



July 13, 2025



# The Waterford Buzz

## **This Sunday**

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture hour—  
classes for adults

## **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Esther Farmwald,  
Carolyn Chupp  
Ushers: Douglas Graber, Ken  
Otto, Denise Diener  
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,  
Colin Berkey

## **This Week at Waterford**

### **Wednesday**

6:00 Haystacks & Games /  
Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. - Worship MT /  
Meeting Room

### **Thursday**

7:00 a.m. - Reparative Justice  
Group / Rm 22

### **Zoom prayers**

Monday - 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

## **Waterford Mennonite Church**

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## **THE WAY TO LOVE: Fall Elective Nurture Hour Class**

*Sheldon Swartz, Spiritual Formation Ministry Team*

We all know the greatest commandment is to love. We also know there is no formula about how to do that, kind of like there is no formula about the wind—it blows where it will, as Jesus said.

All of us are created to be loved and to love. God is Love, so the more we are aware of our deepest longings, the closer we are to God, and the freer we are to express that love—to others, to all of God's creation. It is an invitation to true freedom.

*The Way to Love*, a little book by Anthony De Mello, continues to be an inspiring challenge to me as I read and meditate on the short meditations in this little book, the subtitle of which is "The Last Meditations of Anthony De Mello." In a pithy way, he seeks to break through illusions which he believes are the greatest obstacle to love and insists that seeing others as they really are is what frees us to love. In other words, becoming more aware—seeing more clearly. He often reflects on how our attachments hinder our freedom to love.

So, take a look and consider joining others who would like to take this journey together and learn from each other. There is a copy of the mini-book to at the participation station and a sign-up sheet if you are interested. Or email me at sheldonws@yahoo.com and let me know if you want more information or just want in!

This fall elective, led by Sheldon Swartz, will meet September through November.

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 198

Nurture Hour - 143

### Finances – July 6, 2025

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Operating Fund      | \$8,982.00         |
| Mennonite Education | \$2,025.00         |
| Either Fund         | \$3,112.00         |
| <b>Budget Total</b> | <b>\$14,119.00</b> |
| Sharing Fund        | \$782.00           |
| Jubilee Fund        | \$50.00            |
| Two Way Mission     | \$2,050.00         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$17,001.00</b> |

### Looking Ahead

July 20: MC USA Convention  
Sharing

(Luke 4:14-21)

July 27: Sermon: Deron  
Bergstresser

### Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team  
Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz

Monday - Thursday

### Out of Office

Katie Misz - July 13-15

Deron Bergstresser - July 7-12

Cindy Voth - July 13

### Office hours this week

Monday - Thursday

9 - 12, 1 - 3

Friday 9 - 12

**Greeter signup:** [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRLd0Ydw\\_QxRiQUvRhUscNV-k0HV-oTcPnu61NyBcjM/edit?gid=0#gid=0](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](mailto:buzz@waterfordchurch.org)

## Summary of the May 18, Congregational Meeting

*Submitted by Christa Graber Kauffman, MLC Secretary*

The most recent congregational meeting reflected Waterford Mennonite Church's commitment to financial transparency, educational support, and sustained ministry engagement. The meeting opened with a prayer from JD Smucker, MLC co-chair, and moved into a presentation of the proposed 2025–26 church budget by Jim Gascho, MLC treasurer. A major focus was increasing understanding of church finances and clarifying categories such as “Reserve Funds,” which cover overages and allow for year-to-year budget stability.

### **Budget Overview**

The proposed budget for the 2025–26 fiscal year is **\$820,000**, with key changes including:

**Reduction in Mennonite Education Fund (MEF)** allocations due to the calculation method for state vouchers and a desire to understand the intent of the MEF guidelines with a commitment to clarify the guidelines before the next school year.

**Increase in facilities-related spending**, partly to build up reserve funds for future expensive facilities needs (i.e. new HVAC system).

Continued effort to maintain **Mission & Service giving between 12–14%**, in line with a tithe.

