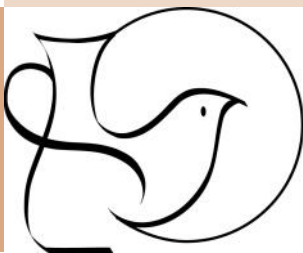


This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship

10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour
classes for all ages



May 4, 2025

The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Dan & Diane Bodiker

Ushers: Mark King, Wade
Ramer, Denise Diener

Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,
Colin Berkey

This Week at Waterford

Monday

6:30 p.m. - GDMT / Arby's

Wednesday

4:45 p.m. - Children's Cluster

7:00 p.m. - Venture Club

7:00 p.m. - JYF, MYF

Thursday

7:00 p.m. - Poems for Peace

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

Family Camp Reflection:

Growing Up Together: Seeking God's Wholeness in the Gift of Sexuality

Katie Misz, Family Life Pastor

How do we teach kids that bodies are good and created by God?

What do we say (or not say) about healthy sexuality?

How does faith shape the conversation?

How do we accept our imperfections?

These are the questions that our family life ministry team has been wrestling with as we have considered what formation to offer children and families around the topic of faith and sexuality.

Over the past number of years, Waterford has partnered with College Mennonite Church for two retreats focused on faith formation in this area. The first was "Created by God," designed for 4th-7th graders and their parents. The second was the "Building Authentic Relationships" (BAR) retreat for 11th and 12th graders to consider what to look for in a healthy, committed partnership.

As we began the early stages of planning, we discerned it was time for a change. We began brainstorming possibilities for a new retreat that would emphasize connection for families, camaraderie with others, as well as providing the tools and the space to exercise the muscle of having hard conversations together.

Silverwood Mennonite and Berkey Ave Mennonite joined our team, and a family camp retreat was scheduled for March at Amigo Centre. A number of us organizers attended a local "Our Whole Lives" training to explore a comprehensive curriculum developed by the United Church

Continued on next page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 189

Nurture Hour – 212

Finances – May 4, 2025

Operating Fund \$15,177.70

Mennonite Education \$1,375.00

Either Fund \$3,165.00

Budget Total \$19,717.70

Welcome Spaces \$1,000.00

Two Way Mission \$75.00

Total **\$20,792.70**

Looking Ahead

May 18: Sermon: Borderlands

Tour participants

(Deut. 24:17-22; Micah 6:6-8)

May 25: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser

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

of Christ and Unitarian Universalist Fellowships, which offers lessons for every stage of life from young children through senior adults. Waterford sent Laurina Graber-Ditzler and me (Katie Misz) to that training.

Seventeen total families attended the Growing Up Together Family Camp, seven of which were from Waterford.

The day featured guided conversations to help get families comfortable reflecting on the topic in developmentally appropriate ways. For instance, we played one game called at what age? Each family was given a timeline and checker pieces and each was prompted with questions like: At what age should someone get married? At what age should someone start doing their own laundry or at what age should someone get to decide the amount of screentime they get to have? Often, the children surprised the adults by placing their marker higher or lower than we would have expected. This led to good conversation and potential for new practices to be implemented at home.

In addition to receiving input and guidance, families were given free time to choose activities to do together like making a questions box, going for a guided hike, or reading children's books together about consent and body image.

A highlight for me was teaching the youth seminar with Pastor Billy from Berkey. In the youth lesson, we dug deep into the Scripture to interpret Paul's instruction to the Corinthian church: "Y'all's Body is a Temple, so honor God with your body." We enjoyed the lesson so much that we are planning to teach it as a seminar at MCUSA convention this summer.

A few of my own learnings as a pastor at Family Camp weekend:

Everyone was a little nervous about the weekend, but many walked away encouraged and grateful for the space to do important and needed faith work.

It was a gift to partner with other churches in this way. We were able to draw on each other's pastoral gifts to offer better programming for the whole family.

I'm encouraged by the engagement of families and youth to try this experimental camp together!

