

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship

10:30 a.m. - Cong. Meeting /
Sanctuary

Classes for children and youth

5:30 p.m. - Guess Who's
Coming to Dinner



May 18, 2025

The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Karen Thompson,
Carla Miller

Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto,
Douglas Graber

Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,
Dom Ramer

This Week at Waterford

Monday

7:00 p.m. - BBI Planning Grp

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks &
Game Night / FH

Thursday

6:30 p.m. - Mission & Service
meeting / FH

Friday

5:30 p.m. - YAF dinner /
Snyder/Nussbaum's

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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www.waterfordchurch.org

Waterford's Got Style!

Katie Misz, with Samson Brock



THANK YOU to the many
volunteers invested in the
youth and children's
ministries at Waterford.

This year's thank you gift is
a newly designed Waterford
T-shirt. The children's
cluster hired Waterford's
own Samson Brock to
design the shirts, which
Waterford's own Benji
Hurst printed.

The idea for the design comes from the Peaceable Kin(g)dom in Isaiah 11:6-9 and depicted on p. 12 of the hymnal. Samson contextualized this Scripture and imagined the Peacable Kin(g)dom taking place in the Waterford wetlands.

Here's what Samson has to say about it:

Katie: What inspired your design?

Samson: I didn't really grow up in a church, so I had to rely on the suggestions quite a bit to be honest, and the Lion and the Lamb caught my eye. Predator and prey existing peacefully together. It's a striking image, but I wanted to make it more applicable to Waterford and the area around it, so... Deer and Coyote (a wolf in the first iteration).

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Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship – 266

Nurture Hour – 212

Finances – May 11, 2025

Operating Fund	\$13,365.40
Mennonite Education	\$2,387.80
Either Fund	\$8,405.00
Budget Total	\$24,158.20
Least Coin Fund	\$30.00
Two Way Mission	\$200.00
Gaza Relief	\$1,000.00
Jubilee Fund	\$500.00
Sharing Fund	\$500.00
Total	\$26,388.20

Looking Ahead

May 25: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Moses and the burning bush
(Exodus 3:1-15)

June 1: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Anabaptist History
(Philippians 3:7-21)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader
Monday - Thursday
Deron Bergstresser, Pastor
Tuesday - Friday
Katie Misz, Pastor
Monday - Thursday

Out of Office

Cindy Voth - May 19

Office hours this week

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9 - 12, 1 - 3
Tuesday, Friday
9 - 12

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

Katie: How does this design capture your experience of being part of Waterford?

Samson: I didn't initially intend for the design to reflect my experience here much...maybe the fact that I genuinely just walked out of the woods one day and started attending services, but I can kinda see how it'd reflect my experiences now. Before I started coming to WMC, I was generally afraid of the religious in general, but that extended mainly to Christianity, seeing how common it is here. I'd seen and experienced a good bit of intolerance towards me and others. I felt like I was being hunted, like the deer, with most Christians being at my throat like the coyote. I can see how some people may see it the opposite way after hearing so much about queer people like me being predators. It's nice being in a place where we can coexist without fear from either side.



Katie: Anything else you want us to know about you as an artist or your work?

Samson: As for artist inspirations in general? I like to draw creatures, and Pokemon is a huge influence for my style. You can be a lot looser with animal drawings than you can with people drawings, because we as humans can more easily see when the anatomy on a human drawing is wrong. I like drawing cute stuff!

If you would like to purchase a T-shirt, we will be taking orders for a second printing. You will find an order sheet at the participation station. Please fill it out by Sunday, June 1. T-shirts cost \$12 and payment can be made to the church office.

Samson is available to do graphic design or artwork for hire. You can find his contact information on the bulletin board or in the church directory.

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday, May 18:

- Don't forget to bring your **Firstfruits Giving Response Cards** to put into the offering **this Sunday**.
- 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. Please bring the information you received in the past weeks relating to the budget and the ballots. There will be extra ballots available. Absentee ballots can be placed in the basket by the office door before the worship service on Sunday. The meeting will also be Zoomed at <https://goshen-edu.zoom.us/j/93294701581?pwd=aCH93eAYYft7IUGxw7uwag5yhAVAW6.1> Meeting ID: 932 9470 1581; Passcode: 676041 Those joining by Zoom will be able to vote online during the meeting. Please remember there is only one vote per device.
- Note: This Sunday is **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** night at 5:30. If you signed up to participate, don't forget to go!
- **This is the final Sunday to turn in your WMC group subscription to Anabaptist World** magazine. Please fill out the subscription form that was in your mailbox and return it to the church office mailbox with payment (checks payable to WMC).

