

**This Sunday**

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



**November 10, 2024**



# *The Waterford Buzz*

**Welcome Team**

Greeters: Carla Miller, Karen Thompson  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Denise Diener  
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann, Jordan Kauffman

**This Week at Waterford**

*Tuesday*

7:00 p.m. Two-Way Prayers

*Wednesday*

7:00 p.m. - Venture Club

7:00 p.m. - 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.

**Small Group Profile**

Our group is all seniors over 70 consisting of 3 couples and one single. We have been together long enough that individual activities and family have become very important to each of us. We very much value our times of sharing about our families and travel experiences. Each of us also volunteers in one or more ways in the church or other charitable organizations we can share about.

We alternate meeting in homes alphabetically by last name and usually meet monthly. The host or hostess is the leader. We share what we have experienced since we last met. We share prayer concerns and joys and spend time in prayer. We have also taken pontoon rides on the river, met for lunch or dinner at a restaurant, book reports or Bible studies.

The challenges we are facing are mobility — stairs are a problem. Most of us have small residences and therefore can't host more than a total of eight or nine. We are aging and one couple has already dropped out. We would be open to perhaps one or two persons joining our group.

—Miriam Stauffer

**Waterford Mennonite Church**

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## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 188  
Nurture hour - 234

### Finances – November 3, 2024

Operating Fund	\$11,155.00
Mennonite Education	\$2,125.00
Either Fund	\$5,800.00
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$19,080.00</b>
Sharing Fund	\$300.00
Two-Way Mission	\$550.00
CHH	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,930.00</b>

### Looking Ahead

November 17: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Peace With Creation: Sharing the Bounty  
(Lev. 23:33-43; Deut. 16:13-15)

November 24: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Peace With Creation: Beauty of the Earth  
(Isaiah 55:6-13)

### Pastoral Team

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

### Out of Office

Deron Bergstresser - Nov. 10  
Katie Misz - November 11

### 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](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](mailto:buzz@waterfordchurch.org)

## REPORT ON THE MEN'S MINI-RETREAT

*Sheldon Swartz*

A total of 24 men attended the mini-retreat on Saturday, November 2, from 4:00 - 8:15 p.m. with Steve Thomas. Steve has led many retreats for men and this one was built on his and Don Neufeld's recent book, *Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith*. After each of us shared why we were attending, Steve spent some time having us identify characteristic descriptions of men that fit in the "man box," which "refers to a set of beliefs, communicated by parents, families, media, peers and other members of society that place pressure on men to be a certain way" like tough, self-sufficient, heterosexual, always in control, etc. There were lots of ideas shared in response to this! And then we identified how men are referred to who do not fit in the box, like wimps, weak, etc. Then we moved to identifying words that describe men who are living as Jesus calls them to, like kind, gentle, strong when needed, able to lead but not control, sensitive, self-aware, aware of others, present, wise, etc.

We did a large group exercise where Steve went around and asked each of us, "Who are you?" and we answered things like a father, husband, son, teacher, etc., most of which, he observed, are roles we play. He had us identify ourselves as who we actually are: a beloved child of God, and had us say that out loud several times as though we meant it. "I AM A BELOVED CHILD OF GOD!!!" Such a good identity to claim!

We huddled in groups of three a couple of times, one of them being in the afternoon session where we focused on purpose. Do we have a sense of purpose or mission and if so, how do we describe it, and how are we serving our purpose. We then shared as a group what we heard in our groups. Steve did very well at making the time interactional, where we could learn from each other in our journey of living as faithful men. Oh, and we did have a break with some good pizza, thanks to Dan Stoltzfus inspiring his class to help pay for it! (Also had salad and veggies.)

Any of the men in the group or anyone else interested in being part of a men's group using Steve's book as something of a guide should let Sheldon, Deron, or Dan know. Or, if you want to take a look at the book, ask one of them!

We thanked Steve for his work with us, and we thank all the men who were present and those who couldn't make it.

# Waterford Announcements

On November 17, our worship will focus on “Peace with Creation: Peacemakers share the bounty of the earth.” The scripture texts from Leviticus and Deuteronomy describe the practice and instructions for celebrating the Festival of Booths. The focus of this festival was resting and celebrating God’s abundant provision as they remembered the ways God provided during their years in the wilderness. We invite you to join in practicing this time of celebrating God’s provision in your life by **bringing items to contribute to the food pantry at the Center for Healing and Hope**. Out of God’s generosity to us, we share joyfully with others in our local community. Your items may be brought either November 10 or 17 and placed on the table in the foyer .

## Requested Items:

- Any kind of dry beans (black, red, pinto)
- Lentils
- White rice
- Spaghetti noodles
- Oil
- Salt
- Maseca (to make tortillas) or flour
- Canned fruit
- Canned tuna

Thursday, November 14, is the next date for **Mennonite Women**. We will be knitting comforters for the Ukrainian family that Loanne and Len Harms are expecting. The doors open at 8:30 a.m. and we meet in the MYF room. Bring a dish to pass if you stay for lunch.

We still **need someone to do the weekly mowing** on the church grounds **after next week** until the cold takes over. If you are available to do this, please contact Jan Oostland at [facilities@waterfordchurch.org](mailto:facilities@waterfordchurch.org) or 574-971-1277.

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.

