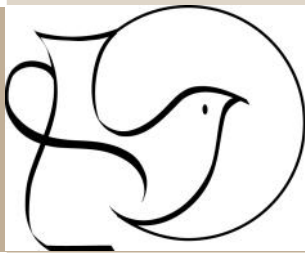


**This Sunday:**  
9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour;  
Andrew Smucker SALT  
presentation in sanctuary  
6:00 p.m.—Ecuador Four Way  
Mission Update



September 28, 2025

# The Waterford Buzz

**Welcome Team**  
Greeters: Jerry & Joyce Troyer  
Ushers: Jim Gascho, Carla  
Miller, Wade Ramer  
Audiovisuals: Shawn Stutzman,  
Jeff Claassen

**This Week at Waterford**  
*Tuesday*  
7:00 p.m.—SLT / Rm 15  
*Wednesday*  
7:00 p.m. - Mentor/Mentee  
Gathering  
*Thursday*  
6:30 p.m. - Stephen Leaders /  
MYF Rm, Rm 15  
*Zoom prayers*  
Monday - 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

**Waterford Mennonite Church**  
65975 State Road 15  
Goshen, IN 46526  
Phone 574-533-5642  
office@waterfordchurch.org  
www.waterfordchurch.org

## New Books in the Church Library

*Compiled by Barb Westerbeek*

*Finding Ourselves in God’s Story: Exploring Christian Faith and Life*, by  
Michelle Hershberger

The book addresses the pressing questions and concerns that today’s youth bring to their faith. Introducing Christian faith from an Anabaptist perspective, Hershberger puts readers in touch with two stories Christians constantly hear: The story of God working to restore us and all of creation to wholeness; and the story that involves our lives today and how we can connect with God’s story, and what we will do with Jesus’ invitation to follow him. Drawing on dialogue with Mennonite teenagers, young adults and pastors, this guide engages groups in discussion as it leads readers into a deeper faith as they consider baptism, or church membership.

*The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage*, by Richard  
Rohr

Rohr offers a wholehearted and hope filled model for living today, grounded in the timeless words of the Hebrew prophets. How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair?

*Sacred Parenthood: Spiritual Practices for the Highs and Lows of Parenting*,  
by Aizaiah G.Yong and Nereyda Yong

Authors and life partners, the Yongs contend that social healing and world peace start at home. As parents of four young children in an interracial and intercultural family, they offer stories and spiritual practices for the inner and communal lives of parents in a diverse world. The book invites readers into creative spiritual expression in everyday family life.

Continued on next page

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 242  
Nurture Hour - 215

Finances – Sept. 21, 2025

Operating Fund	\$5,080.00
Mennonite Education	\$175.00
Either Fund	\$2,250.00
Budget Total	\$7,505.00
Jubilee Fund	\$60.00
Welcome Spaces	\$200.00
Total	\$7,765.00

Looking Ahead

October 5: Sermon: Cindy Voth  
Hearers and Listeners;  
Communion  
(James 1:17-27)  
October 12: Sermon: Deron  
Bergstresser: Words and  
Silence  
(James 3:1-12)

Pastoral Team

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

Out of Office

Katie Misz - Sept 26 - Oct 4  
Elvina Schmidt - October 4-13

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

God Looks Like Jesus: A Renewed Approach to Understanding God, by Gregory Boyd and M. Scott Boren

In this accessible introduction to understanding the character of God, the authors lay out the radical truth at the heart of a grassroots movement, the conviction that God looks like Jesus. In the life, ministry, and sacrificial death of Jesus we see the embodiment of God’s very essence, a love that is humble, other oriented, and self-sacrificial.

In God’s Good Image: How Jesus Dignifies, Shapes and Confronts Our Cultural Identities, by J.W. Buck

Cultural identity matters to us and to Jesus. God’s people are meant to be a diverse community. Buck offers practical insights into how cultural identity fits into our walk as Christians.

