

MYF Fall Retreat

The MYF enjoyed a 24-hour retreat at Amigo Centre November 8-9.



November 17, 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, LaVon Short
Audiovisuals: Jeff Claassen, Shawn Stutzman

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

4:00 p.m. - Children's Cluster
6:00 p.m. - Haystacks & Games / FH

Thursday

7:00 p.m. - WMT / Mtg Rm

Saturday

8:00 a.m. - Stephen Minister Retreat / FH, Rm 28/30

Zoom prayers

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

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Christmas Prelude Orchestra

JD Smucker

It seems like ever since I began attending Waterford, there have always been many people in the congregation who play instruments. Our church has tried to affirm the musical gifts and talents among us, inviting string quartets, and other instruments in our worship time together. Just over 10 years ago we made the effort to get all of our instrumentalists together before Christmas to do some music making. A medley of Christmas carols was chosen, at a difficulty level that was easy for those who had been playing an instrument for at least a year. As a result, each year 15 to 25 people bring their instruments to church to join in a Christmas prelude. We will be doing this again on December 15 to start the service. Instrumentalists will come around 8:15 and we will play through the music a couple times and then share with the congregation. Vyron and Elvina are leading the congregational singing, and a few of these songs may be accompanied by the orchestra.

Music is a sweet gift from God. Everyone who participates with their instrument will be given a gift for their effort. In addition, some fruit and donuts will also be available before the service for those needing added motivation. If you are interested in joining in with your instrument, you can sign up at the Participation Station or let JD know and he can give you a copy of the music ahead of time to practice. For those who have done this for many years, just show up at 8:15 to tune, and we will all look forward to what you will bring to worship in our Christmas Prelude Orchestra on December 15.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 222

Nurture hour - 206

Finances – Nov. 10, 2024

Operating Fund \$2,145.00

Mennonite Education \$2,651.25

Either Fund \$2,182.00

Budget Total \$6,978.25

Jubilee Fund \$185.00

Welcome Spaces \$200.00

Total \$7,363.25

Looking Ahead

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

December 1: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Advent: Between a Rock and a Hard Place (*Daniel 6:6-27; Luke 23:1-5*)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, Pastor

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, Pastor

Monday - Thursday

Out of Office

Katie Misz - November 17, 19

Cindy Voth - November 19

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

God Bless ALL the Peoples of the World

Lynda Hollinger-Janzen

Waterford Mennonite Church's sign, "God Bless ALL the Peoples of the World," is a powerful witness to our community.

It all began in 2002, when Han and Yvon Baartmaans came from the Netherlands to visit our family. We learned to know the Baartmaans because our daughter, Rachel, was in the same class as their daughter, Chloë, in Cotonou, Benin.

Our family lived and worked in Benin with Mennonite Board of Missions, a predecessor agency of Mennonite Mission Network, from 1987-2000. During the two years that Han Baartmaans directed the Dutch government's development agency in Cotonou, Chloë and Rachel became life-long friends.

When the Baartmaans family visited Goshen in 2002, the United States was in a fever pitch of war, trying to make Afghanistan pay for the 9/11 deaths and devastation that had occurred less than a year before. Every gas station and laundromat displayed signs, saying, "God bless America."

Han and Yvon commented on how they felt excluded, by the signs.

"We want God to bless us too," Yvon said.

With this comment, Yvon touched on something that is at the heart of the biblical message. So often, God blesses people so that they will, in turn, bless their neighbors. A blessing ceases to be a blessing to anyone, if it is hoarded and not extended to everyone.

Rod and I were so deeply moved by Yvon's statement that we started brainstorming on how to act on it. We approached the church leaders about having a portable sign with moveable letters in the front yard along State Road 15. The sign would say, "God Bless ____" Each week, we would put one of the 195 countries of the world in the blank in alphabetical order, meaning that the first week the sign would say, "God Bless Afghanistan!" This would be followed the next week with Albania, then Algeria, and eventually all the countries of the world would be named.

Fortunately, the church leaders were a little more risk-adverse than Rod and I were. After many months of discussion, the wording of the current sign was agreed upon and installed. May the sign continue to draw in those who are seeking God and looking for a place to belong.



Partnership with Prairie View Elementary School

Luke & Cindy Voth, SOS Coordinators

For over 10 years WMC has been in a partnership with Prairie View Elementary School (PV). PV is located just 1.5 miles from WMC, and its students live close to PV and WMC. Our partnership is part of the program “Supporting Our Schools” where local congregations are invited to work together to provide support and care to our local public schools. We partner with Maple City Chapel and Comunidad Cristiana Adulam, two other congregations that are also located in the southeast corner of Goshen.

What do we do as part of our partnership? Great question! Each congregation takes turns providing food for the teachers and staff as gestures of care and encouragement. WMC will be providing morning break refreshments on March 17 and a special lunch during teacher appreciation week on May 5. On both days we will be serving around 95 people.

