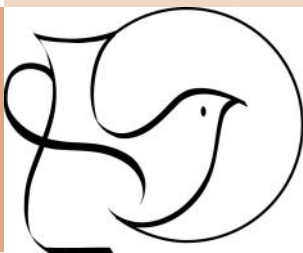


This Sunday

8:55 a.m. - Christmas Orchestral
Prelude
9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
5:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas
Program, followed by
fellowship and snacks



December 15, 2024

The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jim & Lila Gascho
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken
Otto, Mark King
Audiovisuals: Shawn Stutzman,
Jeff Claassen

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 pm - Two-Way Prayers/
Zoom

Wednesday

6:00 pm - Haystacks &
Games; Fell. Hall

7:00 pm - Venture Club

Saturday

7:00 pm - Longest Night
Service / Sanctuary

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

Fellowship Fun on the Horizon

Melissa Chupp, for Fellowship Ministry Team

Below you will find an upcoming calendar of fellowship events planned for this year. If you have an idea for other events, contact one of the members of the fellowship team and let us know how we can help you bring it to fruition. Team members are: Camila Pérez Diener, Mariko Claassen, Jon. Wieand, Rita Herrmann, Melissa Chupp, and Cindy Voth.

Sunday, January 5 – Haystack meal hosted by Pathfinders, following nurture hour.

This will be a fundraiser for Carlos Ramos.

Wednesday, January 15 – Game Night, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at WMC

This event happens every third Wednesday of the month and is hosted by Mark and Krista Daniels. Bring a favorite table game or come enjoy someone else's. A collaborative haystack meal is served. Meat is provided, bring a topping to share. No sign-up needed.

Sunday, January 26 – Bowling, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Maple City Bowl, 1300 West Pike Street, Goshen

\$10 per person for 2 hours of bowling including shoes. Sign up at the participation station by January 12

Sunday, February 2 – Potluck, Following nurture hour

Sunday, February 16 – Chili Cook Off, 5:30 at WMC

Does your chili charm the taste buds of all who partake of it? Find out by participating in a friendly chili cook off. If cooking chili is not your thing, sign up to bring a side dish to share and “Taste and See” which chili you think is worthy of the Golden Ladle.

Continued on next page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 239

Nurture hour - 239

Finances – December 8, 2024

Operating Fund	\$1,450.00
Mennonite Education	\$1,250.00
Either Fund	\$3,788.00
Budget Total	\$6,488.00
Wheelchair Fund	\$605.60
Two-Way Mission	\$1,000.00
Welcome Spaces	\$200.00
Total	\$8,293.60

Looking Ahead

December 22: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Advent 4: Embodying God's Spirit (Luke 1:26-49; Psalm 113)
December 29: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Advent 3: Keeping Promises (Luke 2:21-38; Psalm 131)

Pastoral Team

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

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

Wednesday, February 19 – Game Night, 6:00-8:30 at WMC

Sunday, March 2 – Potluck, Following nurture hour

Wednesday, March 19 – Game Night, 6:00-8:30 at WMC

Friday, March 21 – March Madness Party, 4:00 - 10:00 or later?? at WMC

Take advantage of the TV screens in the fellowship hall and cheer on your favorite college basketball teams. Come and go as you please. We will order pizza and aim to have it ready around 6:00. Bring snacks to share and donations to help cover the cost of the pizza.

Wednesday, April 17 – Game Night, 6:00-8:30 at WMC

Sunday April 20 – Easter Brunch, During nurture hour

Saturday April 26 – Possible Spring Cleaning event

This event is still in brainstorming stages. We are imagining having a one stop drop-off location in the church parking lot for all those unwanted or unneeded household objects, as well as items that are essentially trash but you're not sure where to recycle them or how to properly dispose of them, as we clean out our houses for a fresh start in spring.

Sunday, May 4 – Potluck, Following nurture hour

Wednesday, May 15 – Game Night, 6:00-8:30 at WMC

Sunday, May 18 – Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, 5:30-8:00 at Mystery

Locations

Look for forms to be in your church mailbox on April 13 for the next round of Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. Sign up to be a mystery host or a mystery guest.

*Sign-up sheets for various events will be available at the participation station as we get closer to the actual date of the event.

WMC Directory

It's past time for a new church directory. This year, we will publish an information-only version without the photos and plan for updating the photo section for next year. Many of you will soon receive the information forms by email. Please look them over and reply to office@waterfordchurch.org with any changes or corrections by the end of December. If you receive a paper copy, you may make changes on the form and place it in the church office box.

If you are a new attender since our last directory and have returned your new member profiles to the office, we don't need anything more from you. If you have not returned the profile forms, please do so if you would like to be included. If you have not received a form at all, let the office know and we will get one to you.

You don't have to be a member to be included in the directory. If you are attending regularly, we would like to include you.

Longest Night Vigil:

Mennonite Action Michiana is holding a Longest Night Vigil at Assembly Mennonite Meetinghouse (727 New York Street, Goshen, IN), Saturday, Dec 21, 8:30 p.m. until 8 a.m. You are welcome to come for part or all of the vigil.

