

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture hour—
classes for all ages
12:00 p.m. - Fellowship meal
hosted by Gelassenheit



August 3, 2025



The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Doug & Janette Yoder
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade
Ramer, Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann,
Steve Fath

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - Ecuador Prayers

Thursday

6:30 p.m. - Stephen Ministers/
MYF Rm, Rm 15

Friday

2:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Directory
photos

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Directory photos

Zoom prayers

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

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Worship Ministry Team

Worship Ministry Team (Erin Smeltzer, lay ministry partner; Jerry Landes, Veronica Berkey, Nick Stoltzfus, Lacy Stoltzfus, and Cindy Voth) have been hard at work discerning and planning our fall worship services. At WMC we have had a practice of sometimes having what we have called a “Dwelling in the Word” worship series. During these series, we dwelled with the same scripture passage for four to six weeks, going deeper into its various meanings and letting it sink deeper into us. WMT discerned a calling for us to return this fall to this communal formational practice.

So, beginning on August 17, we will spend six weeks dwelling with the Lord’s Prayer from Matthew, chapter 6. The Lord’s Prayer is one of the most memorized scripture passages. This series will invite us to go deeper into meaning of the various phrases as we consider the invitation before us in these words of Jesus.

Each week we will hear the Lord’s Prayer in four different ways. We will sing the Lord’s Prayer, using one of four different versions found in our hymnals. We will hear the Lord’s Prayer for our scripture reading. We will hear the Lord’s Prayer in a different language from a member of our congregation. And finally, we all will be invited to join in praying the Lord’s Prayer each week at the conclusion of our congregational prayer.

We also invite everyone of all ages to learn the Lord’s Prayer in American Sign Language (ASL). Naomi Ross Richer has created

See **DITW** on page 2

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 214

Nurture Hour - 137

Finances – July 27, 2025

Operating Fund \$4,140.00

Mennonite Education \$65.00

Either Fund \$3,255.00

Budget Total \$7,460.00

Looking Ahead

August 10: Scripture & Song:

Water within scripture

August 17: Sermon: John

Fumana; The Lord's Prayer

(Job 37:2-6; 42:7-9)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz

Monday - Thursday

Out of Office

Cindy Voth - August 3-4

Deron Bergstresser -

August 3-7

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

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

Thank You

To An Anonymous Person

David Gingerich & Karen Sommers

This past Sunday, an anonymous person put an envelope addressed to Carlos Ramos in my church mailbox. Inside was \$500 cash. As a reminder, Carlos is a man who attended WMC from 2013 to 2015 and had his fingers and both legs amputated from complications with bacterial meningitis. He now lives in Mexico City. For the past few years Pathfinders and Seekers Sunday School classes have hosted a haystack benefit meal for him on the first Sunday in January. With the money we raise we have been able to support him with \$550 a month for this year. When I texted Carlos about what I found in my mailbox, I asked him what he would like to do with the money and if he would like to communicate anything back to this anonymous person. Below is his response.

On behalf of Carlos, thank you for your remembering him and your kind generosity.

From Carlos:

I asked David to put the money into my savings account. I'm very thankful to whoever is doing a silence donation. I will definitely put it to good use. Since the first of the year, I have registered and applied for an apartment through the government. So, I'm on a waiting list that I hope is no longer than a year. It is a long process, but I'm positive about it and I've already taken the first steps which is sometimes the hardest.

Thank you,
Carlos Ramos

DITW (cont. from page 1)

some short instructional videos to teach us, phrase by phrase, how to sign the Lord's Prayer. Those who among us who learn the ASL version will be invited to sign the Lord's Prayer during our final worship service on September 21.

Throughout the series we will also have the gift of two guest preachers: John Fumana, executive director of African Inter-Mennonite Mission; and our own Luke Gascho. Our Koinonia Sunday School Class will lead the worship service on September 21. And we are grateful for Derrick and Sara Method who will capture our imaginations as they create our visual worship arts.

May this series broaden and deepen our engagement with both the Lord's Prayer, as well as with prayer in general. Together may we see, and hear, and experience God's loving presence in our midst.

Date	Theme	Preacher	The Lord's Prayer
9/17	Our Father, who is in heaven, holy be your name.	John Fumana	Sara-Carole Theus — Creole and French
9/24	Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	Luke Gascho	Mary or Merle Hochstedler — Turkish
8/31	Give us this day our daily bread.	Cindy Voth	Gilberto Pérez, Jr. — Spanish
9/7	Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.	Deron Bergstresser	Neer Goswami — Bengali
9/14	Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	Cindy Voth	Jan Oostland — Dutch
9/21	For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.	Led by Koinonia	American Sign Language

MCUSA

The MC USA Delegate Assembly installed **Marty Lehman as the moderator** for the new biennium and provided unanimous affirmation for a slate of new Executive Board members and other nominees, including incoming Moderator-elect Todd Lehman (no relation). Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/marty-lehman-as-moderator/

A spirit of hope and shared purpose marked the opening of MC USA's biennial Delegate Assembly on July 11, 2025, as more than 350 delegates gathered in Greensboro, North Carolina, to reimagine the denomination's future and approve four key measures to strengthen and equip the church. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/delegates-propel-mc-usas-forward/

In response to the escalation of violence involving Israel, Iran and the United States, **Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz offered this litany** that reminds us of God's call to peace. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/instruments-of-your-peace/

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday will be our monthly fellowship meal, hosted by Gelassenheit class. You are invited to bring a dish or two to share and your own table service.