## Upcoming Community Events

All are warmly invited to an inspirational afternoon of song, presented by the Goshen College **Community School of the Arts Youth Choirs** at Sauder Concert Hall on **Sunday, November 10th at 4:00 p.m.** Purchasing tickets in advance is strongly recommended, and may be purchased at <https://goshen.universitytickets.com/w/event.aspx?id=1862>.

**We invite you to participate in a service of lament** that will take place in the East Goshen Mennonite Church sanctuary at 8pm on Sunday, November 10. For those who cannot attend in-person, you can join using [this Zoom link](#). You are welcome to share this invitation within your social circles but we ask that you do not share it on social or public media to preserve the sanctity and safety of those leading and participating in it.

## Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA’s Church Vitality Office has awarded the **2024 Thrive: Church Planting Grants** to five church plants across the denomination: Iglesia Cristiana Roca de Refugio, in San Antonio, Texas; Moveable Feast, in Chicago, Illinois; Summit Street Church, in Beatrice, Nebraska; The Intention Church, an online church community; and Wild Church Fresno (California). Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/receive-thrive-grants](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/receive-thrive-grants)

Season Two of MC USA’s **“Lead/Follow” podcast** for pastors and leaders has begun! This season focuses on reimagining church. Watch new episodes on YouTube or listen on Apple or Spotify! Watch or listen here: [mennoniteusa.org/leadfollow/](https://mennoniteusa.org/leadfollow/)

MC USA’s **“Learn, Pray, Join: Conflict Transformation”** initiative provides tools and resources to help church communities peacefully engage in dialog around difficult and divisive topics. Visit the webpage here: [mennoniteusa.org/lpj/conflict-transformation](https://mennoniteusa.org/lpj/conflict-transformation)

In recognition and celebration of our 15 years of service, Mennonite Church USA’s The Corinthian Plan invites all interested persons who are part of an MC USA conference or congregation to **submit a health and/or wellbeing story**. Submit your wellbeing story here: [mennoniteusa.org/tcp-wellbeing-stories](https://mennoniteusa.org/tcp-wellbeing-stories)

## AMBS

**A video is now available** of a public lecture given Oct. 8 by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Associate Professor Drew Strait, PhD, on “**How to Challenge Christian Nationalism: Building Peace in an Age of Extremism.**”

Consider gathering a group to view and discuss the video together, and/or to discuss Drew's book, *Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism*. It's written as a handbook with discussion questions for use in small groups and with a call/response for use in congregations. Drew is also available to speak to your group or congregation, either in person or online. [ambs.edu/christian-nationalism](https://ambs.edu/christian-nationalism)

**Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Jan. 29 – March 11.** Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. This six-week Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary online short course will be taught by Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 8 to save \$50. [ambs.edu/online-short-courses](https://ambs.edu/online-short-courses)

## Pathways Retreat

**Pathways Retreat** is holding its annual silent auction fundraiser November 9-16. Pathways is offering a variety of programs and reflection groups, including Zentangle art workshops, weekly yoga, Contemplative Circle, and Soul Collage. Daily prayers are offered in-person and online. Learn more information at [pathwaysretreat.org](https://pathwaysretreat.org).

**Assembly's Advocacy and Repair Team** will host area Mennonite Church coalition member congregations on Monday, Nov 11, at 7 p.m. at Assembly's meetinghouse. Amanda Gross, the recent author of *White Women, Get Ready: How Healing Post-Traumatic Mistress Syndrome Leads to Anti-Racist Change*, will give insights into the intertwining of racism and Indigenous oppression. Inspired by [Dr. Joy DeGruy's work](#) on Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, and used with her blessing, Amanda's book tells the story of how white ladies have been groomed to uphold overlapping systems of oppression, the harmful multigenerational impact, and how we can use our unique positioning to help upend and heal from these violent structures. You can [learn more about the book here](#). Amanda was born in the heart of Atlanta, Georgia, to two white Mennonites. Raised in the social justice legacies of Dr. King and her Anabaptist ancestors, she was also raised to be a good little white girl in a system built for her advantage. Amanda has a PhD from the European Graduate School examining the role of arts and culture in sustaining white settlers in long term decolonization and anti-racist efforts and an MA in Conflict Transformation with a concentration in Restorative Justice from Eastern Mennonite University. Follow her on [instagram](#) and [facebook](#).

Show your support of Pathways Retreat by participating in the **2024 Silent Auction Fundraiser!** Bidding begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 9! Check out the [2024 silent auction site](#) to preview items that will be up for bid. Get a head start on your Christmas shopping, purchase a meal to share with your family or friends, or learn a new skill by purchasing one of the workshops! Gather a group to **split the cost of one of the group experiences to enjoy together.**

**Mental Health, Technology, & Our Kids:** The Intersection Between Brains and Algorithms, a Protect Young Eyes event, November 17, 6-8 p.m., at Brenneman Missionary Church, 6115 St Rd 15, Goshen. Gain an understanding of how young, developing brains are impacted by today's technologies. Learn more and register [HERE](#). Not recommended for teens. Childcare for infants-5th grade available.

The need for prayer for the world seems even more urgent and important than ever! The College Mennonite Church **Mennonite Action prayer group** will meet again on Tuesday, November 19, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. This month we will meet in the CMC sanctuary to pray with song and silence, scripture, spoken prayers, and candle lighting. We pray for ceasefires in Gaza and many other places. We pray for peace in our communities, our nation, and our world. Come and go as you wish, for the hour or part of the hour.

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).***