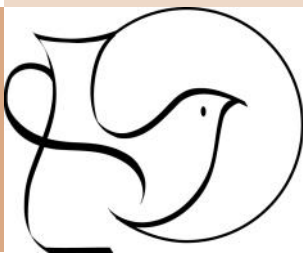




November 24, 2024



# The Waterford Buzz

## **This Sunday**

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour  
11:45 a.m. - JYF/MYF Sponsor Training

## **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Jerry & Joyce Troyer  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Carla Miller, Wade Ramer  
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Dom Ramer

## **This Week at Waterford**

### *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

## **Advent 2024: "Together on the Journey"**

*Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader*

December 1 marks the beginning of the season of Advent. During this liturgical season of the church, we will join believers around the world in a time of watching, waiting, preparing, and expecting. Once again, this year we will use the worship resource in *The Leader*, a periodical produced by MennoMedia. For the first time, *The Leader* will be following the assigned texts from the Narrative Lectionary instead of the Revised Common Lectionary. We are excited about this opportunity to enter the familiar season of Advent with unfamiliar pairings of biblical stories.

The theme this year is "Together on the Journey." The resource planners, from Mennonite Church Canada, noted an overarching theme to the responses of the biblical characters in this year's Advent lectionary scriptures, inviting others to walk "together on the journey." In their introduction they write, "This theme found in scripture readings starts with persistently walking with God (Advent 1) and being open to the guidance of God's Spirit (Advent 2). Then the theme extends to including the marginalized (Advent 3), the support of others (Advent 4), those who help us 'see' what God is doing (Sunday after Christmas), and mentors who teach us along the way (Epiphany)."

For this Advent we have invited intergenerational pairs to serve as our worship leaders, a tangible representation of how we are together on the journey. Behind the scenes, mentor/mentee pair Zoë Brown and Layna Stoltzfus will be creating our weekly worship visual arts.

Continued on next page

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 219

Nurture hour - 237

### Finances – Nov. 17, 2024

Operating Fund \$6,136.50

Mennonite Education \$4,015.00

Either Fund \$5,115.00

**Budget Total \$15,266.50**

Least Coin Fund \$63.60

Welcome Spaces \$200.00

MCC SALT Bolivia \$500.00

Two-Way Mission \$50.00

**Total \$16,080.10**

### Looking Ahead

December 1: Sermon: Cindy

Voth; Advent 1: Between a  
Rock and a Hard Place

(*Daniel 6:6-27; Luke 23:1-5*)

December 8: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser; Advent 2:

Opening Hearts (*Joel 2:12-13,  
28-29; Luke 11:13*)

### 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 27-30

### Office hours this week

Monday - Wednesday,

9 - 12, 1 - 3

Thursday - Friday: CLOSED

**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)

Within the weekly worship services we will dwell with the assigned biblical passages, join our voices in singing the theme song “How Many Times We Start Again” (Voices Together 553), and hear from some travelers during the children’s time. Speaking of children’s time, during Advent all are invited to join the children in collecting our spare change (and dollars) to go toward purchasing a children’s all-terrain wheelchair for Amigo Centre. As the children learn about traveling together in God’s creation, we desire to make the beautiful creation of Amigo Centre more accessible for all.

Beyond Sunday morning, we will have other opportunities to enter into the spirit and hope that comes with the Advent and Christmas Season.

- On December 15 we will have our Christmas Orchestra, led by JD Smucker. Please sign up at the Participation Station or on your Nurture Class clipboard. The Orchestra will share in prelude music as well as accompany some of our opening carols.
- Also on December 15, we will have our Children’s Christmas Program at 5 p.m. Come prepared to hear the story, enter the story through song, and then join in fellowship together in our Fellowship Hall after the program. Please bring finger foods to share.
- On December 21 all are invited to a Longest Night Service at 7 p.m. This is a service for those who live with grief, loss, pain, or despair on the longest night of the year.
- On December 24 all are invited to a Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 p.m. This service of Lessons and Carols will lead us through the Christmas story and will include candle lighting.
- On December 29 we will have our Christmas Brunch at 9 a.m., followed by Christmas Worship at 10:30 a.m. There will be no nurture hour (please note the change in our morning schedule). A special word of thanks to the Seekers who will be hosting our brunch.

We welcome you on this journey of Advent as we once again prepare to fully welcome and celebrate the arrival of Emmanuel.

*See Page 3 for the Advent worship schedule.*

## Anabaptism 500 Opportunity

### Announcing a Global Anabaptist Bible Read-a-thon!

MennoMedia’s Anabaptism at 500 project is collaborating with Mennonite World Conference to invite 500 people from around the world to contribute to a global Anabaptist “read-a-thon” that will be featured on YouTube in the days leading up to a celebration of the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism and the official launch of the *Anabaptist Community Bible* on January 21 (more details about that event to follow). You can participate by registering [here](#). We’ll send you a passage to read, along with a Zoom link where it will be recorded. Then we’ll piece together 500 contributions—in many different languages—and video stream a reading of the entire Bible. Register soon, since slots will quickly be filled!

