

JYF and MYF were at Amigo Centre last weekend for their Winter Retreat.

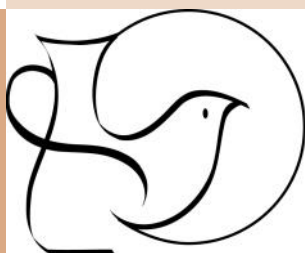
At right, JYF and sponsors pose for a group photo.

See more photos throughout this issue.

Photos by Emily Hunsbaker, Mariko Claassen and Krista Daniels



February 9, 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, Denise Diener
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

5:00 p.m. - Worship MT / Mtg Rm

7:00 p.m. - Venture Club

7:00 p.m. - JYF, MYF

Thursday

8:30 a.m. - Mennonite Women / MYF Rm

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

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Thank you, Marge Gingerich!

Bill Minter, for the Stephen Leader Team



The end of 2024 brought to a close Marge Gingerich's service as a Stephen Minister. During the last seven years, she accompanied four congregational members during a challenging portion of their lives. We are grateful, Marge, for your sincere caring.

Asked what influenced her to become a Stephen Minister Marge stated, "Formerly I was a member of the Senior Ministry team and visited senior adults. I recognized then that I found visitation ministry rewarding."

Reflecting on how service as a Stephen Minister impacted her spiritual journey Marge shared, "I have grown in my capacity to value the wrestling and the wait."

Asked what was the most rewarding aspect of her time as a Stephen Minister Marge shared, "Being accepted as a trusted companion."

Asked what qualities make a Stephen Minister effective Marge stated, "Confidentiality, attentive listening to the person you are caring for, attentive listening to the Holy Spirit, and dedication to prayer."

For those in the congregation who have been reluctant to consider becoming a Stephen Minister Marge advised, "The training to become a Stephen Minister is high quality and valuable in many different arenas, and training with a cohort is enjoyable. Personal growth happens as you journey with the person you are caring for."

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 180 + 30 (Youth
Winter Retreat)
Nurture Hour - 169

Finances – February 2, 2025

Operating Fund	\$9,942.10
Mennonite Education	\$675.00
Either Fund	\$2,664.00
Budget Total	\$13,281.10
Jubilee Fund	\$75.00
Two-Way Mission	\$275.00
Welcome Spaces	\$1,250.00
Total	\$14,881.10

Looking Ahead

February 16: Sermon: Gerald Mast; Renewal through Trust & Yieldedness
February 23: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Renewal at the Lord's Table

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
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WMC Library

More Children's Books Added to the Library

Compiled by Diane Bodiker

What Is God Like? by Rachel Held Evans. The late Rachel Evans lived the Bible and loved showing God's love through the words and pictures found in ancient text. Through these pictures from the Bible, children see that God is like a shepherd, God is like a star, God is like a gardener, and more. God is a comforter and support.

The Butter Battle Book, by Dr. Seuss. This Dr. Seuss tale introduces readers to the important lesson of respecting differences. The Yooks and the Zooks share a love of buttered bread, but animosity brews between the two groups because they prefer to enjoy the tasty treat differently. The rhyming text is an ideal way to teach young children about issues of tolerance and respect.

The Red Pop Beads, by Violet Dutcher. In this story, readers are invited into the world of two little girls who lived quite an ordinary life until one day when nothing was ever ordinary again. The story includes a memory of red pop beads that hold healing as the author survived the death of her sister when she was a small child. The book is recommended as a resource for processing the reality of loss and hope with elementary-aged children.

Praying in Color: Kid's Edition, by Sybil MacBeth. This book is a wonderfully interactive experience for kids to pray. This book allows children to explore creative ways of talking to God—using color, imagination, drawing and doodling. It introduces different brush strokes and squiggle options, a variety of names kids can use to address God, selections of Bible verses, and offers many types of prayer. A fun and creative way to pray together.

New Kid: A Newberry Award Winner, by Jerry Craft. Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from home to school, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. This is a middle grade graphic novel.