This fall we purchased 100 headphones for the school to distribute to children who do not have their own to use. Marge Gingerich, WMC member and the school counselor at PV, lets us know when there are additional specific needs that we might be able to help meet. There is always a need for extra children’s clothes for the school nurse to have on hand to share with students when needed (new underwear, boys and girls sizes 4-8; sweatpants, sizes 4-10, inexpensive/gently used with elastic waist, gender neutral. Clothes can be placed in the bins marked Prairie View by our church office.)

In addition, every year we provide \$1,000 to PV from our external mission budget so that PV Teachers can apply for an ‘SOS Grant’ to sponsor a project in their classrooms. Marge works with the school administration to determine the recipients of the grant funds. They offer one \$500 grant and ten \$50 grants. So far, three of the \$50 grants were awarded to first grade teachers to purchase kite-making kits to use with their students.

This year Amy Kratzer, music teacher at PV, received the \$500 SOS Grant. Just this week we received a thank you note from Amy. She writes, “Thank you so much for the ways you support Prairie View year after year. I was elated to learn that our music class room would be able to purchase three more xylophone carts! These carts keep our instruments safe and also allow for the students to take ownership in moving them (instead of just me). It may seem like a small thing, but to us, it makes a world of difference! Thank you so much!”

Thank you for joining us in praying for PV — teachers, staff, students — and engaging in opportunities to show our support in tangible acts of service and love (including delicious food!).

Thank you for making the 2024 Northern Indiana MCC Comforter Bash a great success! We knotted a total of 416 comforters thanks to the help of 332 volunteers on Friday and Saturday. MCC is grateful for your part in providing warmth and hope to people around the world.

Fall 2024 Endowment Fund Distributions

Doug Yoder, for the Endowment Fund Committee

The Endowment Fund Committee has awarded the Fall 2024 distributions to the following persons or organizations:

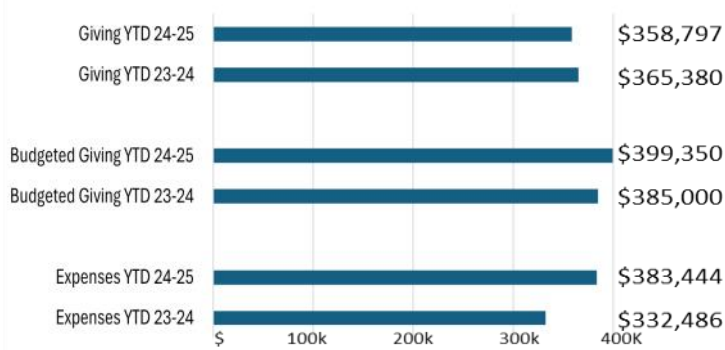
1. Mauricio Robles: \$1070 for tuition assistance for Ivy Tech certification in Business Operations, Applications and Technology.
2. Bercie Mundedi, a pastor in the Mennonite Church of Congo and Director of Kalonda Bible Institute: \$800 for one year's tuition at the Christian University of Kinshasa.
3. Habitat for Humanity of Elkhart County: \$1000 for the 2024-2025 Faith Build.
4. Ecuador Two Way Mission: \$1400 for scholarships for two Cofán students enrolled in the Ruminahui University.
5. Joel Lankas \$730 to help with completing his Bachelor's degree for his work with Maasai development projects in Kenya.

Men's Group

Deron Bergstresser, for Spiritual Formation Ministry Team

The Waterford Men's Group is certainly not the only group of men from Waterford meeting regularly, and our time together is not all about being men. But we do talk about our experiences as men so that we can learn to know and support each other, and hopefully grow as healthy human beings and followers of Jesus. We've been using a book called "Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith", by Steve Thomas and Don Neufeld. We meet once a month, for an hour and a half, most often choosing one of the two-page chapters in the book to help guide our conversations. Whoever volunteers to lead will choose the topic, be the first to share, and then lead a conversation, giving everyone an opportunity to share their life experiences related to the topic. It's a fun, meaningful, sometimes hilarious time. Our group is full at this time, but if you would like to start or be part of a men's group, please talk to Deron Bergstresser or Sheldon Swartz. We would be happy to help you find others and get started!

WMC Giving Report May to October 2024



Waterford Announcements

Please note that despite what the November calendar says, there will NOT be a Senior adult hymn sing at Greencroft this Sunday afternoon.

This Sunday, our worship will focus on “Peace with Creation: Peacemakers share the bounty of the earth.” 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. You may bring your items this Sunday and place them 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

Join others this Wednesday for **haystacks and games night in the Fellowship Hall**. Supper is at 6:00, games begin right after. Bring your favorite haystack topping and table games.

