



September 21, 2025

# The Waterford Buzz

**This Sunday:**  
9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour

**Welcome Team**  
Greeters: Elizabeth Stauffer,  
Karen Sommers  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto,  
LaVon Short  
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey,  
Dom Ramer

**This Week at Waterford**  
*Wednesday*  
7:00 p.m. - Venture Club  
7:00 p.m. - JYF, MYF  
*Thursday*  
7:30 p.m. - F&FMT / FH  
*Zoom prayers*  
Monday - 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

**Waterford Mennonite Church**  
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## The Letter of James

*Worship Ministry Team*

This fall we have been studying the Lord’s Prayer in our Dwelling in the Word Series. On September 28 we will transition to a five-week study of the letter of James. Each week we will focus on a different chapter within the letter of James, seeking to understand James’ words while listening for God’s word for us at Waterford.

James, sometimes called the ‘wisdom book’ of the New Testament, was written to communities scattered around the Mediterranean. Sheila Klassen-Wiebe writes in her introduction to James in the Anabaptist Bible:

*The message of James for the church is straight-forward: faith in Jesus the Messiah must be evident in how one lives... The idea that genuine faith must be expressed in how one lives pervades the letter of James and lies at the heart of Anabaptist convictions.*

The series kicks off on September 28 with Pastor Deron sharing a paraphrase of the letter in its entirety, from memory. After hearing the whole letter, we will break it down into smaller sections for the following five weeks.

Every Sunday will include a dramatic element, including a couple Sundays with the return of beloved ‘Andy & Ada’ as we once again draw from the Scottish worship resource “Spill the Beans.” In addition, each week following the sermon we will have time to reflect on a guiding question while listening to a musical recording from Colin Berkey on the cello. Loanne Harms will engage our senses as she creates

See **James** on page 4

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 235  
Nurture Hour - 236

Finances – September 7, 2025

Operating Fund	\$5,420.00
Mennonite Education	\$2,995.35
Either Fund	\$7,790.00
Budget Total	\$16,205.35
Jubilee Fund	\$70.00
Least Coin Offering	\$30.00
Jean Oyer Memorial	240.00
Total	\$16,545.35

Looking Ahead

September 28: Recitation of the  
book of James: Deron  
Bergstresser  
October 5: Sermon: Cindy Voth  
Hearers and Listeners  
(James 1:17-27)

Pastoral Team

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

Out of Office

Cindy Voth - September 22  
Katie Misz - Sept 26 - Oct 4

Office hours this week

Monday - 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

Worship Visuals Fall 2025 - The Lord’s Prayer

Derrick and Sara Method

Throughout this series on the Lord’s Prayer, we focused on the idea of a large cooking pot. It may seem like an unusual choice, but we were thinking about connections with prayer and needs and somehow landed on a meal provided in fellowship. God the Creator is preparing a large meal for us. Cooking transforms individual ingredients into something new, created in love. Here the pot may be large but it is blackened on the bottom from fire and use. It is not fancy or special and only for a select few, but this pot is creating something for everyone to experience.

The cooking pot tips and pours out nourishment. Each week, something new is added as God is providing for our needs not in our time but in God’s time. It is an ongoing relationship and communion for all of us. As we pray, the Creator provides. The colors and other elements build from week to week.

Week 1:

We started the series with a visual of the cooking pot sitting in a circle of stones to signify something being prepared upon a hearth — a promise of something good to come.

Week 2:

“Thy Kingdom Come” the pot tipped and red and orange spilled out — these colors can be interpreted any way you would like, but I find them to be a reminder of the colors of the flames of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost.

Week 3:

“Daily Bread” brought the color yellow and the addition of dried wheat to signify bread that is provided for us for our bodily nourishment, but I also see a connection to the bread of communion and nourishment for our spirit.

Week 4:

“Forgive Us As We Forgive” brought the color green, a color of renewal and growth. Forgiveness is necessary for true growth and renewal to happen. Small stones also appeared around the base of the wheat. Stones are an important part of the visuals for me as they have many meanings throughout history. With the idea of sins or debt, we can think of the weight of stones, or the historical connection to the stoning of Stephen. I also think about how stones represent geological time, a reminder of a timeframe much different than our own hectic and busy daily lives.

Week 5:

“Deliver Us: In the Wilderness” brings blue spilling out of the pot and pouring over more stones building up beside the wheat. Stones have such symbolism — they are used to build altars, they are struck with a staff to provide water, they cry out with joy, they reveal miracles.