We will be taking photos for a new directory on the weekends of August 8-10 and 15-17. Please take a moment to sign up your household for a photo shoot at the participation station or online at <https://booking.appointy.com/StevenFath>. There are options for 20-minute sessions Fridays and Saturdays or 10-minute sessions Saturdays and Sundays.

One more week to fill an MCC School Kit: We've almost reached 200! You can pick up a cloth bag and the content list on the table near the library. There is also a box for extra supplies you would like to donate. Please have completed kits returned by next Sunday, August 10.

Fall Elective: *The Way to Love*. There is a signup sheet at the participation station to indicate that you are interested in joining this elective based on Anthony de Mello's book (copy attached to the clipboard).

It's time to begin saving your coins for MyCoins Count. The relief sale is September 26-27 and we will be collecting coins at church beginning in August. This year, the coins will be used to support MCC food projects.

AMBS

Book release celebration:

Tuesday, Aug. 19, 6:30–8 p.m., at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Library Gallery (tower entrance), 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana. Join us at this free event to celebrate the release of the new book, ***What Happened at Benham West: African American Stories of Community, Displacement and Hope*** (Wolfson Press, 2025). This collection of elders' stories about Elkhart's predominantly African American Benham West neighborhood and the city's eventual clearing of the neighborhood will be available for sale. The event includes a storytelling activity and ice cream social. ambs.edu/benham-west-project

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

Pathways Retreat is offering a variety of programs and workshops, including a weekly Dream Weavers Reflection Group, Transitions Journey Retreat, Enneagram Introductory Workshop, Attuning to the Season, Contemplative Practices in Four Traditions, and Weekly Yoga. Transitions Inner Soul, Clergy Inner Soul, and Group Spiritual Direction groups are forming to meet monthly September - May. Learn more at pathwaysretreat.org.

Upcoming Events

There is so much we are holding in these times. Do you feel like you are collapsing in grief and can't imagine taking action? Are you too numb to take action? Or are you taking action, feeling grief welling up inside but don't feel like there is time or space to grieve? Action and grief are not separate. We can hold both and they can support each other. If you are wondering how, come join us for this **community grief-tending space for folks who have been organizing for Palestinian freedom on Wednesday, August 13, 7-9 pm at Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart**. Registration is required as space is limited. [Please fill out this short RSVP form to reserve your spot](#). You may also email nicoleocbauman@gmail.com for registration information. Co-sponsored by Mennonite Action Michiana and Michiana Voices for Middle East Peace and facilitated by Nicole Cober Bauman, a trained community grief ritual facilitator.

We're excited to announce the launch of [A Dangerous Faith](#), an online and printed **zine for youth and young adults** with content written by them and for them. This seasonal zine will launch in **Fall 2025 with the theme "Responding in Faith,"** drawing inspiration from Matthew 4:18-22 (Jesus calls the first disciples). **We want contributions from you!** We are looking for young people of faith who are passionate about justice and advocacy. We are interested in reflections, poems, songs, and visual art pieces. For more details, click on the link above.

The **Fall Décor and Dried Flower booth at the Relief Sale** will have more space and a great **need for more fall decorations**. We would like your assistance in growing and/or drying items for sale in the booth. Dried flowers and grasses along with traditional fall decorations such as gourds and corn are greatly appreciated. We cannot be successful without your generous help! For more information, contact Ruth Andrews at 765-432-7517.

Opportunities

Volunteer teachers are needed for teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to adults once or twice a week, September 2-November 20, at Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart. Materials are provided. You do not need to be a trained teacher. If desired, you may start as an assistant-in-training working with a veteran teacher. You do not need to be able to speak Spanish. Substitutes are available for illness and vacations. An informational meeting, How to Teach ESL Adults, will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 6:30 at Prairie Street. Please contact Sueann VonGunten, vonalter2@gmail.com or 574-612-3108, with your interest or questions.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage — This special pilgrimage, **tailored specifically for young adults**, will be led by MC USA executive director Glen Guyton. Join for a unique multiracial pilgrimage through the southern United States with opportunities for shared learning and deep understanding of the racial divides that our society perpetuates. **Date: October 28 - November 2, 2025; register by September 15.**