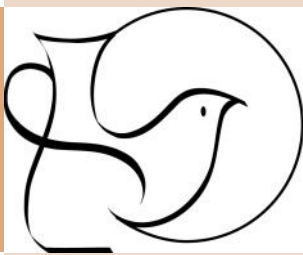




February 16, 2025



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
5:30 p.m. - Chili Cook-Off

Welcome Team

Greeters: John, Diana and Jeff Hershberger
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, LaVon Short
Audiovisuals: Colin Berky, Dominic Ramer

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - MLC / FH

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks and Game night / FH

7:00 p.m. - Ecuador support group / North FH

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Lent – Christ Collides

Cindy Voth, for Worship Ministry Team

Lent is the season of the church that is set aside for prayerful reflection as we prepare to faithfully follow Jesus through the events of Holy Week. We will begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Everyone is invited to a 7 p.m. worship service where we remember who we are as humans and who God is. Within the service Pastors will offer to place ashes on foreheads or hands as signs, not only of our mortality, but also of forgiveness and new life.

Our Sunday morning worship services during Lent will follow the Narrative Lectionary as we focus on the theme “Christ Collides.” We will draw from the worship resource created by members of the Illinois Mennonite Conference, published in the *The Leader* by MennoMedia. Three of the six texts during Lent are parables. The authors comment that “It has been said that the origin of the word parable is two things that collide, and if you, upon hearing a parable, do not feel the impact of the collision, you are probably missing something...Our writing team realized that not only Jesus’ stories (parables) surprise us—he also interacts with people in much the same way. So we formed this series around the theme of “Christ Collides.” Each week’s texts offer a glimpse into how the content of his teachings collides with us and our world.”

Every Sunday, within our worship services, we will also have a time of confession and receiving words of assurance. Each week as we light the peace lamp we will join with our local siblings of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference and Central District Conference in praying the same prayer as we stand together in solidarity with immigrants in our community.

See **Lent** on page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 159 + 8 (Open Door Retreat)
Nurture Hour - 167

Finances – February 9, 2025

Operating Fund \$13,435.00
Mennonite Education \$1,966.45
Either Fund \$3,440.00
Budget Total \$18,841.45

Looking Ahead

February 23: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Renewal at the Lord's Table; Communion
March 2: Sermon: Lacy Stoltzfus

Pastoral Team

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

Out of Office

Katie Misz - February 21-28

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

Congratulations!



Ed and Sharon Swartzendruber were given a plaque "In recognition of 25 years of faithful ministry as winter volunteers" from Rio Grande Bible Ministries. Congratulations Ed and Sharon!

Lent, cont. from page 1

During Holy Week we will gather on Thursday, April 17, for a Maundy Thursday service which will include a time of footwashing. For our Easter Celebration on April 20, we will have a sunrise service at 7 a.m., brunch in our fellowship hall at 9 a.m. hosted by Seekers, and worship to celebrate the resurrection at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary where we will also share in Communion.

We invite everyone to come to our Lenten journey with open hearts, minds, eyes, and ears to meet Jesus and to be transformed as we follow Jesus to the cross and to the empty tomb.

Financial Position



Waterford Announcements

June Nurture Hour Electives

Cindy Voth, for the Pastoral Team

Once again during the month of June, we will be offering a variety of Nurture Hour Electives for all ages. In the past, some of the electives have been creative expressions of faith, Salt & Light Bible Study, singing, grief conversation, wetland walks, knotting comforters, drum circle, lawn games, etc. We are looking for individuals or groups that are interested in providing leadership to an elective! Please contact a pastor by March 2 if you're interested in leading a June elective...and you are only limited by your imagination for the elective topic or activity!

Call for Items for the Youth Service Auction

We invite you to join us on March 9 for our Youth Service Auction. The night will consist of a meal at 5:00 p.m., followed by two auctions: one live auction and a silent auction going on at the same time. The money raised at these auctions will be put towards the trip in the summer for the youth to go to Convention. Contributions to be auctioned can include goods and services—make food, host a meal, donate handmade items, labor, child care—offer your time, talents, energy and/or hospitality. If you have something to contribute, contact jeffclaassen@gmail.com or lyzkauffman@yahoo.com. Please do this by February 23.

This Sunday is the **Second Annual Chili Cook-Off**. The meal and taste-testing begin at 5:30 p.m.

This Sunday, **February 16, is the deadline** for turning in your [evaluation form](#) on **Pastor Cindy's mid-cycle review**. As we work and live together in community, we share the responsibility to help our pastors continue to grow into the leaders God has created them to be at Waterford and in our world.