It is likely this camp will happen every two years, with rotating themes. Likely the next camp will be in the fall of 2026, possibly around the theme of family spiritual practices. We would return in four years to the topic of healthy embodied sexuality.

For Waterford, our family life team continues to explore how we might implement parts of the Our Whole Lives Curriculum as a whole congregation, possibly taking the place of the Dove's Nest Circle of Grace Sundays. We saw the value in having open conversations that included multiple ages learning side-by-side at developmentally appropriate levels. I wonder who in our congregation would feel passionate about teaching this type of curriculum and would help our team implement it for all ages? Stay tuned for more ideas to come!

All good things must come to an end.

Murray and Helen Bowman have recently moved. They say that “Since we no longer have chickens, we are no longer gathering and reusing egg cartons. We have so appreciated your gifts of empty egg cartons for many years. But they are no longer needed!!”

Unfortunately, you will need to find another way to dispose of your empty egg cartons. Please do not bring them to the church.

Bowman’s new address is 20240 County Road 40, Goshen IN 46526

Waterford Announcements

Michiana Voices for Middle East Peace will host a **book launch and night of poetry with local poet JE Misz** on May 16, 7:00 p.m. at WMC. *A World We Might Have Built: Poems for a Ceasefire* emerged from poems that JE wrote as part of a weekly practice to connect spiritually and emotionally to the horrors of the war on Gaza. It offers an empathic and humanizing approach to challenge the politics of war and imagine a faithful and creative response we can still build together. All proceeds earned from this book will go directly to Palestinian families in need. There will also be an open-mic sharing short reflections or poems.

On Sunday, May 18, there will be a congregational meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. in place of the regular adult nurture hour. We will meet in the sanctuary. There will be Sunday school classes for the children and youth. There will also be a Zoom option. Look for the link next week.

The WMC group subscription to Anabaptist World magazine is \$44 for 16 print issues delivered to your home, plus email delivery of the PDF digital edition. To subscribe or renew, fill out the subscription form that was in your mailbox and return it to the church office mailbox with payment (checks payable to WMC) **by May 19**.

Waterford will be participating in a **joint Pentecost Worship service** hosted by Goshen-wide MCUSA congregations! We will gather on June 8, 2025 at the Goshen College Campus on the KMY Lawn (the lawn between the Student Dorms and the Rec Fitness Center). Pre-worship singing will begin at 9:15 a.m. with the Worship Service beginning at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in this English/Spanish bilingual service! Note: There will be no services at WMC that morning.

Upcoming Events

Join [Mennonite Action Michiana for a potluck](#) on Tuesday, May 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Mennonite Church in Elkhart (23786 Sunnyside Avenue)! In the midst of the chaos and violence of our world, we invite you to join us for an evening of fellowship and community-building. We will share what Mennonite Action is up to and how you can get involved. Our May potluck will feature stories from Gaza and an opportunity to contribute funds to [help a family our community is connected to in Gaza](#). Activities for children will be provided. Bring a dish to share as well as your own table service. All are welcome! See you soon!

MCUSA

MC USA is seeking award nominations for its 2025 Bring the Peace initiative. The denomination grants the award to a Legacy Peacemaker and a Young Peacemaker each year. Submit your recommendations for nominees by May 23:

mennoniteusa.org/btp-nominations-2025

The Worship Planning Team for Follow Jesus '25, MC USA's national convention, shares the **benediction litany** ahead of convention. Read the full litany here: mennoniteusa.org/spirit-upon-me

Ana Alicia Hinojosa, senior executive for Ventures at Mennonite Mission Network, has **fought against the patriarchy and a hyperproductive world** to find her rightful place in society, while also finding rest. Her blog is part of MC USA's "Learn, Pray, Join: Undoing Patriarchy" educational campaign. Read more about Hinojosa's experiences here: mennoniteusa.org/weight-patriarchy

AMBS

Orienting With the Word:

Deadline extended! Ready to read Scripture “as if your life depends on it”? This free five-month program of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s Faith Formation Collaborative builds community and biblical literacy through Bible study. Each participating congregation designates a small group to join with others in Confessional Bible Study. This practice helps communities make the Bible an indispensable tool for navigating daily living. Cohort One runs Aug. 1 – Dec. 21; congregations should apply by July 1. ambs.edu/orienting-with-the-word

Ministry Reflection Circles.

