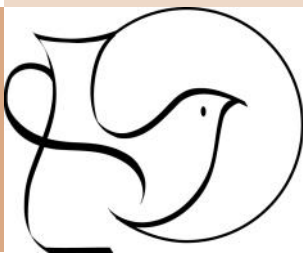




February 23, 2025



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

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

Welcome Team

Greeters: John, Diana and Jeff Hershberger
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, Carla Miller
Audiovisuals: Shawn Stutzman, Jeff Claassen

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - Venture Club
7:00 p.m. - JYF, MYF

Zoom prayers

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

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Thank you, Liz Gingrich!

Lorna Claassen, for the Stephen Leader Team



The end of 2024 brought to a close Liz Gingrich's service to the congregation's Stephen Ministry. Liz served for nine years on the Stephen Leader Team as it gave overall direction to the congregation's Stephen Ministry program.

Liz served by helping to recruit and select people to become Stephen Ministers and was involved in their training. She helped identify people in need of care and matched them with Stephen Ministers in one-to-one caring

relationships. Liz also served as a monthly Peer Group Supervision Facilitator, giving support, guidance and accountability to Stephen Ministers. Liz' thoughtful devotions and input to Continuing Education were very much appreciated.

When asked what was the most rewarding aspect of her time with Stephen Ministry, Liz replied, "I was deeply grateful to witness the healing presence of the Holy Spirit in the relationships between the Stephen Ministers and the people they were caring for, and in the care I felt between us working together as a Team of Leaders and Ministers.

"Observing how our Stephen Ministers prayed and prepared for each meeting with those they were accompanying was an inspiration to me in seeking to be more fully present to other people and to God."

Continued on next page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 173 + 23 (Koinonia
Retreat)
Nurture Hour - 194

Finances – February 16, 2025

Operating Fund	\$9,003.34
Mennonite Education	\$4,970.00
Either Fund	\$5,230.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$19,203.34</i>
Jubilee Fund	\$80.00
Two-Way Mission	\$50.00
Wheel Chair	\$304.33
Total	\$19,637.67

Looking Ahead

March 2: Sermon: Lacy Stoltzfus;
Esther

(*Esther 4:1-17*)

March 9: Sermon: Cindy Voth;
JYF Sunday; Lent 1: Christ
Collides with our Bias
(*Luke 10: 25-42*)

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 23-28

Office hours this week

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9 - 12, 1 - 3

Tuesday, Friday
9 - 12

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

In her own words, Liz describes how she came to be a Stephen Leader. “I had been interested in the concept of Stephen Ministry since it was first introduced at Waterford in 2008, but the time commitment did not fit with my schedule while I was working. After my retirement the invitation to consider becoming a Stephen Leader seemed like a natural fit with both my professional experience as well as my personal journey through loss. While it now feels like time to step back and focus on other things, it is with deep gratitude for having had the opportunity to be part of Stephen Ministry at Waterford.”

Thank you, Liz, for your valuable input to this caring ministry.

SOS

Special Treat for Prairie View Elementary Staff

Luke and Cindy Voth, SOS Coordinators

For the past 10 years WMC has had a special relationship with Prairie View Elementary School. We are one of three local churches who are in partnership with PVES through a program called “Supporting Our Schools” or SOS for short. Within our partnership, we are invited to support the students as well as the teachers and staff at PVES. Throughout the year, we do a variety of things within our partnership. Last fall there was an article that talked about the grants we make available to teachers, administered by our Marge Gingerich, who is the guidance counselor at PVES. In the fall we purchased 100 headphones for students who needed them for their testing. We keep a ‘granola bar cupboard’ stocked in the main office. The bars are offered to students who might arrive too late to get breakfast, or when needed throughout the day.

Our next opportunity to bless and support PVES is providing a special breakfast treat for the 95 staff members on Monday, March 17. This special treat is just to offer a word and gesture of gratitude and encouragement to all involved in the care, nurture, and education of the 430 students who attend PVES. There are two ways you can participate in this gesture of blessing and care. First, you can stop by the Participation Station to sign up to contribute food items for the breakfast (fruit trays to serve 10, containers of mixed nuts, bags of small wrapped candy, or special paper plates and napkins). A special thank you to members of Sojourners Class who are preparing homemade baked good items for the breakfast.

The second way you can participate in this gesture of blessing and care is to stop by the paper banner in the foyer on March 9 and 16 to write a note of encouragement and appreciation to the staff. We will hang the banner above the breakfast foods at the school.

Thank you for the ways you participate in helping us to partner with other local churches to provide care and support to one of our local elementary schools.

Waterford Announcements

Please check your church mailbox this week for a special ballot from Gifts Discernment Ministry Team. The ballot is for three **MCUSA Delegates** for the July convention, as well as a replacement for Zoë Brown as secretary for Ministry Leadership Council (Zoë has relocated for additional schooling). Completed ballots may be placed in the basket outside the church office this week and March 2. Thank you! —Jason Herrmann, Lay Ministry Partner for Gifts Discernment Ministry Team

The **Youth Service Auction** on March 9 will include two auctions: a live auction and a silent auction going on at the same time. We are looking for contributions to be auctioned: make food, host a meal, handmade items, your labor, child care, etc.—offer your time, talents, energy and/or hospitality. If you have something to contribute, please contact jeffclaassen@gmail.com or lyzkauffman@yahoo.com **by this Sunday, February 23**. Funds raised at the auction will be used to cover the cost of Youth Convention this July.

