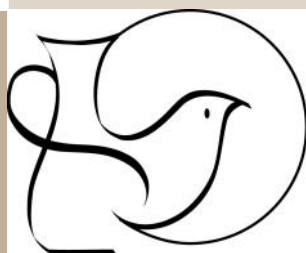




August 31, 2025



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture hour—
Classes for all ages

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jerry & Joyce Troyer
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade
Ramer, Mark King
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,
Colin Berkey

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

5:45 p.m. - Worship MT
6:00 p.m. - Four Way Advisory
Group
7:00 p.m. - Mentors & Mentees
at Pathways

Thursday

6:30 p.m. - Stephen Ministers
Zoom prayers
Monday - 8:30 a.m.
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Goshen, IN 46526
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Pastor Katie's Major 4-year Review

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

Earlier this summer Pastor Katie's review was conducted via a survey document prepared by WMC's congregational coach, Marty Lehman. There were 47 people who participated in the review. Marty compiled the results in themes and a further summarization follows:

Katie has revitalized youth and family ministries with vision, creativity, and deep pastoral care—fostering inclusivity and creating safe spaces where children and youth feel valued and heard. Katie is a wise, engaging preacher whose sermons bring fresh insight and calls the congregation to wrestle with the biblical story. Her leadership builds intergenerational connections, strengthens biblical literacy, and inspires greater engagement across the whole congregation.

Katie builds strong, trusting relationships with youth, children, and young adults, creating safe, welcoming spaces that inspire belonging, faith formation, and active participation. Her sermons are creative, engaging, and justice-minded, offering fresh perspectives on scripture that connects across generations. Through her leadership, Waterford has experienced greater vitality, intergenerational connection, and a culture where all are valued and empowered.

Katie, like all our pastors, is encouraged to prioritize self-care, modeling healthy boundaries while sustaining her vibrant ministry. Many hope she will preach more often, with one person even wishing we could add more Sundays to the calendar to create more opportunities for Katie to preach!

See **Katie** on Page 2

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 198

Nurture Hour - 198

Finances – August 24, 2025

Operating Fund	\$6,111.25
Mennonite Education	\$465.00
Either Fund	\$5,410.00
Budget Total	\$11,986.25
AIMM	\$50.00
Jubilee Fund	\$60.00
Total	\$12,096.25

Looking Ahead

September 7: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Lord's Prayer
(Matthew 6:12)

September 14: Sermon: Cindy Voth; The Lord's Prayer
(Matthew 6:13)

Pastoral Team

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

Out of Office

Janet Shoemaker - August 31-
September 3

Office hours this week

Monday Closed
Wednesday 1 - 3
Tuesday and Thursday
9 - 12, 1 - 3
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 (continued from page 1)

A small sampling of comments made in the review:

"I feel Pastor Katie gives permission for honest questions of faith and recognizes the importance of the process."

"Katie brings a lot of enthusiasm to the youth, and they really enjoy her work with them. Youth group has blossomed. The children and youth feel heard and seen, supported, and appreciated."

"I find Katie's sermons contemporary and contemplative, easy to listen to but challenging for faithful living. She crosses generations with scriptural interpretation and heartfelt delivery."

"Katie, your gifts are highly valued at Waterford! We are fortunate to have you as pastor and encourage you to trust the ways the Spirit is guiding you into the next season of your ministry among us."

Conclusion: Pastor Katie is a deeply valued and long-standing member of the pastoral team, appreciated for her authenticity, warmth, theological depth, and ability to connect across ages and abilities, especially with our children, youth and young adults. She is encouraged to continue building relationships, fostering inclusion, and calling the church toward deeper faith and active peacemaking.

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



Stories and Sharing from Andrew Smucker's SALT year in Bolivia!

On September 28, during the nurture hour, Pathfinders Sunday school class invites you to join them in the sanctuary to hear from Andrew Smucker about his year of service in Bolivia. Andrew participated in Mennonite Central Committee's one year SALT - Service And Learning Together. Come learn more about Bolivia and God's work there! Come hear how God has been at work in Andrew's life! Come witness how much Andrew has grown and changed throughout this year of service and learning!

Waterford Women's Retreat

On Saturday, October 11, a half-day retreat sponsored by the Spiritual formation Ministry Team will be held at Waterford Mennonite Church for all women 18 years old and older. The retreat is entitled "Woman: Created, Loved, Called," and will be lead by Karla Minter. The material will look at our purpose, how God sees us, the question of whether we are secondary to men or important on our own, and other questions around the theme of our place in God's world. The retreat will take place from 9:00 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch together. More information on the lunch will follow later.

Karla describes her work as spiritual direction, leading of contemplative retreats, biblical storytelling and pastoring. She completed a seminary degree in 2012 and pastors at Open Table Mennonite Fellowship in Goshen. She is married to Bill Minter of our congregation. For more information contact Ursula Hess or Judy Snyder. We hope to see you there!

Gifts Discernment Ministry Team thanks you for returning your fall ballots for our lay leaders. We received 97 ballots and they were overwhelmingly affirmative of the eleven individuals present for various leadership roles within our faith community at Waterford. We pray God's blessings on these leaders as they continue their roles or begin a new role among us.
- Jason Herrmann, lay ministry partner for GDMT

Karsten Yoder-Hess has requested his church membership be transferred to East Goshen Mennonite Church where his wife, Naomi, is on the pastoral team. We pray for God's blessings for Karsten, Naomi and our siblings at East Goshen. - Cindy Voth, for Ministry Leadership Council

Waterford Announcements

Final Sunday to bring donated food items for the CHH food pantry. You can place your gifts on the table in the foyer. Requested items include:

Dried beans (black, red, pinto, etc.)	Lentils
White rice	Pasta or mac and cheese
Maseca corn flour	Breakfast cereals
Cooking Oils	Salt
Canned fruit	Applesauce
Nuts	Peanut butter
Protein or granola bars	Canned tuna or chicken (pull off top)
Canned ready-to-eat soups	Baby food

If you would be willing to **drive college students to and from WMC** on Sunday mornings, please contact Katie Misz.

