March 2, 2025

The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday
9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
12:00 p.m. - Fellowship Meal, hosted by Bridgebuilders

Welcome Team
Greeters: Esther Farmwald, Carolyn Chupp
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann, Jordan Kauffman

This Week at Waterford
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday
1:00 p.m. - ICE webinar
6:30 p.m. - Stephen Ministers MYF Rm, Rm 15
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

Dear Women of Waterford,

The spiritual Formation/Nurture Ministry Team is inviting you to an experience of lament during Lent. We will study Biblical laments, write our individual and corporal laments, and experience *lectio divina* as we enter into God's presence.

We are offering two Saturdays at 9:00 a.m., 60 to 90 minutes per session. Dates are April 12 and April 19.

Please RSVP to Ursula Hess or Judy Snyder by March 16. We look forward to hearing from you.

—Judy Snyder, Ursula Hess

March Social Activity

Friday, March 21 March Madness Party
4:00 - 10:00 or later?? at WMC

Take advantage of the TV screens in the fellowship hall and cheer on your favorite college basketball teams. Come and go as you please. We will order pizza and aim to have it ready around 6:00. Bring snacks to share and donations to help cover the cost of the pizza. Sign up at the participation station if you plan to be there for pizza at 6:00.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance
Worship – 182
Nurture Hour - 196 + 10
(Gelassenheit Retreat)

Finances – February 23, 2025

Operating Fund	$11,410.93
Mennonite Education	$2,950.00
Either Fund	$5,175.00
Budget Total	*$19,535.93*
Sharing Fund	$1,109.00
Jubilee Fund	$210.00
Two-Way Mission	$800.00
Welcome Spaces	$200.00
Total	**$21,854.93**

Looking Ahead
March 9: Sermon: Cindy Voth; JYF Sunday; Lent 1: Christ Collides with our Bias *(Luke 10: 25-42)*
March 16: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Lent 2: Christ collides with our condemnation; *(Luke 13:1-9, 31-35)*

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

Waterford Announcements

Spring Cleaning Update: We had tentatively planned a spring cleaning event for the end of April, but have since found out that the city's Beautify Goshen week is right around that same time. So rather than host a less efficient version of the same thing, we will do our research and share how you can participate in that event.

This Sunday, March 2:

- There will be a **Fellowship Meal** hosted by the Bridgebuilders class following the nurture hour. Please bring a dish or two to share.
- **Completed ballots from the** Gifts Discernment Ministry Team are due this Sunday. 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. Please place your completed ballots in **the basket outside the church office**. There should have been one copy of the ballot in your box last week, and there are extra blank ballots by the basket for those who need one.
- **June Nurture Hour Electives:** We are looking for individuals or groups that are interested in providing leadership to an elective! They can be creative expressions of faith, Salt & Light Bible Study, singing, grief conversation, wetland walks, knotting comforters, drum circle, lawn games, etc. Please contact a pastor by this Sunday if you have an idea for an elective.

There will be an **Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 7 p.m**. in the sanctuary. This short service will help us remember who we are and who God is. Pastors will offer to place ashes on foreheads or hands as a sign, not only of our mortality, but also of forgiveness and new life.

Stop by the Participation Station to **sign up to contribute food items for the Prairie View school staff breakfast** on March 17. You can bring fruit trays to serve 10, containers of mixed nuts, bags of small wrapped candy, or special paper plates and napkins.

Please remember to **sign up** if you are planning to come for the **MYF Service Auction meal** at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 9. 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

On Thursday, March 6, at 1:00 p.m. those interested are invited to join others in the fellowship hall 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.

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 free resources online at the link above.

Upcoming Events

After touring Florida, **Goshen College's low voice choir Vox Profundi** will return to Sauder Concert Hall for a home concert this Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at goshen.edu/tickets.

From now through April 15, Silverwood pastors will be providing a **time for prayer on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in their sanctuary. We will begin with a 15 minute focused time of praying together, using the book, "Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book." During the remainder of the hour, you may pray quietly, write your laments and leave them at the foot of the cross. Whenever you are ready within that hour, you may leave. If you are unable to attend the 7:00 - 8:00 prayer time, please consider joining us in this season of prayer in your own way as we pray for our nation and for other hurting places around the world.

Join MCC for two free webinars: MCC has various curricula that can be used by churches and constituents in a variety of ways. In this series of virtual workshops, MCC staff will showcase these curricula and give examples of how they might benefit congregations.