See **Worship Visuals** on page 4

## A New Nonprofit Takes Root



You are invited to participate in the Launch of a new nonprofit, Four Way Mission, Inc. We formed this new organization upon invitation from our Ecuador partners to create a sister organization in the US with the focus of providing university education scholarships and Anabaptist leadership training.

Formerly operating as Two Way Mission, we have filed for and have been granted our state approval and federal tax-exempt status effective August 18, 2025.

Since early 2024, members of Waterford Mennonite and several other congregations have been providing donations to support Cofán youth from the rainforest village of Zábalo, located on the banks of the Aguarico River in eastern Ecuador. Currently we have four students enrolled at Rumiñahui Technological University.

This new organization will allow us to support the evolving ministry that Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer began as International Service Workers with Mennonite Mission Network (2014–2023).

At this meeting you will hear updated reports on the current students, the recently completed Sept. 9–12, 2025 Leadership Seminar held at the

Ninawachi Mission Institute, and the upcoming transition from Two Way Mission to Four Way Mission.

You will learn about ways you can continue to pray for and financially support this vitally important ministry and mission with your tax-deductible gifts to this new organization. Your support is planting seeds of hope in the hearts and lives of youth and church leaders in Zábalo.

Together, we're nurturing education, strengthening leadership and caring for creation by helping the families of Zábalo prepare for their future.

We encourage you to join us next Sunday evening, September 28, at 6:00 pm at Waterford Mennonite Church. Those unable to attend in person can watch the livestream:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86212853094?pwd=UrBCL5NhtiJo0Sdy7lW5m4aHyAkGln.1>  
Meeting ID: 862 1285 3094 -- Passcode: 134893

We'll see you then!

Jerrell Ross Richer, Executive Director  
Steven Fath, President  
On behalf of the Board of Directors of Four Way Mission



MCC

Sandra Montes-Martinez, Western District Conference associate conference minister, emphasizes **the importance of accompanying immigrants** and sharing God's love through action in her Menno Snapshots blog. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/love-and-action](http://mennoniteusa.org/love-and-action)

Worship Visuals (continued from page 2)

The blue and sparkling water goes where it needs to go. This water cleanses, it allows for growth, it carves paths, provides habitat, it is wild and wonderful and is another reminder of something that is so much bigger than us.

*Week 6:*  
Next week brings the final week and the final color of purple. The purple of Resurrection and reminder of the passion and celebration that comes with the ultimate sacrifice that was made so that we may live.

As you have probably seen by now, all of these colors combine to form a rainbow symbolizing the promise God made in Genesis. This promise of the Old Testament connects directly with Jesus’ teaching of how to pray. We are connecting across time and history with promises, stories, experiences and reminders. Throughout this sermon series, as we pray the prayer and meditate on the words, I have personally found deeper meaning in trying to find a way to express these thoughts through visual symbols. I know what these visuals mean for us, but would love to hear what they mean for you as we all bring our own experiences and contexts to our navigation of the world.

James (continued from page 1)

the visual worship arts for the series. And, we look forward to welcoming back Pastor Monica Miller, interim pastor at Kalamazoo Fellowship, as our guest preacher on October 19.

Date	Theme	Preacher
9/28	Letter of James	Deron Bergstresser
10/5	James 1:17-27 Hearers and Listeners World Communion Sunday	Cindy Voth
10/12	James 3:1-12 Words and Silence	Deron Bergstresser
10/19	James 2:1-17 Less Power, More Respect	Monica Miller
10/26	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8 Envy and Ambition	Cindy Voth
11/2	James 5:13-20 Prayer and Praise	Deron Bergstresser

Mennonite Women Say Thanks

A big thank you to those who took precut material to sew school bags for MCC. There are boxes on one of the tables under the mailboxes. Each Sunday there will be precut material to pick up in one box, and a second box for bags that are sewn and ready for draw strings.

This is all straight stitching, so if you are wanting to teach a younger person how to use a sewing machine, it would make a great learning project.

I would also welcome any project ideas you might have for expanding interest in attending Mennonite Women the second Thursday each month. Something you might be willing to do that would serve our church, community or the wider world.

Jot a note for my mailbox or send me an email. It would be a joy to hear from you.

—Joyce Bontrager

Waterford Announcements

It’s time for **College Student Care Packages!** On October 1, the mentors and mentees will assemble care packages for our 28 college students. You are invited to bring baked goods, granola bars, candy, nuts, Cup Noodles, popcorn, dried fruit, salty snacks, and other shelf-stable items for the next two Sundays for these packages. No fresh fruit, please! Items may be placed on the table near the library.

Pathfinders Sunday school class invites you to join them in the sanctuary on **September 28, during the nurture hour, to hear from Andrew Smucker** about his service in Bolivia with Mennonite Central Committee’s SALT (Service And Learning Together).