Class Act: A Graphic Novel, by Jerry Craft. Eighth grader Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying "You have to work twice as hard to be just as good." His grandmother has reminded him his entire life. But what if he works ten times as hard and still isn't afforded the same opportunities that his privileged classmates at school take for granted. As pressures mount, will Drew find a way to bridge the divide so he and his friends can truly accept each other? And will he finally be able to accept himself?

Benin Bible Institute Delegates to Attend MC USA Convention in July 2025

Rod Hollinger-Janzen

An idea that took shape through conversation between Waterford's BBI Planning Group and members of St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, Ontario, CANADA, is soon to become reality.

Sue Shantz plays a key role in keeping St. Jacobs' connections with BBI alive and well. She first shared with Waterford pastor Cindy Voth and Rod Hollinger-Janzen, the idea of having BBI send representatives to take part in the 2025 national Mennonite Church conventions on both sides of the Canada-USA border. During the same conversation, Mark Diller Harder, Lead pastor at St. Jacobs, remembered that Germain Dossou, BBI Board President, and Jocelyne Ahoga, BBI Board member, had both been given several year visas when they applied for their visits to us in 2024. That meant that if Waterford and St. Jacobs decided together to invite these same delegates for a 2025 visit, they would not need to go through another interview process at the American Embassy in Cotonou. Those interviews currently need to be scheduled 9-10 months in advance of the travel dates in order to have any chance of obtaining a visa on time.

Together, we decided to move forward with this invitation. At a recent meeting, the BBI Board approved the plan, and Jocelyne and Germain have both agreed to return to North America for the first two weeks of July. They will spend July 1-6 in Canada participating in Mennonite Church Canada's 2025 national gathering in Kitchener-Waterloo. On July 7, they will fly to



Jocelyne Ahoga and Germain Dossou in front of MC USA offices, fall 2024

Greensboro N.C. to the site of this year's MC USA convention. An Airbnb has been reserved to welcome them. Our Pastor Cindy will take primary responsibility for hosting them during the gathering, with assistance from other Waterford members. They will be with us in Greensboro July 7-13, before returning home to Benin.

If you are a Waterford attendee and are planning to be at convention this year, plan to take time during the gathering to find Germain and Jocelyne, welcome them, and support them as you are able by attending a seminar they will be presenting on BBI ministries.

We are hoping to find a time during the convention to gather our youth group for conversation with Jocelyne and Germain, as we look ahead to a 2026 youth visit from WMC and St. Jacobs to Benin.



COMPETING



Update on the Prykhodko Family

David Gingerich

The Prykhodko family, sponsored by the Pathfinder's Sunday school class, continues to live with Marge and David Gingerich.

Anastasiia is working as a paraprofessional in preschool classrooms for Goshen Community Schools.

Pavlo is near full recovery from ACL surgery in late November and he has begun looking for employment. Currently he watches their two-year-old daughter Yuniia during the day, so the family is investigating daycare possibilities for Yuniia.

Artem, age 17, will graduate this spring from Goshen High School. He is currently investigating part-time job opportunities and wishes to attend college this fall. Due to transportation issues, he would either need to take online college courses or attend Goshen College while living at home with his parents. He is interested in Graphic Design.

Tymofii, age 12, attends Goshen Intermediate School.

Ways You May Be Able To Help:

1. **Employment:** Pavlo has accounting experience and an economics degree and is investigating employment in his areas of expertise. However, if he is unable to find employment in this area, he will pursue manual labor jobs.

2. When Pavlo begins employment, a second vehicle will need to be purchased, preferably a reliable used mid-size sedan or something larger.

3. **Housing:** After Pavlo obtains employment, the family will need to find affordable housing for a family of five.

Please talk to John Birkey, David Gingerich, or Kevin Miller with any leads on employment, vehicles, or housing.

Thank You.

Save the Date:

The MYF will host its **service auction** on March 9 at 5 p.m. There will be food, fellowship, and fundraising. The funds raised will go towards attending the Mennonite convention this summer. Child care will be provided during the auction.

Threshold Singing Offers Songs of Comfort

Susan Gingerich

The Goshen Threshold Singers provide comfort, hope, and peace to others through song. They offer calming a cappella melodies at the bedsides of those who are at end-of-life thresholds or experiencing fear, grief, pain, or illness in a life transition. When invited, the singers visit bedsides in teams of three to six singing simple songs in three-part harmony. Threshold songs are chosen to respond to a person's musical taste, physical condition, and spiritual needs.

