



December 22, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

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

Welcome Team

Greeters: Esther Farmwald,
Carolyn Chupp
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Carla
Miller, Wade Ramer
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,
Colin Berkey

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve
Service
Zoom prayers
Monday - 8:30 a.m.
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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New Non-fiction Books in the Church Library

Compiled by Diane Bodiker

Beachdale Road: Where Mercy Is More Powerful Than Murder, by Megan Shertzer & Tim Rogers. On Sunday, June 21, 2020, eighteen-year-old Linda Stoltzfoos of Bird-in-hand, Pennsylvania, was kidnapped and later murdered by Justo Smoker—a member of our family. The book is our attempt to share our story of grief, anger, and pain but also of unexplainable grace, kindness, and mercy at the hands of the Amish community—of which Linda was a part.

The Wages of Peace: How to Confront Economic Inequality and Love Your Neighbor Well, by Brian Humphreys. This book offers aspiring economic peacemakers an empathetic, informed perspective on today's economy and the difficulty of getting by. Reporting back from his work in community development, Humphreys unpacks the core needs of low-income households and communities, starting with living-wage jobs. He then offers practical steps to address complex socioeconomic challenges and become equipped to talk about money, work, and well-being. When we put profits over people, we pay the price in despair and violence.

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity, by Nabeel Qureshi. Providing an intimate view into a loving Muslim home, Qureshi shares how he developed a passion for Islam before discovering, almost against his will, evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and claimed to be God. Unable to deny the arguments but not wanting to deny his family, he struggled with an inner turmoil that will challenge Christians, Muslims, and all those who are interested in two of the world's greatest religions and the quest for truth.

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Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 259

Nurture hour - 227

Finances – December 15, 2024

Operating Fund \$17,550.00

Mennonite Education \$11,465.00

Either Fund \$4,955.00

Budget Total \$33,970.00

Wheelchair Fund \$1,796.57

Two-Way Mission \$650.00

Least Coin Fund \$36.00

Sharing Fund \$300.00

Total \$36,752.57

Looking Ahead

December 29: Sermon: Cindy

Voth; Christmas Sunday:

Keeping Promises

(Luke 2:21-38; Psalm 131)

January 5: Sermon: Katie Misz;

Epiphany: Nurturing Faith

(Luke 2:41-52; Psalm 2:7-8)

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 26-28

Office hours this week

Monday, Tuesday, Friday

9 - 12

Wednesday

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday

9 - 12, 1 - 3

Greeter signup: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRLd0Ydw_QxRIQUvRhUscNV-

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

Flyover Church: How Jesus' Ministry in Rural Places Is Good News Everywhere, by Brad Roth. The author describes how rural ministry shares soul-deep commonalities with the church in every place. And he speaks a hopeful message into the distinct challenges—and promises—faced by rural communities. Tracing Jesus' ministry and bountiful work among the small-town people and places in the gospel of Mark, this book offers a vision for ministry tailored to rural settings.

Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most, by Marcus Borg. Borg calls all American Christians to reject divisiveness and exclusivity and create communities that celebrate joy, possibility and renewal. Throughout, he reflects on what matters most, bringing to earth the kingdom of God Jesus talked about and transforming our relationships with one another.

Trending Tomorrow: Courageous Change for People and Planet, by Leah Reesor-Keller. In the face of environmental and social upheaval, *Trending Tomorrow* lays out a path for Christians seeking courage and inspiration for the uncertain journey ahead. Drawing on metaphors from the natural worlds, the author offers foundational, transformative practices for leaders and communities to foster healthier cultures during a time of ecological devastation.

The Me I Was Made to Be: Helping Christian Parents Navigate the Identity Conversation, by Christie Penner Worden. In this engaging book the author invites grownups along to imagine a more Jesus-centered narrative for the sake of kids who are no longer buying what the church is selling, who do not feel safe, and who have not been welcomed into the conversation that adults are having without them. This book is the beginning of a conversation that offers a compelling story on identity rooted in a deeper understanding of the gospel—one that includes all image-bearers and extends Jesus 'welcome' to all our kids.

Thank You

I want to thank all of you who bought fish fry tickets or donated to Dom, Cori, or I. Due to your generosity, all three of us were able to raise more than the \$700 that each of us was required to raise. With the extra money we raised, we were able to help people in our class who do not have such a generous community. I really appreciate you being so willing to use your hard-earned money to help us raise money for our senior trip.

Gretchen Bateman, with Dominic Ramer and Cori Chupp

Waterford Announcements

The **MCC Meat Canner** will be at the Depot in Goshen January 6-16. **Waterford is on the list for the afternoon shift on Monday, January 6, 1:45-8:00 p.m.** They will be canning chicken, so meat knives are not needed. There is an information sheet on the bulletin board with details, or you may call Loren Stauffer at 574-537-4889. Donations of money are welcome.

