



December 1, 2024



# The Waterford Buzz

## **This Sunday**

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

## **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Lindsey Daniels,  
Brynn Replogle  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken  
Otto, Len Harms  
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,  
Steve Fath

## **This Week at Waterford**

### *Tuesday*

7:00 pm - MLC / Fell. Hall

### *Wednesday*

7:00 pm - Mentor/Mentee  
night

### *Thursday*

6:30 pm - Stephen Ministers  
MYF Rm, Rm 15

### *Zoom prayers*

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

## **Waterford Mennonite Church**

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## **New Children's Books in the Church Library**

*Compiled by Barb Westerbeek*

*25 Days to Jesus: A children's advent devotional*, by Christy Waltersdorff and Mitch Miller.

*We Are Water Protectors*, by Carole Lindstrom and Michaela Goode. This Caldecott medal winning book honors indigenous-led movements across the world, a rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption.

*White Flour*, by David LaMotte. The story of an effective response to a racist rally in Knoxville, TN, in 2007. Rhyme and evocative illustrations inspired by true events tell the story of the Coup Clutz Clowns who vanquished the KKK. The group overcame hatred with humor. This is a story of a non-violent approach to aggression. Illustrations balance the seriousness of the topic.

*God's Holy Darkness*, by Sharei Green and Bekah Selnicks. The authors deconstruct anti-blackness in Christian theology by celebrating instances in the story of God's people when darkness, blackness, and night are beautiful, good and holy. Children learn that blackness is something to celebrate as an element of the life of faith. Perfect for reading and anti-racist reflection.

*Maybe God is Like That Too*, by Jennifer Grant and Benjamin Schipper. In this award winning story, a young boy learns that God can be found in all kinds of moments, all you have to do is look at the people around you.

*Continued on next page*

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 221

Nurture hour - 220

### Finances – Nov. 24, 2024

Operating Fund \$7,895.00

Mennonite Education \$775.00

Either Fund \$3,520.00

**Budget Total \$12,190.00**

Jubilee Fund \$60.00

Welcome Spaces \$750.00

Two-Way Mission \$2,000.00

**Total \$15,000.00**

### Looking Ahead

December 8: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser; Advent 2:

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

December 15: Sermon: Cindy

Voth; Advent 3: Anointing for Justice

(*Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 4:16-21*)

### Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, Pastor

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, Pastor

Monday - Thursday

### Out of Office

Cindy Voth - December 2

### 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)

## New Books, cont.

*Too Much! An Overwhelming Day*, by Jolene Gutierrez. Writing from her own experience with sensory processing disorder, this award-winning teacher-librarian's compassionate picture book explores the struggles of a sensorily sensitive child.

## Group Profiles

### Mennonite Women

*Karen Hostetler*

Waterford's Mennonite Women, formerly known as WMSC, or Women's Missionary and Service Commission, is typically a group of ladies, although men would certainly be welcome, that meet every second Thursday of the month from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. We come and go as our schedule allows. While we're together, we quilt on a quilt for the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale, knot comforters that are donated to the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Material Resource Center, knit or crochet prayer shawls, sew school kit bags, or occasionally work on another project. While we're working, we laugh together, share from our lives and experiences, and give support and encouragement to each other. When it's nearing lunch time, we pause for a short devotional and business meeting. We collect a "Least Coin" offering, the funds from which we donate to a local cause of our choosing. After our meeting we share a potluck lunch together with pastors and office staff.

Mennonite Women organizes WMC's drives for MCC School Kits in the fall and MCC Relief Kits around Christmas time. We provide a baby quilt when a new baby is dedicated in a Sunday morning service and the prayer shawls that are given by our pastors to people experiencing a difficult time or a time of transition. We would welcome others to join us as we work together.

### Grief Support Groups

*Ursula Hess*

There are two different ways to find companionship and support for your losses and your griefs.

An impromptu group has formed of mostly WMC members who have recently lost a spouse either to death or to dementia. This group gives mutual support and encouragement to those who have built a deep friendship on their journey of pain and loss.

At Greencroft, there are ongoing grief support groups. Some are held at the Community Center and some at Evergreen Place, Assisted Living. Both groups invite anyone from the Greencroft Campus and from other communities. Ursula Hess alternates with Goshen Hospice in leading these groups. Each one is usually six to seven weeks long. Interested people can contact Ursula Hess or one of the Chaplains at Greencroft.

## Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA's Climate Justice Ministry has awarded the **2024 Pam De Young Net Zero Energy Fund** grants to four congregations: Covenant Mennonite Fellowship, Sarasota, Florida; Roanoke Mennonite Church, Eureka, Illinois; Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, Oregon, and Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton, Pennsylvania. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/net-zero-grant-awarded](https://mennoniteusa.org/net-zero-grant-awarded)

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 the compelling and timely book, "**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](https://mennoniteusa.org/climate-justice-book-study)

You are invited to participate in **Follow Jesus 25 by submitting ideas for seminars**. The submission deadline is December 6, 2024. MC USA is seeking a good mix of seminars, oriented to youth or adult audiences. Submit your ideas here: [mennoniteusa.org/follow-jesus-25-seminar-proposal](https://mennoniteusa.org/follow-jesus-25-seminar-proposal)

Olivia Krall, archives coordinator for MC USA, writes about the **MC USA Archives' Community Peacemakers Team collection** and a new donation of archival materials from a CPT alumnus that tells the story of the 1997 "Rebuilders Against Bulldozers" campaign in Hebron. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/archives-cpt](https://mennoniteusa.org/archives-cpt)

Thank you to those who agreed to serve as Sunday morning greeters this past year. As the 2025 year approaches, we invite you to help welcome those joining us on Sunday mornings — visitors and regular attenders. Please consider inviting someone to join you, spouse, friend, grandchild, mentee, and sign up for the Sundays you would like to help. A sheet with tips for greeters will be provided to you.

There is a link in the BUZZ each Sunday on the left sidebar below the office hours information. Click on this link to sign up.

Thank you so much!

Mary Ann Wieand

## Waterford Announcements

This Sunday the table with **unaccounted for items** that have appeared all over the church will be by the library. 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

**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.

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.

**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)

## AMBS

New *Anabaptist Witness* issue on “**Witness in Palestine and Israel**” available for free online. Authors in this issue reflect on 75 years of Mennonite witness in the region, in addition to topics such as challenges raised for Anabaptists by Palestinian liberation theology; the 2017 Mennonite Church USA resolution “Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine”; and recent efforts to organize Mennonites in the U.S. to call for a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. [anabaptistwitness.org](http://anabaptistwitness.org).

## 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. 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!

Greencroft Goshen will observe **Disability Awareness Inclusion Day** on Tuesday, December 3 at 2 p.m. Please come to hear about the development of disability awareness. Watch a Show & Tell to get hints about being sensitive and helpful to people with disabilities. Question a panel of people experienced with vision, hearing and mobility impairments. Also examine special technology that helps people with disabilities live more independent and fulfilling lives. And take suggestions that you, your community or church can implement to be more inclusive. The event will take place in the Greencroft Community Center, 1820 Greencroft Blvd., Goshen.

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](http://goshen.edu/tickets).

**Church Community Services Annual Holiday Open House** will be Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 907 Oakland Ave. in Elkhart. Sample soups, dips and cookies, meet the staff and women of Soup of success, and pick up your holiday gifts! This year give a gift that gives back!

United Sound is a national program bringing together students of all abilities to make music side by side. Join GC’s **Music with United Sound** class for a **free concert** featuring musicians from Elkhart Community Schools and GC peer mentors who have been learning string instruments together this semester on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the College Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall.

In **celebration of Anabaptism at 500 reaching its funding goal**, we are hosting a special **Zoom party**, and we’d love for you to join us December 11, 2024, at 1-2 p.m. EST, or, 7-8 p.m. EST. During this celebration, you’ll hear directly from project director John Roth, who will share updates on the project. As a highlight, we will also be offering an exclusive sneak peek at one of the forthcoming children’s books, *Sparking Peace*, by Teresa Kim Pecinovsky and Hannah Rose Martin. Hear Teresa and Hannah share their inspiration for *Sparking Peace* and the transformation they hope the book will bring to all generations. **Click this link to [RSVP](#)** before December 8.

The Ohio-based husband and wife duo Over the Rhine will perform “**An Acoustic Christmas with Over the Rhine**” as part of Goshen College’s Performing Arts Series. The performance of Christmas tunes and the duo’s top songs will be in Sauder Concert Hall on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at [goshen.edu/tickets](http://goshen.edu/tickets).

Bethany’s **Fourth Annual All-School [Christmas Gala](#)** is Friday, December 13 at 7 p.m. in the Sauder Concert Hall at Goshen College. Peace is Born! Come enjoy a uniquely-Bethany Christmas program, featuring students from grades K-12. This event is free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. On-site overflow seating with livestream viewing will be available as needed.

## Opportunities

Kauffman Museum (Bethel College, North Newton, KS) seeks a **Visitor Services & Education Coordinator** to work with school groups, college students, senior volunteers and the general public. Find the full description of this half-time position, application and contact info [HERE](#).