March 30, 2025

The Waterford Buzz

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

Welcome Team
Greeters: Jon. & Mary Ann Wieand
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Mark King
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Colin Berkey

This Week at Waterford
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Mentors/Mentees Meeting
Thursday
6:30 p.m. - Stephen Ministers MYF Rm, Room 15
Zoom prayers
Monday - 8:30 a.m.
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church
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Goshen, IN 46526
Phone 574-533-5642
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

This year's stone cross visual...

Loanne Harms

...comes from way back in September of 2009 when we had a worship service themed around the burdens we carry. On September , when worshippers entered the sanctuary, they were invited to choose a rock to take with them to their seats. During the service, all were asked to hold their rocks and to identify something or things that weigh them down. At one point, all were encouraged to bring their rock, their burden, to the front (where the bigger cross was laid on the steps) and to place their rock on the cross symbolically recognizing that Christ has taken all our burdens and sins to the cross with him setting us free and offering salvation.

The rocks were then assembled into the cross you now see up front; a solid reminder of God's compassion, care and concern for all of humanity, and reminding us again that our burdens left at the cross can lighten our load, renew our faith, and offer us grace.

The cross was assembled by Loanne Harms, the stand by John King.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance
Worship – 225
Nurture Hour - 215

Finances – March 23, 2025

Operating Fund	$5,825.00
Mennonite Education	$350.00
Either Fund	$3,555.00
Budget Total	*$9,730.00*
Jubilee Fund	$60.00
Welcome Spaces	$200.00
MYF Auction	$180.00
Total	**$10,170.00**

Looking Ahead
April 6: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Lent 3: Christ collides with our blinders
(Luke 18:31 - 19:10)
April 13: Sermon: Katie Misz; Palm Sunday: Christ collides with our expectations
(Luke 19:29-44)

Out of Office
Katie Misz - March 30-31
Elvina Schmidt - Mar 31 - April 7

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

Spring Summit Delegate Sessions

On March 15, a group of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) delegates gathered for the IMMC Spring Summit. This was the in-person delegate session, with a virtual session also scheduled for the following week. Our worship opened with the centering hymn *Come Away From Rush and Hurry* (#9 in Voices Together). After several more hymns, a group gathered on stage to share their experiences on the Civil Rights Pilgrimage. Delegates were honored to hear directly from one of those persons, Liz Gingerich, who shared with WMC during a recent Sunday morning reflection. Much of what they shared was sobering, including the church being complicit throughout our American history and the recognition that racism is still active within churches. The message hit close to home with the recognition that lynchings took place here in the Midwest and were not just a southern crime. They acknowledged that many systems of oppression are intertwined with one another around poverty, lack of freedoms, injustice, and racism. Rolando Sosa, a member of the Missional Leadership Team of IMMC, expressed a call to action as sharing time and resources with those who have been denied opportunities. By doing this, we become the grace of Jesus to those around us.

The delegate session transitioned from this worship and learning space into a larger meeting area for round table discussion. Delegates had three main objectives: (1) discuss the new congregational guide for youth/young adult delegates, (2) review the IMMC budget for the upcoming year, and (3) eat lunch.

There was unanimous support for having youth delegates, even while we (delegates) expressed regret there weren't more attending our particular summit. The delegate session had two youth delegate attendees, one of whom was our own Dominic Ramer. There appeared to be strong support for learning new ways to actively promote and enlist youth and young adults in the process of conference delegate sessions. Perhaps this may mean being open to new or different discussions or shifting how meetings are presented. I definitely felt proud to be at a congregation that actively seeks inclusion of youth in all areas of congregational life and worship.

The delegate session closed with a review of the financials. Most of the discussion centered around a shift in the giving and support for IMMC from Congregational Giving to more Individual Support, which requires fundraising work. The IMMC team has prepared for this and is actively working toward a balanced budget.

My experience was enhanced by getting to sit with Dom throughout, picking his youth brain on all of the topics and summit experiences (including lunch). He was an active participant and both youth delegates in attendance made contributions of value to the process.

1 Corinthians 13:7-8a — Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.

—Dan Stoltzfus, IMMC delegate for WMC

MLC Report

Pastor Cindy's Mid-cycle Review*

Rose Shetler, co-chair Ministry Leadership Council

Last month, Cindy's review was conducted via a survey document prepared by WMC's congregational coach, Marty Lehman. There were 45 people who participated in the review. Marty compiled the results in themes and a further summarization follows:

> Cindy Voth is highly valued and appreciated by the congregation for her compassionate leadership, thoughtful ministry, and deep commitment to her faith. Across the 45 reviews, the feedback paints a picture of Cindy as a joyful, wise, and empathetic leader who inspires and cares for her congregation deeply. Her leadership is described as engaging, compassionate, and thoughtful, and she is recognized for her ability to connect with people, both within and beyond the church community. Cindy's integrity and humility stand out, alongside her practical wisdom and strong communication skills. Cindy's sermons are frequently mentioned as a highlight, characterized by biblical depth, thought-provoking insights, and practical application, underscoring the impact of her preaching on their spiritual lives.
>
> A small sampling of comments made in the review:
>
> "Cindy has led by example in showing care to Waterford members. She's inspired us to care for each other, even when it may require going beyond our traditional ways of being."
>
> "Cindy's wise and compassionate leadership has helped Waterford navigate the change to become a welcoming congregation."
>
> "The energy level, enthusiasm for church, and engagement of congregants has significantly increased since Cindy is lead pastor."
>
> "I continue to be impacted by the creative and forthright way Cindy preaches, her open way of being herself as she interacts with us, and her way of affirming all those who participate in the work of Waterford."
>
> "Thank you, Cindy, for being you, for allowing God to use you to help us in our walk of faith. I deeply appreciate you and your ministry, and hope that you know how highly valued you are at WMC. You are an amazing joy, inspiration, and steadfast guide in our journey as disciples of Christ."