Staffing costs were under budget this year due to changes in health insurance and reduced custodial needs during facility renovations. Additional facilities expenses and MEF overages were offset using Reserve Funds.

### **Mennonite Education Fund (MEF)**

A recap of MEF emphasized WMC's status as a **partial funding congregation**, contributing up to 65% of tuition costs. The church remains committed to supporting all Bethany students who choose to continue attending. Clarifications were given around the recalculation methods and reserve fund implications.

### **Ballot Results**

**Budget approval:** 124 Yes, 7 No

**Delegate approval:** 129 Yes, 2 No

### **Additional Update**

**Church House:** Downtown Ministries will continue to use the property.

Cindy concluded the meeting with a blessing and prayer.

The meeting affirmed the congregation's continued generosity, thoughtful discernment in budgeting, and commitment to both local and global ministry support.

## Missions Support

**Ben and Laurel Woodward-Breckbill** are nearing the end of their first year serving with Mennonite Mission Network at the Paris Mennonite Center in Paris, France. In their most recent newsletter, they include a **“Summer Fundraiser Reminder:** If you made an annual pledge or one-time gift last summer, please consider giving again this summer! Don’t miss out on the continued life of the Paris Mennonite Center—we count on you for support! You can give a one-time or recurring gift by clicking the “give now” button <https://www.mennonitemission.net/workers/ben-and-laurel-woodward-breckbill/>. We are so grateful for your support, and we encourage you to consider smaller monthly gifts, which you can set up to send automatically.”

The full June newsletter is posted on the Missions bulletin board by the library.

## Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement (delivered by Debbie Fath) in memory of my dad after his death. It was a reminder of this faith community’s love and care for others.

Ginny and Karl Birky

## Waterford Announcements

Someone who is part of our church community has **temporary need for a knee scooter** following an anticipated surgery in the near future. If anyone in the congregation has one that they would be willing to loan, please let the church office know.

**Pastor Katie’s major 4-year review.** Please take a few minutes to give feedback to Pastor Katie’s ministry among us by completing the online feedback form at [docs.google.com/forms](https://docs.google.com/forms). You can also find paper copies of the form by the mailboxes. All forms, both completed online and paper copies, should be **returned by Sunday, July 20**.

## Upcoming Events

**Homerun for Homeless**—First Light Mission Benefit, Saturday, July 12. Come out and enjoy a family friendly day. We will have food trucks, dunk tank and a first responder (Goshen and Elkhart police and fire departments) baseball tournament. Entry is free and if you want to give to help the mission you can give in a bucket of your favorite teams. See more on the poster on the bulletin board.

## MCUSA

MC USA Moderator Jon Carlson provides an **update on the Mosaic Mennonite Conference process** in his letter to all MC USA members. Read it here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/jon-carlson-re-mosaic](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/jon-carlson-re-mosaic)

**MC USA is seeking a Denominational Minister/ Director of Education** to oversee education-related ministries within MC USA, including developing new educational ministries, expanding existing ministries, building/strengthening relationships with educational partners. To request an application form, contact [HR@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:HR@MennoniteUSA.org) or call 574-523-3027. View the job description here: [mennoniteusa.org/employment/minister-education](https://mennoniteusa.org/employment/minister-education)

**MC USA is seeking an archivist coordinator** for the Elkhart office. The coordinator oversees the accessioning, arrangement, description and preservation of permanent records for MC USA in textual, photographic, audiovisual, micrographic and multimedia formats. View the job description here: [mennoniteusa.org/employment/archivist](https://mennoniteusa.org/employment/archivist) To request an application form, contact [HR@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:HR@MennoniteUSA.org) or call 574-523-3027.

