consists of nearly 17,000 tribal members on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The lecture, free and open to the public, will be held at 7 p.m. in Rieth Recital Hall in the Goshen College Music Center.

Opportunities

Council on Aging of Elkhart County is hiring Caregivers and Drivers. To learn more, go to elkhartcoa.org.

Mennonite Church USA is seeking a full-time Executive Office Manager for the Elkhart office to provide administrative assistance to the associate executive directors and administrative support to the Executive Board, Constituency Leaders Council and the Delegate Assembly. This role also includes serving as the Elkhart building coordinator (approximately 10% of time). Extensive experience in the Microsoft Office suite and Zoom is preferred. Must be self-motivated and organized. Prefer at least 5 years experience in an administrative role. View the job description [here](#). We are committed to diversity among staff and welcome people of diverse backgrounds and abilities to apply. To request an application form, contact HR@MennoniteUSA.org or call 574-343-1310.