## Advent/Christmas Worship

Date	Theme	Scripture	Preacher	Worship Leaders	Special Elements
12/1	Between a Rock and a Hard Place	Daniel 6:6-27; Luke 23:1-5	Cindy Voth	Lyle Miller & Ethan Claassen	
12/8	Opening Hearts	Joel 2:12-13, 28-29; Luke 11:13	Deron Bergstresser	Carla Miller & Katie Misz	
12/15	Anointing for Justice	Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 4:16-21	Cindy Voth	Christa Graber Kauffman & Eleanor Habecker	Christmas Orchestra; Evening Children's
12/22	Embodying God's Spirit	Luke 1:26-49; Psalm 113	Deron Bergstresser	Loanne Harms & Lydia Voth	
12/29	Keeping Promises	Luke 2:21-38; Psalm 131	Cindy Voth	Lynda Hollinger-Janzen & Cori Chupp	Brunch at 9; worship at 10:30; no nurture
1/5	Nurturing Faith	Luke 2:41-52; Psalm 2:7-8	Katie Misz	Mark Daniels & Zeke Ramer	

## Waterford Announcements

This Sunday (and maybe next), there will be a table in the foyer with **unaccounted for items** that have appeared all over the church. Please peruse the items carefully to see if you recognize anything that should be living in your house rather than in the church building, claim it and take it home with you.

**WMC Christmas Orchestra:** If you are interested in joining the orchestra on December 15, please sign up at the Participation Station or on your class clipboard, or let JD Smucker know. JD will give you a copy of the music ahead of time to practice. Practice will start at 8:15 that morning to practice together.

## Upcoming Community Events

You can purchase [tickets](#) now for the **Bethany performance of *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten***, a play conceived and adapted by Ernest Zulia based on the book by Robert Fulghum. Showtimes are Friday, November 22, and Saturday, November 23, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, November 24, at 3 p.m. Online tickets are priced at \$8 for students and \$10 for adults.

## Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA convention planners have released the **tentative event schedule** and learning track descriptions for next year's convention, Follow Jesus '25, which will take place July 8-12, 2025, at Koury Convention Center, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/schedule-seminar-followjesus25](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/schedule-seminar-followjesus25)

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

On the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war, Oct. 7, Amy Yoder McGloughlin, conference minister for Allegheny Mennonite Conference, reflected on **how the imagery of Rachel's tears applies to the current war**. Read her reflections here: [mennoniteusa.org/anniversary-israel-hamas-war](https://mennoniteusa.org/anniversary-israel-hamas-war)

Paula Holtzinger, a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, provides **insight on how to effectively handle conflict**, through listening, leaning in and utilizing resources. Read her thoughts here: [mennoniteusa.org/listening-leaning-in](https://mennoniteusa.org/listening-leaning-in)

## AMBS

### Do you sense a call to ministry?

Nurture your leadership abilities, grow in spiritual practices, and deepen your understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's **Journey Missional Leadership Development Program**. The distance-friendly undergraduate-level program offers the guidance of a dedicated pastoral mentor and community support. The Spring 2025 cohort begins Jan. 24; apply by Dec. 4 to save \$100! [ambs.edu/journey](https://ambs.edu/journey)

**Develop skills for holistic leadership!** Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Master of Arts in Christian Formation program prepares students for ministry in spiritual formation and guidance, teaching and worship in congregations and other faith-based settings. Generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and matching grants are available! [ambs.edu/macf](https://ambs.edu/macf)

The Fall 2024 issue of **Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology** — edited by **Jackie Wyse-Rhodes**, PhD — brings together 15 writers who engage with disability theology as a transformative conversation partner for biblical interpretation, theological reflection, worship leading and preaching, and spiritual autobiography. The issue is designed to be a resource for pastors, churches and disability scholars. [Read Vision online.](#)

The Assembly Mennonite Church Green Team is working with the Goshen Environmental Resilience office to host a **United Nations Climate Summit Watch Party** on Sunday, November 24, 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly worship space (727 New York Street). All are invited! We will watch two 30 minute segments highlighting the work of the Interfaith Council for Sustainable Development. One is the Multi-faith Statement for Climate Action, the other is Waking Up the Sleeping Giant of Religion. There will be time for discussion between and after viewing these two sessions. Please join us as we consider the future of our planet.

The **Evergreen Singers** will present free **Christmas Concerts at Evergreen Place** on December 1 at 7:00 p.m. and at the Greencroft Community Center December 8 at 2:30 p.m.

Goshen College will hold its annual Christmas music celebration, **A Festival of Carols**, on Dec. 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. Performers include the Goshen College Chamber Choir, Vox Profundi, Voices of the Earth, Goshen College Symphony Orchestra and Shout for Joy Children's Choir. Tickets are available at [goshen.edu/tickets](https://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](https://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](mailto: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.

**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.