Pumpkinvine Bike Ride. Saturday, September 20, meet at 10:00 at Abshire Park and bike the Pumpkinvine trail to Mooey's Ice Cream. If you are not up to biking, plan to meet the group at Mooey's for lunch or an ice cream treat around 11:00. Mooey's opens at 11:00, so if you are a fast biker, you may have time to go on past Mooey's to ride a bit further and come back to Mooey's by 11:00. Sign up at the participation station and indicate whether you will bike or meet at Mooey's. Fellowship team is looking for someone to help gather the bikers at Abshire (basically cross names off the sign-up sheet). If you're willing to help, let Pastor Cindy or Melissa Chupp know.

MCUSA

The **MC USA Women's Summit 2025**, hosted by MC USA's Women in Leadership ministry, **addressed learning to pause, restore and resist.** This dichotomy was discussed by inviting participants to consider a radical way to think about rest – as not just a necessity, but as an act of defiance. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/womens-summit-2025/

The **MC USA Women's Summit** on Monday, July 8, featured two panels where the attendees heard from eight women and gender-expansive people about their **experiences in leadership.** Eight panelists spoke at MC USA's Women's Summit. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/panelists/

Iglesia Menonita Hispana (IMH), the Hispanic Mennonite Church of MC USA, has canceled its in-person meeting and will now hold a virtual Biennial Assembly on August 30, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/hispanic-mennonite-church/

AMBS

Online Short Course: Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology: Oct. 22 – Dec. 9.

Join Jamie Pitts, PhD, to explore the birth and development of the Anabaptist movements in the 16th century in this six-week online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course. You'll be challenged to draw connections between the 16th century and your own life or ministry. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by Oct. 1 to save \$50! ambs.edu/online-short-courses

Church matching grants for seminary: Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary offers grants of up to \$2,000 per academic year to match contributions that congregations, conferences and regional churches make toward a full-time graduate student's tuition costs. Part-time students may be eligible for matching grants as well. We're committed to making theological education affordable and accessible for students across the church — tap a shoulder! ambs.edu/church-matching-grants

Sam Stoltzfus and her partner Leif Billings are **looking for a 1-2 bedroom apartment to rent** through next summer. They have been looking for two months and are struggling to find a place. If you or someone you know has a space available, please contact Sam at samlinkstoltzfus@gmail.com.

Renew your **Rejoice!** subscription by filling out the pink form in your mailbox (more on the table below) and returning it to the church office mailbox with your check for \$40, payable to WMC, by September 14.

If you are **interested in learning the Lord's Prayer in American Sign Language** during our Dwelling in the Word series, here is a good tutorial created by a local Presbyterian pastor: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQo_p7Zu2nc&t=628s. You can also watch and learn from the weekly videos by Naomi Ross Richer. Here is [this week's video](#). Each week we will add the video that corresponds with the sermon topic.

Upcoming Events

Attending the Pokagon Band pow wow is a great way to engage with regional Potawatomi culture. The Kee Boon Mein Kaa Pow Wow will be held August 30 & 31, 2025, at Rodgers Lake Campground in Dowagiac, Michigan. Detailed information about the event can be found at <https://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/our-culture/kee-boon-mein-kaa-pow-wow/>. There is also a nice flyer with the schedule of events that you can download at https://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2508_KeeBoonMainKaa-Flyer-Specials_LV.pdf. This is a very enjoyable and welcoming event.

Amigo Park Carry-in and Auction, August 30. Celebrate the community and rich history of tent and RV camping at Amigo Park! Bring a dish to share and place your bid on baked goods, quilts, home decor, and other auction items! Proceeds from the auction support on-going maintenance needs at Amigo Park.

Free community concert! Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m., at Sauder Concert Hall, Goshen (Indiana) College. This concert will feature **Seth Crissman and Greg Yoder**, the founders of The Soil and The Seed Project, a community-supported ministry that creates music, art and Little Liturgies to nurture faith in Jesus through the ordinary moments of life. The free event — hosted by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Faith Formation Collaborative — is open to the public and will also feature local musicians. Come listen, sing along, learn about this exciting initiative and get beautiful, free resources! ambs.edu/soil-and-seed

The Crafter's Marketplace sales for last year's Relief Sale exceeded our expectations, thanks to your prayers and support! We are looking for **volunteers for Friday evening and Saturday morning** to help with pricing, straightening tables, helping customers, Kids Make and Take and clean up. This is a great opportunity for mentors/mentees. You can drop off your completed donations at the Community building on Friday morning of the sale, or email crafting.mmrs@gmail.com to make other arrangements, or to volunteer.

Are you energized by the laughter and smiles of children enjoying good fun with their friends and family? You can help **bring on the joy at the kids' carnival activities at the MCC Relief Sale** this September! Anyone 12 years or older can sign up to run a game booth. Even better, get a group of your best friends, small group, Sunday School class, sports team, or youth group and sign up together to make it even more fun! Kids under the age of 12 are welcome to run a game with the help of an adult. Your gift of time will make amazing memories while also helping kids learn about the work MCC does around the world. **Contact Kay Miller** at kaylmiller5@gmail.com or text 574-312-4130 with your name and preference for Friday, September 26 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. or Saturday, September 27 from 9:00-11:30 a.m.