

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
12:00 p.m. - Fellowship Meal
hosted by the MYF



November 3, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

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

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - GDMT / Culvers
7:00 p.m. - Mentors/
Mentees night
7:00 p.m. - Endowment
Committee

Thursday

6:30 p.m. - Stephen Min. /
MYF Rm, Rm 15

Friday - Saturday

6:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. -
Youth Retreat / Amigo

Zoom prayers

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Meet Leroy and Joyce Bontrager



Leroy was born on a farm northeast of Middlebury to Lydia and Enos Bontrager. He had three older sisters and one younger brother. When he was three, his family bought a farm on County Road 20 (1 1/2 miles west of SR 15). His folks left the Amish faith when he was 14 and then attended Fairhaven Church where he was baptized at 16. Leroy was a Hossick bread man before he went to Indianapolis for his I-W service delivering mail on the IU medical center campus. He also helped start the Mennonite church in Indy during this time.

Six months after I-W, he entered Voluntary Service in Kansas City where he worked as an orderly. When he returned home, he went to work at Elkhart Products until his retirement 40 years later. In his 20's, he thought he had too much time on his hands, so he bought land from his parent's farm and built his own home. He moved his parents into his new home and cared for them for 16 years, and provided housing for several other family members at different times.

I, Joyce, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, to Ray and Letha Steiner, who owned a dairy farm. I am the youngest of six children (including Julia Leatherman). Our family worked and played together. We attended and participated at Oak Grove Mennonite with most of my Mom's family where I was baptized at age 12. Mom worked outside with Dad and Dad worked inside with Mom, so we all learned to help doing whatever needed to be done. My parents shared with each of us a heart for serving others. They were some of the first to donate cattle to Heifer International. Dad spent many weeks rebuilding Sunnyside after the '65

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Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 201

Nurture hour - 206

Finances – October 20, 2024

Operating Fund \$5,503.00

Mennonite Education \$1,100.00

Either Fund \$2,800.00

Budget Total \$9,403.00

Sharing Fund \$302.78

Two-Way Mission \$2,500.00

Total \$12,205.78

Looking Ahead

November 10: Sermon: Doug

Kaufman; Peace With

Creation: Caring for the Earth

(Genesis 2:4-23)

November 17: Sermon: Cindy

Voth; Peace With Creation:

Sharing the Bounty

(Lev. 23:33-43; Deut. 16:13-

15)

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 3-4

Cindy Voth - November 3-4

Karen Hostetler - November 3-5

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

tornadoes went through this area, and donated time to many other MDS projects.

At 17, I left home to join the Pueblo, Colorado VS unit where I worked as a nurse aid. I was in Hesston College's first nursing class to receive an AA degree in Nursing. After college, I moved to Goshen and started working at Goshen General. They gave me two leaves for short term assignments in the Congo working with my brother and at a children's tuberculosis hospital in Haiti. I also worked at Elkhart General before going with Christian Medical Society to Liberia. Finally, I worked at the Elkhart County Health Department for 28 years when I quit to do service projects with my husband and enjoy his retirement. We have had many other service opportunities—local, national and international.

Leroy and I met and married at Belmont Mennonite church in 1980. When my mom and brother died the same year, we made the move to attend Pleasant View Mennonite, a half mile from our home. Later, when we downsized from the 10 acres of land Leroy lived on for more than 60 years to a condo in College Green, we again wanted a church family close by and have been active with LifePoint Church the last 17 years.

Leroy enjoys gardening, reading and watching sports. Joyce enjoys sewing projects, reading, singing, racquetball, water activities and deep massages. She still misses her motorcycle she gave up this spring!! We were not blessed with children of our own, but try to stay in touch with nieces, nephews, greats, great greats and great great greats as time and travel allows. We both really enjoy interactions with persons of all ages, travel, entertaining and playing table games. We look forward to reconnecting with many of you, as well as learning to know new friends. Thank you for the warm welcome to the Waterford church family!

Young Adult Fellowship



The Waterford YAF is a group for people who are working or in school, living at home or living on their own, partnered or single, questioning or certain of faith, social or introverted.

Waterford has a number of adult “coaches” who plan and guide YAF

activities and are available for anything from life questions, a shoulder to cry on, or a good laugh. Once a month, they share a food and activity night with hosts Gregg Nussbaum and Judy Snyder.

Membership Transfer

Neil and Janette Amstutz have requested their church membership to be transferred to Assembly Mennonite Church. We pray for God's blessings for them as they build community with others in their new church home.

Cindy Voth, for Ministry Leadership Council

Thank You

Dear Pastor Cindy,

Being led through so many activities, meeting wonderful people, and having new and enriching times under your leadership was a great experience. I searched for a word stronger than thanks to express my gratitude, but I found none. Thanks a lot for each detail. Because of your loving care, I was able to burn my candle from both ends, as said Uncle Rod. I had an overall wonderful experience.

We finished at St. Jacobs (Ont.) on Sunday and departed Monday early morning. We landed well [Tuesday] afternoon [in Benin] and I reached home safe and sound. My family is well and greets you for having taken such good care of me.

Kindly receive and transfer my gratitude to the whole congregation.

Blessings in Him,
Jocelyne Ahoga

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday, November 3, will be our **monthly fellowship meal** after the nurture hour, hosted by the MYF. Plan to bring a dish or two to share. Please bring crock pot hot dishes. You are welcome to bring your own tableware.

Volunteer needed to mow the church lawn. Our summer mower, Ed Swartzendruber, is now in Texas for the winter. We need someone to do the weekly mowing on the church grounds for the next several weeks until the cold takes over. If you are available to do this, please contact Jan Oostland at 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.

Mennonite Church USA

The MC USA Executive Board has published its updated "**Guidelines for Developing Organizational Resolutions and Church Statements in Mennonite Church USA**" and appointed a new Resolutions Committee ahead of the Delegate Assembly on July 11-12, 2025, in Greensboro, North Carolina. The deadline for resolutions is Nov. 13, 2024. Read more here:

mennoniteusa.org/news/resolutions-committee/

As a denomination that seeks to extend peace and dismantle oppression and violence, MC USA has a distinct perspective on social justice issues and concerns that impact our communities. Learn more in the new "**Exploring the Issues**" **downloadable resource series**. Read the first backgrounder on immigration here:

mennoniteusa.org/resource/exploring-the-issues

Join MC USA's Climate Justice Coordinator Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler in **imagining a sustainable future for ourselves, our children, and our planet** by participating in an **online book study** of "So We and Our Children May Live" by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler. Drawing from Scripture, science, Indigenous wisdom, and personal stories, the authors invite us to open our hearts and our culture to deep, Spirit-led transformation.

Register here:

mennoniteusa.org/climate-justice-book-study

Stanley Green, executive conference minister of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference, **offers this prayer**, calling us to conflict transformation and peace, while asking God for wisdom and courage to enact change in a world full of discord and despair. Read it here: mennoniteusa.org/prayer-conflict-transformation

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

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

Upcoming Community Events

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 (Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference) 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.

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. *Volunteers are especially needed on Saturday! Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day on Saturday. Must be present to win.*

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 unpend 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](#).

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. **Items accepted through November 4.** Visit the [silent auction page](#) for ideas of experiential items and for information on how to donate.

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.

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.*