Pastors, need help with ministry challenges? Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s yearlong Ministry Reflection Circles program provides the support of program leaders within a community of peers. An online cohort begins Oct. 20; apply by Sept. 20. ambs.edu/ministry-circles

Pathways Retreat

Pathways Retreat offers a variety of programs and workshops, including an two-Saturday art and nature experience for children; weekly yoga, Transitions Journey Retreat, and an Enneagram Introductory Workshop. Stations of the Resurrection will be available until May 15. Daily prayers happen in-person and online. Learn more at pathwaysretreat.org.

Everence Federal Credit Union is offering two webinars in May to help you know how to talk to your kids/teens about money.

- On May 13, @ 8 p.m. [Money lessons for younger kids](#) will help you get started with concepts and actions that help children from K-middle school build the skills they need to develop life-long money smarts. Click on the above link to register for the webinar.
- On May 15, @ 8 p.m. [Teach your teen money moxie](#). This webinar helps you get started with concepts and actions that help teens build the skills they need to develop life-long money smarts. Learn tools and concepts to help your teen understand the decision-making process behind budgeting, spending, goal setting and more.

The Council on Aging of Elkhart County is partnering with the Goshen Public Library to launch **Library Social** — a brand-new monthly event designed for older adults in Elkhart County! Join us on the **second Wednesday of every month from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** at the Goshen Public Library for a warm, welcoming space to **meet new people, enjoy coffee and conversation, and dive into engaging activities or presentations.** From creative workshops to local guest speakers, no two months will be the same! **On May 14: Container & Raised Bed Gardening** with Mark Evans, from Purdue Extension (Hands-on, everyone in attendance will receive a pot with seeds to plant during the demo!)

Solidarity and Prayer for the Congo: Join us for a service of learning and prayer on Saturday, May 17, at 7 p.m. at Sunnyside Mennonite Church (23786 Sunnyside Ave., Elkhart.) Come hear stories from Anabaptists on the ground in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where rebel forces have seized cities and killed thousands since January. The conflict is heightened by the mining of rare earth minerals which are valuable for technology production. We will collect an offering for Mennonite Central Committee and Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, both involved in relief efforts in Congo. More information on our [website](#). You may also join by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88239170732?pwd=dpab0PxchvI3dvtreUWda4aOWj3wra.1> Meeting ID: 882 3917 0732 Passcode: hope

Opportunities

Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) is **seeking a Communications Director**. The Communications Director leads the public communications activities of Anabaptist Disabilities Network, including primary responsibility for all print and electronic communications. This is a half-time, salaried position. Please see the [Communications Director position listing](#) on our website for more information.

Protecting Those with Disabilities Through Estate Planning: Families who have loved ones with disabilities have extra concerns when estate planning. On Thursday, January 30, 2025, Anabaptist Disabilities Network hosted a webinar covering these unique aspects of estate planning: special needs trusts, ABLE accounts, and changes under the SECURE Act and SECURE Act 2.0 that affect special needs planning with retirement accounts. The webinar recording is available to watch [here](#). Visit the [Special Needs Alliance](#) for additional resources, including a director of members, and find an attorney near you.

Join the Conversation: Help Us Explore Anabaptist Rites of Passage for Boys: Mennonite Men is excited to explore how we honor boys coming of age from an Anabaptist perspective. Join the conversation by completing our short survey on boys' rites of passage. Your input will help shape important discussions at the Follow Jesus 2025 gathering in Greensboro, NC. Share your voice today by visiting bit.ly/Anabaptist_Rites_of_Passage.