We will join Mennonite Action communities around the U.S. and Canada in keeping vigil for Gaza throughout this longest night. We will grieve, pray, sing, and sit in silence. For the people of Gaza. For our loved ones. For undocumented immigrants. For what is to come. We will laugh, gather, eat and drink. To ground ourselves in what gives us strength—love, community, struggle. And our faith in a just and loving God. We will imagine the future in Gaza and Palestine - a future without occupation or war. We will imagine the future in our own countries, in our own movement, in our own communities. We will recommit ourselves to this work, learning from the Palestinian example of *sumud* or “steadfastness.” From 12-1 a.m. we will join the binational Mennonite Action for their Zoom service. There will be opportunity to give money to a family from Gaza, fill MCC refugee buckets, and breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. Here is the link to the schedule for the night: [All-Night Vigil for Gaza](#).

Why have a longest night for Gaza?

“It’s so important to let our local communities know that Christians and Mennonites are continuing to hold Gaza in our hearts. By telling the story of our Longest Night services, we are showing Palestinians and Arab-Americans in our local communities that we see their humanity. We are showing Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, and abroad that we see their struggle and we are with them. And we are sending a signal to Christians everywhere that we will not be silent in the face of genocide.

“We hold vigil so that we might encounter God today in the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza and in all lands. We hold vigil so that we might hear more clearly the voices of our steadfast Palestinian loved ones who are so often dismissed, silenced, and dehumanized. They are speaking loudly to us this Advent season, providing both a meaning and a challenge to our own celebration of the incarnational presence of ‘God with us’ this Christmas.”

I hope you will join in part of our longest night for Gaza this year. May Jesus come to Bethlehem.

Holding onto hope,
Katie Misz

*Manger at Christmas
Lutheran Church, Bethlehem*



Mennonite Church USA

Peaceful Options for Training & Careers, a collaboration between Mennonite Central Committee U.S. and MC USA, presents a pre-recorded webinar resource. In this webinar, hear more about the project from our panelists: Glen Guyton, executive director of MC USA; Joe Roos, chair of POTC and pastor at Peace Mennonite Fellowship; Melissa Atchison, pastor at Manhattan Mennonite Church and a spiritual director, and Titus Peachey, retired peace educator for MCC US and current counselor on the GI Rights hotline. Watch it here: mennoniteusa.org/potc-pre-recorded-webinar

Naomi Klassen, a summer 2024 intern with the MC USA Historical Archives, writes about her **internship with the MC USA Historical Archives** and how she was impacted by the letters written by Lynn Liechty, a Mennonite and World War II non-combatant. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/archives/lynn-liechty

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Mennonite Church USA’s denominational minister for Peace and Justice, shares God’s call for us to be peacemakers in the midst of uncertainty, division and a heated election. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/a-season-of-hope

Following the 2024 presidential election, Executive Director Glen Guyton calls us to **live out our citizenship in heaven with courage and faith**. Read his blog here: mennoniteusa.org/glen-guyton-2024-election

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! ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders

Leadership Clinics at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary: Monday, Feb. 17. These daylong in-person clinics include Biblical Interpretation across the Two Testaments; Healthy Boundaries 101; Introducing the *Anabaptist Community Bible*; Orienting With the Word; Starting with the Spirit; and Worshiping with the Global Church. CEUs available. Sign up by Feb. 10. View clinic descriptions and register: ambs.edu/clinics

Waterford Announcements

Children's Christmas Program tonight! Come at 5:00 p.m. for a program in which the children will tell the Christmas story. Bring snacks to share after the program in the fellowship hall.

The Bibles Have Arrived! If you ordered a Bible through the church, you will be able to pick it up this Sunday. There will be tables in the foyer with the bibles arranged in alphabetical order by last names of those who ordered. Just look for the paper slip in the Bible with your name on it and take it home with you. If you missed this week, those left will be collected and held in the office for you to pick up.

Winter Weather Cancellations: With the possibility of winter weather interrupting our regular schedules, we will have a system to notify the congregation of any cancellations. The decision to cancel worship will be made Sunday morning by 6 a.m. All other weekly activities will be decided two hours prior to a scheduled event. We will post all cancellations on WNDU (TV and online), on our Website home page, and send out an all-church email. Be sure to check the posting to obtain the proper information.

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. You can choose a month to provide the meat or cleanup at the participation station.

Upcoming Community Events

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 through 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.

Kids' Community Theatre invites children 1st through 6th grades to register for the 2025 show. Wednesday rehearsals, January 8 to March 5 at Silverwood Mennonite Church. See the poster on the bulletin board for more information and to register your child.

Pathways Retreat offers a variety of programs and workshops, including a new Prayer Bead Workshop, Zentangle-inspired Art, weekly Yoga, Contemplative Circle, and Soul Collage. Daily prayers happen in-person and online. Learn more at pathwaysretreat.org.

Opportunities

Thrift at Woodland Crossing is seeking to hire a full-time assistant manager. Located at 138 W. Hively Ave., Ste 7 in Elkhart, this thrift shop supports the work of Mennonite Central Committee. For information, please contact Haiam Gendi at elkharthrift@gmail.com or (574) 326-3674.