**This is the last Sunday to bring your coins** for MyCoinsCount before the relief sale. Drop them in the jug outside the main doors going into the sanctuary. And don’t forget to check out the volunteer options or pick up pans and packaging for baking at the table by the library.

This is the last Sunday of our Dwelling in the Word series **on the Lord’s Prayer**. Watch and learn from Naomi Ross Richer **how to say the last sentence of the prayer in American sign language** [here](#).

You are invited to attend an update about the new **Four Way Mission, Inc.** (formerly Two Way Mission) organization next Sunday evening, September 28, at 6:00 pm at Waterford Mennonite Church. Those unable to attend in person can watch the livestream: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86212853094?pwd=UrBCL5NhtiJo0Sdy7IW5m4aHyAkGln.1>  
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SAVE THE DATE!

Our next congregational meeting will be on Sunday, October 12, at 5:00 p.m. Bring finger foods to share as we meet at round tables for discussion in the Fellowship Hall.

AMBS

**Online Practical Leadership Training modules:** Gain leadership skills through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s affordable short-term online modules! Upcoming four-session workshops include Leading Intercultural Congregations in a Fractured World; Leadership Practices for Spiritual Vitality; and Leading Engaging Weddings and Funerals. CEUs available. Check out our full list of modules! [ambs.edu/plt](https://ambs.edu/plt)

**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 short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. 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](https://ambs.edu/online-short-courses)

Upcoming Events

**Evergreen Singers** will hold their **fall concert** on September 21 at 2:30 p.m. in the Goshen Greencroft Community Center. Ten of the 40+ singers are from our Waterford Family. All are welcome!

Join Goshen Public Library for a free **documentary screening of “Alice’s Ordinary People”** and discussion with the film’s director, Craig Dudnick, on **Monday, September 22 at 6 p.m.** This film is a powerful profile of Alice Tegan, an ordinary woman who became a fearless force for civil rights in Chicago. Encompassing five decades, from the marches of Martin Luther King, Jr. to the election of Barack Obama, the film highlights her extraordinary impact on political change and the ongoing fight for justice. Held in the Goshen Public Library Auditorium.

**Watch Party for keynote address by Robin Wall Kimmerer Tuesday, September 30 at 6:45 p.m.** Assembly Mennonite Church, 727 New York St in Goshen, in the worship space. Assembly’s Green Team is excited to partner with [Faith in Place](#) for their upcoming **Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit**, happening September 29–30, 2025, and featuring keynote speaker **Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of Braiding Sweetgrass**. Dr. Kimmerer’s work as a scientist, author, and Indigenous knowledge holder has inspired thousands to renew their relationships with the natural world. Her message is deeply moving and relevant for communities of faith and care. **RSVP for the Watch Party** by registering for the Summit and selecting our location from the Watch Party list: <https://aes-summit.org>. There is no cost, but we request that you register so we know how many participants to expect. If you have questions you can contact Mary Roth, [mary.nycer@gmail.com](mailto:mary.nycer@gmail.com).

**Wisdom of the Wilderness: Turning to Out Wild Teachers.** Join Mennonite Men October 10-12 for Wisdom of the Wilderness—a weekend retreat for men. At Pilgrim Park in northern Illinois, we will step into full immersion with the natural world. We will look to expand our awareness of God’s presence in the wild, attune ourselves to the wisdom of the natural world, and embrace our place within the community of creation. And we will meet the land as it transitions from the bounty of summer to the beauty of autumn. View and share the promotional video for the weekend: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EhXpS67u9Y>. Details and registration at <https://www.illumanillinois.org/events-gallery/wisdom-of-wilderness>

Opportunities

Mennonite Men’s **online survey about boys rites of passage** is still open on our website until October 15. The survey does not take long to complete, and we want more responses before we fully analyze the results. Thanks for engaging, and please share with your contacts and folks in your congregation. View the survey at [forms.gle/5bo2jezX9WGkRK5F9](https://forms.gle/5bo2jezX9WGkRK5F9)

AMBS is seeking a **Director of the Church Leadership Center** (full time). The person in this role will guide the vision, strategy and operations of the Church Leadership Center and oversee the Volunteer Program. They will supervise Church Leadership Center staff and Volunteer Coordinators and directly manage some program elements. For the first year (approximately), the position will include mentoring by the Dean of Lifelong Learning and the opportunity to develop deep familiarity with all operations through managing a range of strategic and administrative tasks. After this time, the Director will join the Administrative Cabinet, reporting directly to the President. See the link above for a complete job description.