The Goshen Threshold Singers is a chapter of the international nonprofit network of singers whose members honor those on the threshold of life (and/or death) with compassion through song. If you or someone you know would benefit from having the Goshen Singers provide 20 minutes of calming, quiet singing, contact Susan Gingerich.

Susan and Barb Landes are members of the Goshen Threshold Singers. If you are curious about or feel drawn to this ministry, visit thresholdchoir.org to learn more about the organization and talk to Susan or Barb. You are welcome to visit a practice. You do not need to read music to participate but should have the ability to carry a tune, hold your own part, blend your voice with others, and communicate kindness with your voice. The Singers practice each Wednesday at 4 p.m.

CRAFTING



Waterford Announcements

This Sunday is your **last chance** to sign up for the **Second Annual Chili Cook-Off**, February 16, at 5:30 p.m. at WMC. At this point, we only have one contestant for the cook-off! **We need more people to bring chili.** Pick up a form beside the signup sheet to bring with your chili submission. If not bringing chili, sign up to bring a side dish to share and “Taste and See” which chili you think is worthy of the Golden Ladle.

Mennonite Women will meet on Thursday, February 13, beginning at 8:30 a.m. until about 2:00 p.m. Come to quilt, knot comforters, knit or crochet prayer shawls. Bring a dish to share and stay for lunch.

All are welcome to participate in **Pastor Cindy’s mid-cycle review**. The evaluation form can be found [here](#), at the top of the weekly Waterford email announcements, and as paper copies on the first table under the mailboxes. Results must be received by February 16. 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.

Mennonite Education application: Grades 3 - 12 and college students can now apply to the Mennonite Education Fund for assistance for the 2025 -26 school year. Application form and guidelines were sent by email to families, or you can find these documents on the church website by clicking on the “Resources” tab at the top of the home page. If you would like printed copies of the application form and guidelines, contact Karen Hostetler at karen@waterfordchurch.org. Questions about the application process may be directed to Becky Bateman at beckyeb@gmail.com. **The deadline for application is February 28, 2025.**

Mennonite Church USA

On Feb. 24, 2025, at 7 p.m., join Nancy Kauffmann, the interim denominational minister of Church Safety for MC USA, and Laurel Neufeld Weaver, MSW field director and assistant professor of Social Work at Bluffton University, as they discuss **how survivors interpret their faith community when trauma occurs within the church**. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/webinar/feb25-safe-church

Registration for Mennonite Church USA’s Follow Jesus ’25 convention is open for early-bird pricing. The denomination’s biennial faith formation gathering will take place at Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12, 2025. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/registration-jan6 Register here: convention.mennoniteusa.org/

Upcoming Events

Immigration webinar with MCC: The MCC Immigration Network will host a free webinar on February 12 at 2 p.m. for individuals and congregations who want to learn how they can support immigrants in their congregations and communities. Join us to learn from the expertise of Saulo Padilla, MCC U.S. Migration Education Coordinator, and Rachel Diaz, Immigration Attorney with MCC East Coast. *Includes Spanish translation.* Register at mcc.org/immigration-webinar

WINNING



EATING



PLAYING



MATCHING



SPECTATING



ESCAPING



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**

Caring for our neighbors: As Immigrant Resources Coordinator at Center for Healing and Hope, Jane Ross Richer receives daily pleas for access to their local well of resources. Churches and individuals often ask, "What can we do in addition to contributing funds to help immigrants in our community?" In response, CHH, in cooperation with Anne Meyer Byler, has identified **multiple opportunities to provide support and care to those in need**. If you have interest in collaborating with your time or talent, please take a moment to complete the form linked below. If you have questions, please contact Jane at jrricher@chhclinics.org or 574-534-4744 x209. <https://forms.gle/wELuCoseMFZaAZ2F8>

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: February 15, 2025**. See more information and a tentative itinerary at the link above.

[Stones cry out Peace Camp](#) for young adults, March 10-15, 2025, 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. **[Register here by February 14](#)**.

[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: February 15, 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 February 15, 2025**