We still **need someone to do as-needed mowing** on the church grounds **beginning next week** until the cold takes over. If you are available to do this, please contact Jan Oostland at facilities@waterfordchurch.org or 574-971-1277.

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Central Committee Central States and Eastern Mennonite Seminary provided an **in-person conflict transformation training** to 17 participants on Sept. 26-28, 2024, in Akron, Pennsylvania. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/conflict-transformation-training/

Jon Carlson, moderator for Mennonite Church USA, reflects on **trends in church attendance** and what they mean for how we do church together. Read his reflections here: mennoniteusa.org/37-5

Sheryl Wilson, vice president of culture and belonging at Bethel (Kansas) College, gives advice on **how bystanders can better assess a situation** in which they witness harm done to others, so they know how to step up without overstepping. Read her thoughts here: mennoniteusa.org/bystanders-harms-done

Upcoming Community Events

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.

On November 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., Goshen College, Anabaptist Mennonite Seminary, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Baylor University, and the American Mexican Association USA (AMA-USA) will host a **webinar on Christian Nationalism and its influence in the Latino community**. **Gilberto Perez, Jr.**, member of AMA-USA, will serve as a co-moderator of the webinar. The webinar will offer attendees the opportunity to learn more about Christian Nationalism and the ways individuals within the Latino community are starting to support Christian Nationalism. Feel free to register for the webinar at www.ama-usa.org. Thanks for considering joining the webinar.

AMBS

AMBS Pastors & Leaders 2025: Anabaptism at 500: Looking Back, Living Forward:

Feb. 17–20 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. As we celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism, join us to examine how the values of the early Anabaptists still resonate today and can guide us into the future! Gain intercultural perspectives on how reading the Bible in community can help us connect more authentically in our present and future contexts. Speakers (in order of presentation): John D. Roth, PhD; Kelbessa Muleta Demena, MDiv; and Lesley Francisco McClendon, DMin. Those who cannot attend in person can register to watch via livestream. Register by Jan. 20 and save \$50! ams.edu/pastors-and-leaders

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. ams.edu/christian-nationalism

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.

Goshen College will host the **premiere of a new documentary from Jonathan Bornman '90** in Umble Center on Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. The documentary, “**Unexpected Peace,**” follows Bornman's journeys across cultures to find real-world alternatives to violence. Bornman, a social anthropologist, will be introduced at 7 p.m., with the film and then time for an audience Q&A following.

Mennonite Action Emergency Mass Meeting, Thursday, November 21 at 8 p.m. EST. Last November, we gathered to pray, grieve, and organize on Mennonite Action's very first virtual mass call. Over 800 of us came together because we needed this community space to help process our shock, horror, and deep grief as the genocide in Gaza unfolded. This year, in the wake of the election, we will gather to recommit ourselves to this movement for peace, justice and liberation. We will gather to process our fear and our grief about the future for our own communities and for Palestine. And we will prepare to continue to take mass, public action together. [To sign up, visit mennoniteaction.org/call](https://mennoniteaction.org/call)

Girl Named Tom, the local musical trio that memorably made history as the only group to ever win NBC's *The Voice*, will be returning to Goshen College with their “The Joy of Christmas Tour.” The group will perform holiday classics and original songs as part of the school's Performing Arts Series on Nov. 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at goshen.edu/tickets.

Hildaland & Sadie Gustafson-Zook present their annual collaborative show at the Assembly Meeting House in Goshen on Friday, November 29. The concert is at 7 p.m., and tickets are priced on a sliding scale from \$15-\$30. Hildaland features Goshen native Ethan Setiawan along with Scottish fiddler Louise Bichan. In Hildaland, they present a collaboration and meeting of their musical worlds. A path steeped in the fiddle traditions of their respective sides of the Atlantic, the journey taken wends through Scottish, oldtime, and Swedish inspired music intertwined with contemporary compositions. Sadie Gustafson-Zook's songwriting weaves an internal dialogue, the stories she tells herself, warm melodies and clever chords into something real, something she can physically feel with her hands and her throat. And chances are that you'll be able to feel them too.

Yule love this! Join MCC for a live, online event on Tuesday, December 3 at 12:00 p.m. EST as we take you behind the scenes of **MCC's Christmas Giving Guide**. Discover the impact behind each gift and how your generosity makes a difference. Learn more and register to join this event at: mcc.org/yule-love-this

Opportunities

Center for Healing & Hope is in need of a volunteer RN, LPN, or MA who can perform lab work for community members seeking immigration physicals on Wednesday afternoons from 1 - 5. The volunteer needs to have experience drawing blood and giving vaccines, but does not have to have a current license. Spanish is not required, but the ability to communicate in patient-friendly ways with empathy and positivity is essential. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Missy Schrock at mkschrock@chhclinics.org or 574-534-4744 ext 206. **Physicians** who would like to volunteer to **perform immigration physicals** at CHH are welcome to contact Missy as well.