This year's **Vacation Bible School** will be at Silverwood Mennonite Church from Tuesday, July 29, to Friday, August 1, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. We are joining Silverwood, Berkey, Assembly, and Faith Mennonite Churches. **We need some volunteers!** Please return the volunteer signup sheets to Mariko by June 1.

Upcoming Events

You're invited to **Thrifty at Woodland Crossing Spring Fashion Gala** on Saturday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m. at Belmont Mennonite Church (925 Oxford St, Elkhart). We'll have items available for purchase from the store and will also be accepting donations. You're welcome to give where you feel led—toward the greatest need, the loan payment, or even for clothing racks. Every gift makes a difference!

Solidarity and Prayer for the Congo, Saturday, May 17, at 7 p.m. at Sunnyside Mennonite Church (23786 Sunnyside Ave., Elkhart.) Come hear stories from Anabaptists 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 MCC and Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission. 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

Nuway Construction's 4th Annual Charity Golf Outing is in support of the Center for Healing and Hope. Join the fun on Wednesday, June 4, at the Maplecrest Country Club, Goshen. [Register](#) today to get a spot:
Individual Registration - \$150 **Foursome Registration - \$500**
Team Donation Bundle - \$100 **Hole Sponsorship - \$1,000**

MCUSA

Watch the first of two **MC USA Women in Leadership webinars**, discussing the upcoming Women's Summit on July 8, 2025, a transformative one-day event immediately preceding the Follow Jesus '25 national convention in Greensboro, North Carolina. View it here: mennoniteusa.org/WIL-webinar-recording

Alicia Maldonado-Zahra shares four key takeaways from the 2025 MC USA **Hope for the Future conference**. This year, the traditionally BIPOC-only event was open to white allies. Read her takeaways here: mennoniteusa.org/sharing-hope

Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi shares her experience **healing from the patriarchal abuses** she experienced in her life and work. This blog is part of MC USA's "Learn, Pray, Join: Undoing Patriarchy" educational campaign. Read more about her experience here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/healing-happens/

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

Earn a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership! Develop a customized learning plan around your goals, gain expertise in five key competencies and grow in effective Anabaptist leadership while based in your ministry or leadership context. Students in this program must be able to travel to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary each January to participate in the required weeklong residencies on campus. Apply by Sept. 15 to begin in January. ambs.edu/dmin

Pathways Retreat

Pathways Retreat offers a variety of programs and workshops, including a 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.

2025 Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale:

The Relief Sale will be held Sept. 26-27 at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds. You can begin supporting the sale now:

- Bless others and the work of MCC with your donation to the 2025 Quilt Auction at the Relief Sale. Comforters and quilts of all sizes, quilted wall-hangings, plus knitted or crocheted afghans are all needed. Please see the website for how to register your item <https://www.mennonitesale.org>. Registration ends August 25. For more information contact Gail Shetler, 574-333-7142.
- Plant enthusiasts, share your plants at the Relief Sale. Now is the time to nurture your indoor plants or pot up your perennials as you divide them. A good plant sale depends on healthy established plants. Consider what you could contribute to the sale. If you specialize in violets or succulents, they are always popular.
- Start collecting your coins for MyCoinsCount to bring to the Relief Sale in September to support MCC's food projects around the world. A [calendar to help you collect](#) is available on the Relief Sale website.

Follow the Relief Sale on Facebook, Instagram and X/Twitter, and check out the website for more information.

Opportunities

Anabaptist Disabilities Network has published *The Story of God's First People*, a Bible study **curriculum for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities**. Drawing from key stories of the Old Testament with an Anabaptist perspective, the curriculum includes captivating illustrations and activity-based learning appropriate for adults. *The Story of God's First People* is available for purchase at BrethrenPress.com.

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 directory 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.

Support Peace and Justice in Palestine. Want to do something to support Palestinians and learn God's way of peace in the Holy Land? Join MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestine Israel Network) and Mennonite Men as we travel to Palestine and Israel to plant olive trees, meet Palestinian peacemakers, and connect the land to Jesus' way of peace. Help raise \$50,000 to replace up to 3,000 olive trees lost to ongoing conflict—restoring livelihoods and helping Palestinian families remain on their land. Then, travel with us to Palestine and Israel, February 4–19, 2026, to plant trees, meet Palestinian peacemakers, and visit sacred sites. This transformative journey connects faith, justice, and action as we follow Jesus' call to peace. Find more information at bit.ly/PalestineCoverLetter and bit.ly/PalestineFlyer