Mennonite Education applications for the 2025-26 school year **are due Friday, February 28**. Please return completed applications to the office box. Questions about the application process may be directed to Becky Bateman at beckyeb@gmail.com.

A **sign up sheet for the MYF Service Auction meal** is at the participation station. We will be offering pizza casserole, Italian salad, garlic bread, mixed fresh fruit, and a variety of desserts. Please indicate how many adults and children plan to attend, and if any diet restrictions are needed. All monetary donations collected will be added to the Service Auction totals. Thank you for supporting the MYF as we prepare for convention. —MYF Service Auction Planning Team

Next Sunday, **March 2**, there will be a **Fellowship Meal** hosted by the Bridgebuilders class. Please bring a dish to share.

Once again during the month of June, we will be offering a variety of **Nurture Hour Electives** for all ages. Please contact a pastor by next Sunday, March 2, if you are interested in leading a June elective.

On Thursday, March 6, at 1:00 p.m. those interested are invited to join others at the church to watch a webinar, **ICE At Your Door**. This webinar will highlight best practices for when ICE or Indiana law enforcement acting on ICE's behalf ask or demand to come into your building—service organizations, schools, medical practices, and religious institutions. We'll highlight the different kinds of warrants law enforcement may show, your rights to limit or deny access, and plans you may want to have in place in advance.

Mennonite Church USA

The **Climate Justice Ministry of MC USA** has just published "Installing Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: A Guide for Congregations" to help congregations of all sizes determine whether they should pursue installing electric vehicle charging stations. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/car-charge

Beryl Jantzi, Everence's director of stewardship education, shares why it is important for churches and other organizations to say thank you to their donors. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/thank-you-is-important

Salt & Light

This spring's **Salt & Light Bible Study, "A Church Divided,"** is on 1 Corinthians. There is a resource option to accompany your study based on [Creating a Scene in Corinth: A Simulation](#), by Reta Halteman Finger and George D. McClain. The book is available for purchase, and there are numerous extra online resources at the link above.

Upcoming Events

Hutterite Life from 1528: Communal Anabaptists. An exhibit of Hutterite material culture in the context of their history, Goshen College Library Gallery, March 9 to November 16, 2025. Textiles, costumes, needlework, woodwork, basketry, toys, tools, 17th century Habaner ceramics, and other handicrafts. Public reception is Sunday, March 16, 2-4 p.m. with comments by Leonard Gross. Free and open to the public.

AMBS

Take a summer course at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Hybrid courses (combining online work and one week on campus) include “Ethics and Care: Living and Dying with Purpose” and “Preaching.” In-person courses (also open to auditors) include “Religion, Violence and Peacebuilding” and “The Spirit World and the Global Church” (also available via videoconference). Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours! Register by May 5. ambs.edu/upcoming-courses

Online Short Course: Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 23 – June 3. Join Betty Pries, PhD, CMed, to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by April 2 to save \$50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

AMBS Transition to Leadership program. This two-year program of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary guides and nurtures new pastors during the crucial first years of ministry. Apply by April 9 to start May 8. ambs.edu/transition-to-leadership

Opportunities

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

“Don’t abuse or take advantage of strangers; you, remember, were once strangers in Egypt.” (Ex. 22:21) There are many ways to **support our immigrant neighbors** during these stressful times. The [Short-Term Partners form](#) offers many options. More information in the introduction.

Communities in Kentucky and West Virginia are experiencing catastrophic flooding due to last weekend’s torrential rain that has over-filled creeks and rivers. MCC’s Appalachia Build staff are working with partner churches at their sites in Kimball, West Virginia, and Elkhorn City, Kentucky, that are serving as temporary shelters. You can support MCC’s efforts in the region at mcc.org/donate-appalachia

Upcoming retreats at Amigo Centre: [Journeying Together with Grief](#), April 11-13, led by David and Naomi Wenger; [Women’s Retreat](#), May 9-11, led by Sharon Brugger Norton; [Scrapbooking, Quilting, & Crafting Retreats](#), Feb. 28-March 2, April 4-6, Sept. 26-28 and Dec. 5-7.

Learning Trips/Pilgrimages

Special Youth Venture Trip for 18-30 year-olds: [Anabaptism at 500: Looking Back to See the Future](#). May 23 – June 1, 2025. Discover the history of the Anabaptist movement as we commemorate its 500th anniversary with a Youth Venture excursion to **Germany and Switzerland**. Visit key historical sites of the 16th-century Anabaptist movement and take part in Mennonite World Conference’s Anabaptism at 500 events. Cost: \$2,900; **Application deadline: March 1, 2025**. See more information and a tentative itinerary at the link above.

[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. 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. **Registration deadline: March 1, 2025**.

[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. **Register by March 1, 2025**

Learn about more upcoming Just Peace Pilgrimages, including: US Civil Rights, South Africa, Underground railway, and West Africa Pilgrimages at MMN’s [Just Peace Pilgrimage website](#).