- **Loaded Conversations & Fear Not - March 6 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. EST:** In a culture that is dominated by fear, division and violence, churches are grappling with how to talk about and think about gun ownership and gun use. *A Loaded Conversation* invites churches to explore a faithful response to this reality of violence involving guns. *Fear Not: Creating a plan to respond to active violence* helps congregations in the U.S. consider what they believe about situations of active violence and how they can respond effectively and faithfully as followers of Jesus Christ. Register at: **mcc.org/loaded-fear-webinar**
- **Embracing Beloved Community - March 6 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. EST:** Embracing Beloved Community dives into the ways God calls the church to embrace diversity. The curriculum is designed for congregations new to this topic to journey together in an exploration of the sin of racism and Christ's vision for the Kingdom of God on Earth. Register at: **mcc.org/embracing-beloved-webinar**

Get ready to be transported to the magical world of Brigadoon! Goshen High School is bringing this classic Broadway musical to life March 6-16. Follow the story of two travelers who stumble upon a hidden Scottish village that only appears for one day every hundred years. With amazing music, incredible dancing, and a story about love, fate, and community, Brigadoon is pure magic from start to finish. Tickets are on sale now—grab yours at https://buff.ly/3C83uGT!

Taizé-inspired worship service: Sunday, March 9, 7-8 p.m., at Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, 909 N. Sixth Street, Goshen, Indiana. Are you looking for ways to stay rooted and grounded in God's love in these tumultuous times? Join us for an evening of meditative worship that includes song, prayer, Scripture, candlelight and stillness — inspired by the Taizé Community in France. All ages are welcome! Hosts: Walnut Hill and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Faith Formation Collaborative. To learn more, email formationcollaborative@ambs.edu.

Students in the Goshen College International Student Club (ISC) will celebrate the culture of their home countries with a potluck dinner and a show during the **annual ISC Coffeehouse** at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, in the Church-Chapel Fellowship Hall. **Please bring a dish to share if you attend the event.**

Mennonite Church USA

MC USA joined 26 other faith traditions in a legal action that seeks to restore the rights of people of faith to gather, worship and serve without government interference. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/lawsuit-religious-freedoms

"The extreme actions of our government call us to step up as we recognize **we must take a prophetic stand**, speaking out in our belief, as followers of Jesus, that loving our neighbor is paramount," **Iris de León-Hartshorn,** MC USA associate executive director of Operations, said about MC USA's recent legal action. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/anabaptist-witness-mennonites

There's still time to enjoy early bird pricing for MC USA's Follow Jesus '25 convention in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12, 2025. Register before March 31 and save $145 per person. The first 300 registrants will receive a free copy of the Anabaptism Community Bible, courtesy of MennoMedia, a $69.99 value. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/registration/

MC USA has launched an online storefront featuring hats, sweaters, mugs, and more. Check out the selection of swag that displays Follow Jesus, the MC USA dove, and a retro line of gear from past conventions. bonfire.com/store/mc-usa-gear/

"Jesus, you are our living water. Water of life for the parched and weary. We pour out our prayers, and we trust that you are with us now," wrote Katerina Gea, pastor of Pasadena [California] Mennonite Church in **a prayer of lament for those impacted by the California wildfires.** Read the prayer here: mennoniteusa.org/prayer-ca-wildfires

AMBS

Do you sense a call to ministry? Nurture your leadership abilities, grow in spiritual practices, and deepen your understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's **Journey Missional Leadership Development Program**. The distance-friendly undergraduate-level program offers the guidance of a dedicated pastoral mentor and community support. The Fall 2025 cohort begins Sept. 5; apply by July 9 to save $100! ambs.edu/journey

Fully online seminary degree. Check out Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's fully online **Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism**! The 46-credit-hour academic degree program can be completed in four years of part-time study and offers a global approach to Anabaptist theological education. Learn more: ambs.edu/matga

Opportunities

"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. Anne Meyer-Byler has created a Short-Term Partners form that offers many options. Find more information in the introduction

Communities in Kentucky and West Virginia are experiencing catastrophic flooding due to the recent torrential rains that 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, April 4-6, Sept. 26-28 and Dec. 5-7.

Join Mennonite Mission Network on one of these inspiring journeys:

Racial Justice Pilgrimage | South Africa — This pilgrimage will explore the long history and legacy of settler colonialism and apartheid, and will focus on the social constructs created around race, land dispossession and how they so thoroughly defined, and continue to define, South African society.

Racial Justice Pilgrimage | Underground Railroad — Explore the role of faith and faith communities that helped enslaved people escape their bonds. This chapter of the Racial Justice pilgrimage series delves deeper into the struggle for freedom, exploring the ways — both literal and figurative — people took in search of their emancipation.