Conclusion: Pastor Cindy's ministry at Waterford Mennonite Church is viewed as a transformative and positive force. Her leadership, preaching, and personal care have had a deep and lasting impact on the congregation, and she is highly regarded for her integrity, empathy, and vision. While there are concerns about her workload and balance, there is a strong commitment to supporting her in her ministry, ensuring she can continue her work with joy and health. The congregation is deeply grateful for Cindy's pastoral leadership and excited to see how her gifts will continue to shape the church's future.

Thank you to those who participated in this review. Truly, we are blessed to have Cindy's leadership among us. Thanks be to God!

**A mid-cycle review is done at the two-year mark between major reviews which occur every fourth year.*

WMC Library

More Newly Donated Books

Compiled by Diane Bodiker

The Journey of My Life, by Bertha Beachy. She was born in 1931 into an Old Order Amish family. She never could have imagined how perfectly her Amish upbringing would prepare her for a life of teaching and serving on the other side of the world. Bertha went on to serve in Somalia and Kenya for 20 years as a missionary with Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities.

Rocks of the Bible: their meaning and uses in ancient times, by Harold Helmuth. Harold started collecting rocks in the early grades of elementary school. A friend, who was a science teacher, introduced him to the hobby. He has been looking at rocks ever since. He was reading a Bible dictionary and came upon a listing of minerals of the Bible and their description and history. That led him to the study and research for this book.

March Madness

About 40 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall Friday evening, March 21, for the March Madness social. Everyone enjoyed a pizza supper, and some dedicated sports fans took front row seats.

Women of Waterford

If you're interested in psalms of lament and lectio divina, there is still time to sign up for two sessions on April 12 and 19. You may sign up at the participation station. We will study Biblical laments, write our own individual and corporate laments, and experience lectio divina. Sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 or 10:30 a.m.

Hosting Opportunity

Waterford will be hosting the Touring Choir from Hillcrest Academy (formerly Iowa Mennonite School) for a concert on Thursday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m., as they travel to the Mennonite Schools Network Choir Festival in Kidron, Ohio.

In addition, the choir is looking for overnight hosts for groups of two or three students. If you are interested in hosting students, please RSVP to Lyle Miller (lylegmiller@gmail.com). You would take the students home after the concert and return them to the church after breakfast. No lunch is needed for them as they travel on Friday.

Waterford Announcements

Tuesday is the deadline for submitting applications for the Spring 2025 Endowment grants. 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.

Reminder: You can still send a note or card to Andrew Smucker in Bolivia with JD and Beth this Sunday.

Women of Waterford: If you're interested in psalms of lament and lectio divina, **there is still time to sign up** for two sessions on April 12 and 19. You may sign up at the participation station. We will study Biblical laments, write our own individual and corporate laments, and experience lectio divina. Sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 or 10:30 a.m.

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.

New Members Class. 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. We anticipate receiving new members within worship services in May and June. If interested, please RSVP to Pastors Cindy, Deron, or Katie by April 6.

Upcoming Events

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.

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/.

Mennonite Church USA

Executive Director Glen Guyton recently joined MC USA's **The Competent Pastor podcast** to address the question: What is the most important skill of a competent pastor? Find it here: mennoniteusa.org/the-competent-pastor/

Dr. Paul Kyu-Jin Choi, ninth lead pastor at Village Church, a multicultural church in Portland/Beaverton, Oregon, shows how **Paul and Barnabas' conflict in Acts 15** is less about Paul and Barnabas and more about what the Holy Spirit is doing. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/wisdom-from-luke/

Spiritual director Sherah-Leigh Gerber reflects on how Jacob's time wrestling with God in Genesis reminds her of **staying present in discomfort**. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/wrestling-with-god

AMBS

Invite AMBS! Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary faculty and staff members are available to interact with congregations and organizations in person or via videoconference on topics such as confessional Bible study, trauma-informed caregiving, nonviolent communication, intercultural competence and more. Request a speaker online: ambs.edu/invite

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

Yoder Public Affairs presentation at Goshen College, Tuesday, April 15. **Martin Doblmeier**, an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose portraits of religious leaders have aired nationally on public television, will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the Umble Center. Doblmeier, the founder of Journey Films, will speak about his film series "Prophetic Voices," which chronicles the legacy of five faith leaders: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Reinhold Niebuhr and Howard Thurman. The presentation is free and open to the public and will be followed by a Q&A session. Refreshments will be served after the presentation, providing an opportunity to visit with Doblmeier.

Journeying Together with Grief: a grief retreat at Amigo Centre, April 11-13. We invite you to experience the healing balm of the natural setting of Amigo Centre, while connecting with others who are on a similar life-path. David and Naomi Wenger, together with other skilled leaders, will facilitate sessions and activities that expand our toolboxes for grieving well and for accepting grief as a part of life. We offer a kind and flexible space to reflect in groups and individually. Learn more and register at bit.ly/AmigoGriefRetreat.

Opportunities

The LifeLong Learning Institute of Elkhart County Board of Directors is seeking a director for the program beginning this summer. This is a one quarter time position that includes program development, strategic planning, working with community partnerships (Goshen College and Greencroft Communities) and operational oversight. If you are interested, contact board member Janette Yoder for a complete job description. This is a great opportunity for someone wanting a creative part time position.

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).

Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference (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.