March 23, 2025

The Waterford Buzz

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

Welcome Team
Greeters: Firman & Susan Gingerich
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Carla Miller, Ken Otto
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
65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
Phone 574-533-5642
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

The White House Occupants

JD Smucker

Remember the White House on the corner of the church property? Last fall we asked the question, what should we do with the white house? As good Mennonites do, we formed a committee. We processed, visioned, dreamed, and came to the conclusion that we keep the house, the occupants, and the vision that is in place.

The house presently is used by Downtown Ministries, a Christ – centered organization that desires to love our neighbor and serve our city. DTM empowers individuals and families who have experienced difficult circumstances and poverty. Providing a safe place to stay and programming providing support for meaningful employment, mentoring relationships, mental health and addiction support, are just a few of the ways to love one's neighbor. The Waterford house is one of five houses in the area under the guidance of Downtown Ministries.

DTM has a written agreement with Waterford Mennonite Church for present and future use with the expectation that they cover insurance and utilities costs. Should the congregation desire to redirect the use of the house, this would be negotiated with Downtown Ministries within an agreeable timeframe.

Through offering the house and forming lines of communication and support as needed for the occupants of the church house, Waterford has an opportunity to support them in a way that reflects the mission of the congregation. What will our future relationship look like? Maybe there is someone from Waterford who is called to be a liason, a conduit, a link, a "life" line, between the congregation and the residents of the White House.

Continued...

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance
Worship – 195
Nurture Hour - 212

Finances – March 16, 2025

Operating Fund	$5,741.00
Mennonite Education	$4,470.00
Either Fund	$4,880.00
Budget Total	*$15,091.00*
Least Coin	$61.00
Two-Way Mission	$50.00
MYF Auction	$3,720.00
Sharing fund	$180.00
Total	**$19,102.00**

Looking Ahead
March 30: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Lent 4: Christ collides with our selfishness *(Luke 16:19-33)*
April 6: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Lent 3: Christ collides with our blinders *(Luke 18:31 - 19:10)*

Out of Office
Cindy Voth - March 23-27
Katie Misz - March 23-31

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

It is spring, and some of us will plant seeds in the ground, watering, and nurturing the plants. Others plant seeds within relationships as they water and nurture in another way. I can see a garden growing at the White House.

Editor's note: We look forward to having Jim Dreier, Executive Director of Downtown Ministries, share about this ministry during a God's Work Among Us on Sunday, May 18.

WMC Library

New Books by Indigenous Authors

Compiled by Diane Bodiker

God Is Red: A native View of Religion, by Vine Deloria Jr. Celebrating five decades of publication with this new edition, Deloria's classic work informs us about a spiritual life that is independent of Western religion and that reveres the interconnectedness of all living things. The book includes critical essays engaging with the original material by well-known indigenous thinkers. The book covers a wide variety of topics including: the problem of creation, the origin of religion, Death, and Human personality.

Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future, by Patty Krawec. Weaving her own story with the story of her ancestors and with the broader themes of creation, replacement, and disappearance, Krawec helps readers see settler colonialism through the eyes of an indigenous writer. This remarkable sojourn through Native and settler history, myth, identity, and spirituality helps us retrace our steps and pick up what was lost along the way: chances to honor rather than violate treaties, to see the land as a relative rather than a resource, and to unravel the history we have been taught.

We Survived the End of the World: Lessons from Native America on Apocalypse and Hope, by Steven Charleston. From the moment European settlers reached these shores, the American apocalypse began. But Native Americans did not vanish. Apocalypse did not fully destroy them, and it doesn't have to destroy us. With the lively voice of storyteller, Steven Charleston speaks to all who sense apocalyptic dread rising around and within. What strategies did America's Indigenous people rely on that may help us to endure an apocalypse—or perhaps even prevent one from happening?

Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness Every Day, by Kaitlin B. Curtice. Resistance is for every human who longs to see their neighbor's holistic flourishing. We each have a role to play in the world right where we are, and our everyday acts of resistance hold us all together. Readers will be empowered to seek wholeness in the various spheres of influence they inhabit.

Thank Yous

Ariana Pérez Diener Returns to Kenya

I wanted to thank you all for all your support growing up here at Waterford and especially the last three years as I have served with MCC in Kenya. I was so touched and appreciated all the blessings I received after the service last week. As it was mentioned in the bulletin, I am moving back to Kenya next week with the intention of staying long term. My finance, Sam, is working at a non-governmental organization in Nairobi (Kenya's capital) teaching youth about social entrepreneurship. I plan to spend some time farming at Sam's family's land where he has a small farm that he has been developing for many years. (I'm really hoping that there are some good mangos left when I arrive next Saturday!)