Saturday: Longest night service at Waterford from 7:00-8:00 p.m. This service will invite us to connect with our own suffering and the suffering of others during the longest night of the year, that together we might find a balm for pain and hope while we wait. Join Waterford members for a time of singing, scripture, prayer, and poetry from JE Misz. We will center our lament on the 14 months of war in Gaza, which will invite us to connect to the suffering we experience in our own hearts, families, and neighborhoods. All ages are welcome to lament and pray. Everyone is then invited to an **All-night Vigil to keep watch for Gaza** with Mennonite Action at Assembly Mennonite Meetinghouse beginning at 8:30 p.m. We will end the longest night with a **blessing during our morning worship** to conclude the vigil. We will share the grief, love, courage and community that we held overnight with others in our church congregations on Sunday morning.

Christmas Eve Service, December 24 at Waterford at 6:30 p.m. Come for a service of lessons and carols and candlelight.

Sunday, December 29, the Seekers class will host our **Christmas brunch at 9:00 a.m.** Please bring Christmas breads, egg casseroles and fruit to share. We will begin worship at 10:30 a.m.

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.

(Church)house-keeping tip: When you use something from the kitchen, a glass, a cup, bowl, baking pans, etc., please wash it and dry it and put it back where you found it. Thank you to all of you who wash up after yourselves and your events and keep the kitchen clean. Taking the final step of putting away what you use means the next person who uses the kitchen doesn't have to clean up after you.

Do you ever come to the church during the week after staff is gone and find an envelope with a name you don't recognize taped to the front door? We have many people from the community coming to pick up a gift card to Kroger to buy gas or food. Sometimes they are unable to get to the church before the office closes for the day. In those cases, we will put the card in an envelope and tape it on the outside door so they can get it after the church doors are locked. If you see such an envelope on the door, please leave it there so the recipient can pick it up that same day. Thank you.

Mennonite Church USA

A few weeks ago, Matt Pritchard, associate conference minister of emerging communities for MC USA's Central District Conference, read "**A Confession of Evangelical Conviction**," a non-partisan statement endorsed by more than 300 evangelical pastors, leaders and organizations. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/polarized-times

Olivia Krall, archives coordinator for the MC USA Archives, provides **helpful archival tips** for those interested in preserving their family history. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/archival-tips

Pastor Katerina Gea, a member of MC USA's Women in Leadership Steering Committee, shares about the **Community Care and Trauma Healing gatherings** her church has been hosting to support Palestinian solidarity. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/healing-and-community-care

AMBS

New *Vision* issue on “**Disability**” available for free online. 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. **Be sure you to check out the article written by Waterford’s own Emily Hunsbaker.** ambs.edu/vision

Take a seminary course this spring! Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s distance-friendly options include *Apocalypse Against Empire: The Book of Revelation*; *Doing Theology in the Anabaptist Tradition*; *Faith Formation and Spirituality: Youth and Young Adults*; *Immigrant-led Movements*; *Spiritual Practices: Water of Life*; and more. In-person courses are also available. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours. Courses run Jan. 14 – May 2; sign up by Jan. 6. ambs.edu/upcoming-courses

Upcoming Community Events

Join Mennonite Action Michiana for a **Longest Night Vigil at Assembly Mennonite Meetinghouse** (727 New York Street, Goshen), Saturday, Dec 21, 8:30 p.m. until 8 a.m. You are welcome to come for one or two hours or all of the service. 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, learn, and sit in silence. We will laugh, eat and drink, and dance to ground ourselves in what gives us strength—love, community, and our faith in a just and loving God. 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](#).

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.

Learning Opportunities

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. For an itinerary of the trip [HERE](#). **If you’d like to be a part of this, reply to Clayton at imoffice@im.mennonite.net.**

Hope for the Future: Celebrating 30 Years of Damascus Road and Its Legacy, Goshen College, Feb. 28-March 2, 2025. [Register here](#). Co-hosted by MC USA’s Hope for the Future, this special event will gather BIPOC leaders and white allies who are actively engaged in the ongoing work of confronting and dismantling racism in the church. Together, we will honor the legacy of the Damascus Road, while deepening our connections and renewing our dedication to equality and love in action.

Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples Pilgrimage, April 8-12, 2025; Become better acquainted with Indigenous Peoples, their profound connection to the land we inhabit, and the settler colonial history that is antagonistic to their culture, spirituality, and way of life. You and your community are invited to engage with contemporary Indigenous realities, explore the histories of Indigenous Peoples, and examine the complexities of Indigenous-settler relations. What might it mean for your community to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and actively contribute to the work of repair? The experience will be hosted by the [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#), led by executive director Sarah Augustine, on the ancestral homeland of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Indian Reservation). \$950, plus travel to and from Yakima, Washington. **Registration deadline: February 15, 2025.** Find more information and register [here](#).