## AMBS

### Take a seminary course this fall!

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's distance-friendly options include 1 Corinthians: Transforming a Divided Church; Faith Formation and Spirituality: Children; Public Faith and Christian Nationalism; Reading Cultural Contexts; Somatic Spiritual Practices; and more. In-person courses are also available. Some courses may be audited. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours! Courses run Sept. 2 – Dec. 12; sign up by Aug. 25. [ambs.edu/upcoming-courses](http://ambs.edu/upcoming-courses)

**Rooted and Grounded Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship: Sept. 18–20 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary** in Elkhart, Indiana. Theme: "Kinship with All Creation: Pursuing Relationship, Justice and Community." Keynote speakers: Wendsler Nosie, Sr., PhD, of the Apache Stronghold and the American University of Sovereign Nations; T. Wilson Dickinson, PhD, of Lexington Theological Seminary; and Douglas Day Kaufman, ThM, of the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative. Selected portions of the conference will be livestreamed. Registration is now open! [ambs.edu/rootedandgrounded](http://ambs.edu/rootedandgrounded)

### Pathways Retreat

**Pathways Retreat** will be offering a variety of programs and workshops this fall, including a weekly Dream Weavers Reflection Group, Transitions Journey Retreat, Enneagram Introductory Workshop, and Attuning to the Season. Transition Inner Soul, Clergy Inner Soul, and Group Spiritual Direction groups are forming to meet monthly September - May. Learn more at [pathwaysretreat.org](http://pathwaysretreat.org).

Please join members of Assembly Mennonite Church's Advocacy and Repair Team in welcoming **George Godfrey, Ph.D.**, a Citizen Potawatomi and President of the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association (TDA), and his wife Pat, to Goshen the weekend of July 19-20. On Saturday, Dr. Godfrey will give a presentation, "**Potawatomi Memories: Their Removal and Their Survival**" from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. in Goshen College Mennonite Church's Koinonia Room. On Sunday, he will present *The Story of the Trail of Death* through first-person storytelling at the Assembly meetinghouse at 9:30 a.m. For more details, see the poster on the bulletin board.

**Mennonite-Muslim Engagement and the Way of the Gospel in Java, Indonesia.** Join Indonesian Mennonite pastors and scholars Teguh Karyanto and Danang Kristiawan for a morning of learning and fellowship, **Saturday, July 26, 9:00-10:30 a.m. at College Mennonite Church in the Koinonia Room.** Indonesia, the largest Muslim-majority nation in the world, is also home to a thriving Christian population, including the Gereja Injili di Tanah Jawa (GITJ), the oldest Mennonite church outside of Europe and North America. We will learn how the Mennonite community emerged in Java and how Javanese Mennonites live out their faith among their Muslim neighbors today. Light refreshments provided. Jointly hosted by the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Mennonite Mission Network, and Anabaptist Climate Collaborative.

Center for Healing and Hope's **Festival of Hope** will be July 26 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Goshen Brewing Company. There will be food trucks, live music, children's activities, Tropicana ice cream and vendors.

## Opportunities

People across **southern Bangladesh** are dealing with **the largest mass poisoning in human history** (according to the World Health Organization). There are high levels of naturally occurring arsenic in large numbers of the drinking water wells throughout this area. Tens of millions of Bangladeshis are being slowly poisoned, leading to debilitating health problems, children with depressed mental development (similar in action to lead), and early deaths. Bill & Carole Schumacher (Bill previously worked in Bangladesh with MCC), along with a number of other MCC alum, are concerned to raise awareness and help address this problem. MCC no longer works in the part of the country affected by arsenic, but staff are well aware of the crisis and encouraged us to find another organization working to address it. When we learned another former MCC alum later went back to Bangladesh with large mission SIM (Society for International Ministries) and started an arsenic mitigation project to help people access safe water and medical care, we visited to check it out, and started partnering with them to expand their project. You can learn more about the crisis and project at [arsenicbangladesh.com](http://arsenicbangladesh.com), or contact Bill (614-638-4218) or Carole (614-638-3021), email [bcschumacher@msn.com](mailto:bcschumacher@msn.com).

**Seeking an Administrative Assistant for the Church Leadership Center (CLC):** Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is accepting applications for this three-quarter-time position. The person in this role will handle logistical details for CLC educational programs and events—creating and managing processes for event setup, registration, communication, payments, financial recordkeeping and database management, among other responsibilities.