I am looking forward to finding ways to explore ongoing partnership and connection with Waterford. Sam and I are in the midst of dealing with complex immigration applications and procedures in both countries and appreciate your prayers for patience for us and compassion for those reviewing our applications. I am really excited to find my place in my community in Kenya again now as a more permanent member and not just a visitor/volunteer. I will really miss singing with you all and my community here in Goshen. I look forward to keeping in touch with you all individually, through the Buzz, and joining the livestream every once in a while.

Sam Lasiti and Ariana Pérez Diener at their engagement ceremony December 2024.

To the Waterford Mennonite Church family,

Thank you for your expressions of comfort and support, cards, and the wonderful meal after the memorial service. Your kindness is appreciated.

The family of Don Miller

Thank you for providing the treats this week to our staff. It was amazing and appreciated by all the staff. Thank you! Have a great day!

Sonya Imus, Principal
Prairie View Elementary School

WMC Directory Corrections

Please make the following corrections in your WMC directory:

Address:

Caryl Guth - 1409 Winsted Dr

Email:

Ginny Birky - kgbirky@gmail.com

Birthdate:

Florence Guengerich - 10/14/1937

Employment:

Vance Weaver - Weaver Realty

Invitation

New Members Class

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

Have you recently decided to make Waterford your new church home? Or have you been attending Waterford for a period of time (months, years, decades) but have not yet become a member? Our Pastoral Team will be holding a class in April for anyone who is interested in becoming a member at Waterford Mennonite Church. The class will meet for two Tuesday sessions on April 15 and 29 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the church. During our sessions, we will spend time getting to know each other, share the leadership structure of WMC, visit with each of the pastors and learn about our areas of ministry, and have time for any questions you might have. We anticipate receiving new members within worship services in May and June.

We would love to have you join us! Please RSVP to Pastors Cindy, Deron, or Katie by April 6.

Waterford Announcements

Mennonite Women will be meeting on Thursday, April 10. Come when you can from 9 to 2. Several persons quilt or knot, but there are also bags to string. Feel free to share what other interests you might have and we will be glad to consider adding tables somewhere. If you plan to be here for lunch, bring something to share. This is a great time to try new recipes and the fellowship is a plus as well.

Oh yes, there were several men who joined the "Comforter Bash" last fall...so, if any men would like to join the fun on second Thursdays each month, they would be most welcome. We might even consider a name change, if that seems appropriate!!!

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.

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 17, all are invited to share in a simple meal together in our fellowship hall at 6 p.m., followed by a service of footwashing. If you intend to come, please stop by the Participation Station to sign up to bring food (soup, bread, or fruit to serve 8). There are also sign-ups for helping with hosting or clean up after the meal.

Reminder: if you wish to send a note or card to Andrew Smucker in Bolivia with JD and Beth, please bring them and put them in their box this by Saturday, March 29.

Upcoming Events

Goshen College's spring musical, Rent, will show Saturday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 30 at 2:30 p.m. Directed and produced by Amy Budd, Rent is a story about falling in love, finding your voice and living for today. Purchase tickets at https://goshen.universitytickets.com/.

Theology and Palestine: Conversation with Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac. Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac is a prominent Palestinian pastor and theologian who has given voice to the Palestinian struggle for justice and liberation amidst the horrors of the war on Gaza. His most recent book, *Christ in the Rubble: Faith, the Bible, and the Genocide in Gaza* (March 2025), takes aim at the Western theological tradition's neglect and erasure of Palestine. Please join us for this important conversation and engagement with Rev. Dr. Isaac on how our theological tradition can respond to the Palestinian call for justice. **March 26, 2025, at Mennonite Church USA/MMN's office at 8.30 – 10.30 a.m.** (Coffee and refreshments will be served). Attendance is limited and by RSVP only. Zoom option available. Note: Rev. Munther Isaac, will also speak at **Carey Auditorium, Hesberg Library, Notre Dame,** Tuesday, **March 25, 5:00 p.m.** Note: Bags and backpacks will not be allowed inside the venue.

