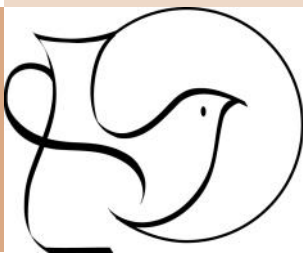




December 29, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Christmas Brunch
10:30 a.m. - Worship

Welcome Team

Greeters: Esther Farmwald,
Kathy Miller
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken
Otto, LaVon Short
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

Benefit Meal for Carlos Ramos

David Gingerich

Next Sunday, January 5, the Pathfinders and Seekers Sunday school classes will again host a noon benefit meal for Carlos Ramos in the fellowship hall. Carlos attended WMC from August 2013 to August 2015. Pathfinders will be providing a Haystack dinner, and Seekers will provide desserts. While living here, haystacks became one of Carlos' favorite foods.

Carlos used to live in Goshen and Elkhart. In 2012, while living and working here, he contracted bacterial meningitis and had both legs—below the knees, all his fingers, and part of his nose amputated. In 2013, Darrel and Karen Sommers and myself, with help from Galen Kauffmann, set up the Samaritan Trust to assist him financially. Since 2016, he has been living in Mexico City. We support him financially with \$500 at the beginning of every month.

Carlos continues to persevere through life's struggles. In May, he moved to a different apartment because there was an issue with a new neighbor who moved in next to his old apartment. Then in June, he discovered bedbugs in his new apartment and had to move out while it was fumigated. At the beginning of November his electric scooter was stolen. But there were also positives to celebrate this past year. His sister from Elkhart visited him in July. In September, I was able to successfully mail him a new Everence debit card to replace the one that expired. This is not as easy as one may think. He was also able to purchase on credit a new electric scooter to replace the stolen one. And this month he got confirmation that he will be getting new liners for his prosthetics sometime in the spring. He has been waiting for nearly a year now.

Continued on next page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 220

Nurture hour - 178

Finances – December 22, 2024

Operating Fund \$17,700.00

Mennonite Education \$400.00

Either Fund \$3,330.00

Budget Total \$21,430.00

Wheelchair Fund \$75.00

Two-Way Mission \$300.00

MCC SALT \$100.00

Jubilee Fund \$60.00

Welcome Spaces \$200.00

Total \$22,165.00

Looking Ahead

January 5: Sermon: Katie Misz;

Epiphany: Nurturing Faith

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

January 5: Singing the Salvation Story

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, Pastor

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, Pastor

Monday - Thursday

Out of Office

Deron Bergstresser -

December 31-January 5

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

At last year's benefit meal, we raised a little over \$6,300. Our current balance is around \$1000, but we will be making another \$500 deposit into his Everence account at the beginning of January. This will be the fifth fundraiser/benefit since 2019. Carlos continues to appreciate our support. I communicate with him by text or voice about twice a month. If you are unable to attend the benefit meal, but wish to contribute, your donation may be made in cash or check made out to Samaritan Trust and given to Karen Sommers. This is not a tax-deductible donation.

Thank you,
David Gingerich

PS: This past Sunday there was an envelope in our church mailbox addressed to Carlos Ramos. Upon opening it, I discovered \$300 cash. I asked Carlos what he would like for me to do with it, and he said to deposit it into his savings account for future use. Thank you to the anonymous person(s) who generously remembered him at Christmas.

Hola Everyone,

I have been told that there will be a fundraiser for helping me through my journey. I feel more than blessed and very thankful to have your support. I would like to give a special thanks to the Sunday School classes who are involved in making the haystack meal.

Merry Christmas and Thank you so much.
Carlos Javier Ramos

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday:

- **Christmas brunch, this Sunday, December 29, 9:00 a.m.**, hosted by the Seekers class. Bring festive Christmas breads, egg casseroles and/or fruit to share as we celebrate the birth of Jesus together.
- **Worship at 10:30 a.m.** with **pre-service singing** of Christmas carols beginning around 10:15.
- **Note:** There will be no nurture hour this week.

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 more details, or you may call Loren Stauffer with questions at 574-537-4889. Donations of money are welcome.

Upcoming Community Events

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.

Hope for the Future: Celebrating 30 Years of Damascus Road and Its Legacy, Goshen College, Feb. 28-March 2, 2025. 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. [Register here](#).

Opportunities

Hively Avenue Mennonite Church is seeking a half-time Administrative Secretary. We seek an office manager who will maintain records, supplies and equipment, and be responsible for communication within the congregation and online. This position involves flexible office hours, preferably weekday mornings. Requirements assume familiarity with office software and equipment and the ability to work independently and interact easily with adults and children. For information, see the job description at hivelymennonite.org/About/staff. To apply, send a letter and resume to Moderator@hivelymennonite.org

Mennonite Church USA

While reflecting on her job description as the conference minister for Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Amy Zimbelman came up with a song about some of her favorite things to answer the question "**So what do you ... do?**" Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/a-few-of-my-favorite-things-msmc

Lynette McIntosh-Madrigal, a member of Mennonite Church USA's Women in Leadership Steering Committee, shares how she has **experienced conflict transformation among inner-city youth in Fresno, California.** Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/conflict-in-youth-ministry

AMBS

Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Jan. 29 – March 11. Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. This six-week Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary online short course will be taught by Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 8 to save \$50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

Visit Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Schedule a personal visit (either in person or online) to learn about how our affordable on-campus and distance-friendly programs can prepare you to lead effectively and live faithfully — wherever God calls you. Contact us to learn more about the AMBS experience: ambs.edu/visit

Learning/Travel Opportunities

MMN Pilgrimages

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

March 11-18, 2025: MMN will host a [United States Civil Rights pilgrimage](#) open to individuals. Click the link above for Information, itinerary and registration (registration deadline is January 15, 2025) .

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](#).

Christ at the Borders (Calais, France, April 7 – 18, 2025) — Thousands of people migrate to Calais in hopes of crossing the English Channel and entering the United Kingdom to find a better life. Meet those walking alongside the vulnerable who search for a peaceful home and the travelers themselves.

MCC Peace Camps for Young Adults

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.

March 10-15, 2025: [Stones cry out Peace Camp](#) (Akron, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.) *If we are silent, then these stones will cry out!* (Luke 19:40) As climate change and other environmental pressures create difficult living conditions, more and more people are forced to leave their homes. The *Stones cry out* Peace Camp will grapple with ways to address the two intersecting issues of climate and migration. Together, participants will delve into alternative visions for a society rooted in hospitality and **share these powerful messages in person** with members of Congress. The *Stones cry out* Peace Camp will take place at the MCC Welcoming Place in Akron, Pennsylvania, a beautiful and restful area that intentionally emphasizes ecological restoration.