Next Sunday, February 23, we will share in communion. We invite you to prepare your hearts for this sign of God's peace by making peace with God and with your brothers and sisters. And, as did the early church (Acts 2:43-47), we will also collect offerings for the Sharing Fund. This fund benefits people in need within the congregation.

The WMC Endowment Committee will accept applications for the Spring 2025 funds until April 1. We have had around \$5,000 to disperse semi-annually in the recent past. Please review the guidelines as you complete the application on the WMC website for your submissions. Applications may be placed in our mailbox at Church or emailed to yoder.ld@gmail.com. —Doug Yoder, Chair

Mennonite Education applications for Grades 3 - 12 and college students for the 2025-26 school year are due February 28. If you or your child are planning on receiving funds to help pay for tuition at a Mennonite school, it's time to turn in the [application form](#). Questions about the application process may be directed to Becky Bateman at beckyeb@gmail.com.

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA welcomes **Leah Hoffner as the MC USA executive assistant**. Hoffner began her new position on Dec. 3. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/hoffner-ea

Joanne Gallardo, Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference co-minister, reflects on her time at the Kineo Center for the 2024 conference ministers retreat, during which she learned about the importance of **protecting pastors from burnout**. Read her reflection here: mennoniteusa.org/pastor-burnout-kineo

AMBS

New *Vision* issue on “War and Peace” available for free online. The Spring 2025 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Karl Koop, PhD — invites reflection on how Anabaptist Christians are called to respond in the face of intensifying military conflicts across the world and violence in the context of their own communities. What does a peace witness entail? Do Mennonites have new insights to offer about what it means to work for peace — both at home and abroad? [ambseu.edu/vision](https://www.ambseu.edu/vision)

Build leadership skills through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s Practical Leadership Training modules! Modules beginning in March include: Being the Church Amid Polarization and Conflict; Effective Church Boards; Intercultural Inclusion in the Church; and *¿Quién es mi vecino?* Latinos/as Growing in Intercultural Competence (taught in Spanish). Check out our full list of modules: [ambseu.edu/plt](https://www.ambseu.edu/plt)

Upcoming Events

The Radicals, a movie about the beginning of Anabaptism 500 years ago, will be shown Sunday, Feb. 16 at 4:00 p.m. at College Mennonite Church. All are invited to this free showing in Room 300 (near the parking lot entrance).

Mennonite Action Prayers on February 18 from noon until 1 p.m. in the College Mennonite Church Gathering Rooms. Stop in briefly or stay for the hour. We will pray with silence, songs, spoken prayers, scripture reading, and candle-lighting, praying for permanent ceasefires in Gaza and throughout the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and Asia, and the end to occupation, oppression, and violence throughout the world. Also, you can **sign a solidarity pledge** online at <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/solidaritypledge> to demonstrate that Mennonites, Anabaptists, Christians and friends of Mennonites will not stand idly by while Christianity is used as a weapon to justify genocide, racist violence, and repression. We pledge to take nonviolent action together, as Mennonites and Christians, for the solidarity and safety of all God’s children.

The **2025 Lacasa Annual Luncheon** will be Wednesday, March 5, at the Lerner Crystal Ballroom, 410 S Main St, Elkhart. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m., program begins at 12:00 p.m. \$50/seat, or sponsorship options. [Register here](#) by February 21.

The brand new, state-of-the-art Westlawn Center for Nursing & Public Health at Goshen College will host an **open house for prospective students** on Tuesday, February 18! Take this opportunity to come and see this new facility and get a feel for what it would be like to study nursing at Goshen College.

The **annual C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest** will be held at Goshen College’s Umble Center on Tuesday, February 18 at 7 p.m. Come see five GC students speak on themes of peace and justice. The event is free and open to the public, and will also be livestreamed at [goshen.edu/livestream](https://www.goshen.edu/livestream).

Opportunities

From Center for Healing and Hope: Churches and individuals often ask, “What can we do in addition to contributing funds to help immigrants in our community?” In response, Anne Meyer Byler has identified multiple opportunities to provide support and care to those in need and created a form to collect information from those willing to volunteer in tangible ways. If you have interest in collaborating with your time or talent, please contact Anne at ambyler@gmail.com to receive a link to the form.

Help take the sting out of winter’s chill by joining MCC’s Great Winter Warm-Up! This winter, compassionate people like you are giving the gift of warm comforters to those in need around the world. Help MCC meet our goal to collect 7,000 comforters **by the end of March**. Sponsor a comforter, donate one (or a few!) or attend a comforter making event! It’s more than a warm blanket — it’s a message of love and compassion. **Learn more at** mcc.org/great-winter-warm-up