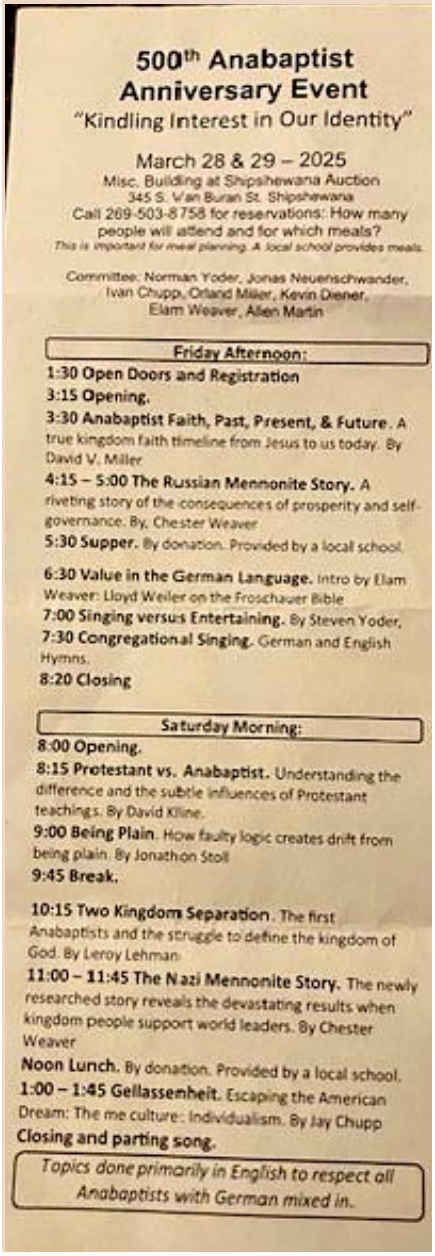
Join the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative in preparing a mailing of our Earth Day appeal on Wednesday, March 26, at 9 a.m. at Assembly Mennonite Church. Let Doug Kaufman know if you can make it at director@anabaptistclimate.org or 574.536.6151 so that he can be sure to have great coffee and donuts for all!

Join Mennonite Action Michiana, in collaboration with several other community organizations, as we take action Wednesday, March 26 at Morris Performing Arts Center Plaza, in South Bend from 5 to 6:30 p.m. We take public action to show undocumented immigrants, and Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, and all of occupied Palestine that Christians stand with them, and to "change the weather" of public opinion. We join other Mennonite Action communities planning public actions during March. There will be storytelling, singing, a children's craft table and children's story. Bring your hymnals.

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain will come to Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall in the next installment of the school's Performing Arts Series! This original ensemble, featuring only ukuleles and voices, will perform on Friday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. Buy tickets at https://goshen.universitytickets.com/

500th Anniversary Anabaptist Gathering, March 28-29 at the Misc. Building, Shipshewana Auction, 345 S Van Buren St. This Friday afternoon - Saturday early afternoon event is organized by Amish and other plain groups, but is being presented primarily in English. Talks on: Anabaptist Faith, Russian Mennonite story, Value of the German Language, Singing vs. Entertaining, Prostestant vs. Anabaptist, Being Plain, Two Kingdom Separation, the Nazi Mennonite Story, and Gelassenheit. Friday evening and Saturday lunch meals will be provided. Please RSVP to 269-503-8758 with number of people attending for which meals. See photo of the schedule at right.

Project Promise will present their annual Easter play on Saturday, March 29, at Middlebury Church of the Brethren, 507 Bristol Avenue, Middlebury. There will be two performances—3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The performance is free; there will be a free will offering taken. For more information, contact Carla Miller.



500th Anabaptist Anniversary Event

"Kindling Interest in Our Identity"

March 28 & 29 – 2025

Misc. Building at Shipshewana Auction
345 S. Van Buran St. Shipshewana
Call 269-503-8758 for reservations: How many people will attend and for which meals?
This is important for meal planning. A local school provides meals.

