

This Sunday

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



December 8, 2024



The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Carla Miller, Karen Thompson
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Denise Diener
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann, Jordan Kauffman

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 pm - Venture Club
7:00 pm - MYF, JYF
7:00 pm - BBI Planning

Thursday

8:30 am - Mennonite Women / MYF Rm
7:00 pm - FFMT

Friday

5:30 pm - YAF Supper / Gregg & Judy's

Saturday

9:00 am - Children's pageant dress rehearsal

Zoom prayers

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

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Anabaptist Prayer Group

Debbie Fath

The Zoom Anabaptist Prayer Group was born in the early months of 2020, during the Covid epidemic. Several of us were missing our shared worship, Bible reflection, and prayer. Becoming familiar with the *Take Our Moments and Our Days* Anabaptist prayer book, it was a great fit to bring a direction and uniformity to our group time together. (There is a free App online. Look for: Take Our Moments and Our Days.) We continue meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Mondays and 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

Two of our early group members are now continually in God's presence, so our current group consists of five people, four women and one man. The focus of our time is used in Scripture reading, offering praises, reflecting on two Scripture passages, and intercessory prayer. Though our focus is on bringing ourselves and each other into God's presence with praise, worship, and intercession, our needs as human beings also are recognized. Much support, love, and help have been given to each other during and outside of our Monday and Thursday times together. We are finding our lives changed as we commit these times to seeking and listening to God together.

The group is flexible, acknowledging that life commitments don't allow for all to be together each time, and sometimes one can join just for a short part of the time. No problem! We pray, believing that where two or three gather in Jesus' name, God is there. So, welcome and join us through <https://waterfordchurch.org>. At the bottom of the page is a green rectangular box that says "Online Anabaptist Prayers." Select the link and then choose the time of the prayers, be that Morning Prayers or Evening Prayers. It's that easy.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 230
Nurture hour - 212

Finances – December 1, 2024

Operating Fund	\$6,914.00
Mennonite Education	\$5,760.00
Either Fund	\$3,290.00
Budget Total	\$15,964.00
Wheelchair Fund	\$32.15
Two-Way Mission	\$75.00
Total	\$16,071.15

Looking Ahead

December 15: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Advent 3: Anointing for Justice
(Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 4:16-21)
December 22: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Advent 4: Embodying God's Spirit
(Luke 1:26-49; Psalm 113)

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

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers Gather for Annual Retreat

Bill Minter, WMC Stephen Leader Team

Reconfigured classroom space in the nurture wing of the church building provided the setting for the congregation's Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders to gather for a morning retreat on Saturday, November 23rd. Velma Swartz, WMC member, guided the group in reflecting about "Soul Care for the Last Third of Life."

As a retiree and former WMC Pastor to Seniors, Velma has read and thought deeply about the spiritual work that a Christian might do for aging well as they move from "role (doing) to soul (being)." This can involve pondering the questions: "Who is God at this stage in my life?"; "What are my fears?"; "How do I wish to be remembered—what do I wish to be my legacy?"

Velma asked participants to consider the questions: "What do I want when I die?"; "When I let go of _____, what do I hope for?" She had us first focus on our own life situation, and then how Stephen Ministers can be alert to their care receivers likely experiencing the need to let go in the midst of the transition from saying "goodbye" to what was lost to saying "hello" to something new and possibly unexpected.

Pastor Deron led Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders in a ritual of recommitment to service for the year ahead. Marge Gingerich was recognized for seven years of service as a Stephen Minister as she completes her service at the end of this year. Rachel Brenneman, Lorna Claassen, Bonnie Miller, Kay Miller, Bill Minter, Anita Myers and Karen Thompson will continue their service as Stephen Ministers. Liz Gingrich was recognized for nine years of service as a Stephen Leader as she completes her service at the end of this year. Mel and Lorna Claassen, Kenneth Blount and Bill Minter will continue their service as Stephen Leaders. The retreat experience concluded by participants having a catered lunch in the Fellowship Hall.



Christmas Decorating Thank You

A special thank you to those who decorated our church for Advent and Christmas and thus added joy to our season: Loanne Harms, Sara and Eliza Method, Cindy, Jeremiah and Lydia Voth. Be sure to stop by and see the nativity scene in the foyer, painted and donated by long term WMC member Fanny Mast who died in 2019. We are also grateful to Vicki Weirich who contributed her collection of Chrismons which are displayed along the windows in the sanctuary. The white and gold ornaments represent aspects of Jesus and the Christian faith.

Longest Night Service:

This year's longest night service is being held on behalf of those who are suffering during this season. We are accepting the invitation from Mennonite Action to:

- Grieve your loved ones and all those for whom you mourn and remember this year
- Grieve and hold vigil for the people of Gaza
- Grieve and hold vigil for our most vulnerable neighbors in the US
- Sing, pray, hold silence, hold one another
- Find joy, love, strength in community
- Imagine a world based on liberation, justice, peace and community.
- Use this night as a spiritual cleansing, an opportunity for recommitment

You are invited to join in one or more of the following ways on December 21:

1.) Longest night service at Waterford from 7:00-8:00. 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.

2.) All night Vigil to keep watch for Gaza. Join with Mennonite Action at Assembly Mennonite Meetinghouse beginning at 8:30 to keep watch for Gaza as a community. Look for more details in next week's Buzz.

3.) Sunday morning blessing. In the morning, as Gazans also emerge from their shelters into the morning light, we will emerge from our churches. So, on December 22, we will have 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.

Waterford Announcements

If you are a **Haystacks and Games attender**, there are **two signup sheets** on the Participation station table for providing the meat and helping with cleanup. Please be sure to take a look at them and see when you can provide these things'

Thursday the 12th is **Mennonite Women's Day**. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. We welcome all women who would like to knot comforters or quilt for MCC. Perhaps you have a project of your own to bring and enjoy the company. Eating together at lunch along with any staff in the building is always a blessing! Bring a dish to share if you wish to join us.

Mennonite Church USA

Season Two of MC USA's "Lead/Follow" podcast for **pastors and leaders** has finished! This season focuses on reimagining church. Watch new episodes on YouTube or listen on Apple or Spotify! Watch or listen here: mennoniteusa.org/leadfollow/

Join us for a **transformative celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Damascus Road anti-racism process** and its pivotal role in the Anabaptist commitment to justice and reconciliation. 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. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/hfft-2025-register

Rev. Dr. Jacob Cook, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and co-director for the Shalom Collaboratory, **challenges church communities to accept conflict** as an everyday part of living in community with other imperfect people and use it as a constructive force. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/navigating-everyday-conflicts

AMBS

Call for submissions. Anabaptist Witness welcomes submissions on the theme of “**Latino Anabaptism and Global Mission**” for the April 2025 issue. All submissions should relate to the journal’s focus on Anabaptist and Mennonite churches in mission, understood as a broad array of practices and not limited to evangelization. Historical, biblical, theological and missiological approaches are welcome. Submissions are due Jan. 1, 2025.

anabaptistwitness.org/calls-for-submissions

AMBS is hiring! Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is accepting applications for an Assistant or Associate Professor of Practical Theology and an Assistant or Associate Professor of Biblical Studies. Please share about these openings with people you know who may be interested. See job descriptions: ams.edu/jobs

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.

Upcoming Community Events

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.

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.

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.

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](#).

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 elkhartthrift@gmail.com or (574) 326-3674.