Committee: Norman Yoder, Jonas Neuenschwander, Ivan Chupp, Orland Miller, Kevin Diener, Elam Weaver, Allen Martin

Friday Afternoon:

1:30 Open Doors and Registration
3:15 Opening.
3:30 Anabaptist Faith, Past, Present, & Future. A true kingdom faith timeline from Jesus to us today. By David V. Miller
4:15 – 5:00 The Russian Mennonite Story. A riveting story of the consequences of prosperity and self-governance. By, Chester Weaver
5:30 Supper. By donation. Provided by a local school.
6:30 Value in the German Language. Intro by Elam Weaver: Lloyd Weiler on the Froschauer Bible
7:00 Singing versus Entertaining. By Steven Yoder,
7:30 Congregational Singing. German and English Hymns.
8:20 Closing

Saturday Morning:

8:00 Opening.
8:15 Protestant vs. Anabaptist. Understanding the difference and the subtle influences of Protestant teachings. By David Kline.
9:00 Being Plain. How faulty logic creates drift from being plain. By Jonathon Stoll
9:45 Break.
10:15 Two Kingdom Separation. The first Anabaptists and the struggle to define the kingdom of God. By Leroy Lehman
11:00 – 11:45 The Nazi Mennonite Story. The newly researched story reveals the devastating results when kingdom people support world leaders. By Chester Weaver
Noon Lunch. By donation. Provided by a local school.
1:00 – 1:45 Gellassenheit. Escaping the American Dream: The me culture: Individualism. By Jay Chupp
Closing and parting song.

Topics done primarily in English to respect all Anabaptists with German mixed in.

Mennonite Church USA

On March 24 at 7 p.m., join MC USA's Nancy Kauffmann, interim denominational minister of Church Safety, and Michael Danner, associate executive director for Church Vitality, for a webinar as they discuss the common understanding of the **role of forgiveness in responding to abuse in the church** and how it is often misused or misunderstood in the context of abuse. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/forgive-forget-safe-church-register

Watch the recording of MC USA's webinar, **"Following Jesus in challenging times… What does it mean to provide sanctuary for undocumented people?"** in English here: mennoniteusa.org/following-jesus-challenging-times-recording and en español here: mennoniteusa.org/following-jesus-challenging-times-sp

AMBS

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 short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by April 2 to save $50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

Opportunities

Assembly Mennonite Church is seeking a 3/4-time office administrator. This salaried position is eligible for benefits including health insurance and paid time off. The role includes responsibility for the congregation's financial bookkeeping, information management, coordination of building rentals and maintenance, and program support. Required qualifications include basic understanding of accounting concepts, computer proficiency and/or aptitude, effective communication, and organizational skills. More information can be found here. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to Scott Coulter (scottc@assemblymennonite.org).

(IMMC) has an employment opportunity for an **Administrative Coordinator at 0.50 FTE.** Applicants must have a belief in Christ's transforming power for all people, an appreciation for the local church, and an understanding of administration as pastoral care. The qualified candidate is proficient in using oral and written communication, writing and editing publications. They are competent with planning and managing multiple projects and meeting deadlines and using technology in its various and changing forms (MS Office, MS Access, WordPress and social media, etc.). They will relate with diverse cultures with strong intercultural competence, managing and making decisions consistent with IMMC's stated mission and vision. Underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Contact **imoffice@im.mennonite.net** or call 574-534-4006 for a job description. To apply, send resume to **sharon@im.mennonite.net**.

Eighth Street Preschool has openings available for the 2025-2026 school year! This year we are offering one class for 3-year-olds and two classes for 4-year-olds. See the flier on the bulletin board with the QR code for days and cost details. Call 533-6720 for more information or to schedule a school visit. Eighth Street Preschool is located on the corner of Eighth and Purl Streets in Goshen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: The help provided by Mennonite churches for food and other supplies for the **people in Gaza sheltering in two churches** has been greatly appreciated. With the Israeli government's recent cut-off of food to Gaza, the need has greatly increased. A description written March 6 from one of our contacts in Gaza gives a clear picture of the struggle the residents continue to face. (See the letter on the mission bulletin board by the library.) Please consider sending a donation to Fellowship of Hope, 1614 S. 6th St, Elkhart IN 46516 with the memo line "Gaza relief" or use the church's Givelify app with the memo line to designate your gift. We continue to use a reliable path to get the donations into responsible hands.
May God bless you and all who long for peace in Gaza.
David Janzen, Fellowship of Hope

Join the Evergreen Singers: If you are over 50 and love to sing, then consider joining: Evergreen Singers! In this choir, you will learn a wide variety of choral works (sacred, secular, pop, and folk), including music from many different lands. Rehearsals begin April 8 and continue each Tuesday 9-11 a.m. at Greencroft Community Center, Goshen, with 8-10 concerts performed per year, ending mid-December. Choir directed by Diane Hertzler. You do not need to be a Greencroft Resident to sing with us. We even have members from out of state. If interested, call Dave Janzen (574-370-6310).