Hope Beyond Our Sorrows: Learning to Live With Life-Changing Loss, by April Yamasaki

After almost forty-five years of marriage the author found herself grieving the death of her husband. How could life go on without him? Yet even in the depths of her sorrow, she experienced God’s goodness and mercy. Whatever loss you're living with, the loss of a loved one, a job, a marriage, a church community, or a dream, you can find comfort in these short readings, along with prayers and spiritual practices.

Faith in Full Color: A Tapestry of Anabaptist Stories, by Jeanne Zimmerly Jantz

Faith in Full Color showcases the intersection of faith and life showing how congregations, faith communities and individuals express their faith. Published in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism, the book introduces readers to a tapestry of creative expressions of contemporary Anabaptist witness in the world.

Nurture Hour Option

A New Sunday School Class Elective

Pastor Katie Misz

A new Sunday school class is getting started in room 30 in the Nurture Wing! Helen Bowman and Bonnie Miller will be leading a class every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday during the nurture hour for the months of October, November, and December. The class will be using a Storytelling format to listen and interpret Bible stories together. The class is especially designed for adults of differing abilities, for whom traditional Sunday school structures don’t always work. Perhaps someone you know is experiencing dementia or has lower cognitive functioning who would love this class. Or, perhaps someone you know is feeling weighted down by the world and would like to shake it up and experience God’s love with people who invite gentleness in a violent world. There is no ‘qualification’ for coming to this class. Try it out and see if it fits for you!

## **To Waterford Mennonite Church**

*By JE Misz*

Dear Waterford Church,  
You are dearly beloved.  
You, who are son, daughters,  
siblings, neighbors, and cousins.  
Of local Mennonite churches,  
you are one in a dozen,  
but I speak to you now  
as the day of the good Lord is coming.

I've been thumbing through  
directory pages to get a glimpse of you.  
Remembering names and faces,  
be gracious, it's just so hard to do,  
but I'm refreshed now  
that I'm writing and trying to think of you.  
It warms my heart  
like a cup of joe from the Brew.

You have been through  
so much in these dark times of trial.  
May you persist, cuz it may just  
go on for a while. Remember  
the hope that you've held to  
since you were a child.  
Reconcile with one another  
and take care of the wild,

like the wetlands  
you've been handed,  
commanded to be its keeper.  
Don't just stand on the shore;  
you've got to go in deeper.  
You've got to stay awake.  
You can't be caught a sleeper.  
Though blessed are the meek,  
don't mean it makes you weaker.

So keep on being seekers of all the facts,  
But what good is knowledge  
if we don't even act.  
Already, too many neighbors  
here are under attack.  
You are a train when you link  
and stay synced and on track.

So open your hearts, open your minds,  
open your doors, and open your Bible -  
it's the path to the Lord.  
I am sure now that God is coming  
and you will not fear it,  
and whoever has the ears to hear,  
let them go and hear it,  
this message not to besmirch  
to the church from the Spirit.

*Written and recited for the September 21, 2025 worship service on the book of Revelation.*



**Bike Ride  
Saturday, Sept. 20**

At least 30 people found their way to Mooey's last Saturday, either by bike or car, to enjoy ice cream and the farm animals.



**Thank You**

MCC thanks you for taking part in this year's School Kit Challenge! The goal was to collect 25,000 school kits in August. Thanks to the work of people like you throughout the U.S. and Canada, you, your community and other devoted supporters packed 29,639 school kits! Great Lakes region—Ind., Ill., Wis., Mich., Ohio, Tenn. and Ky.—collected 11,746 of those, and WMC collected 290 of those.

**Waterford Announcements**

Pathfinders Sunday school class invites you to join them in the sanctuary this Sunday, **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).

**Fall Launch Event for Four Way Mission, Inc.**, this Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Hear updated reports on the current students, the recently completed Sept. 2025 Leadership Seminar held at the Ninawachi Mission Institute, and the upcoming transition from Two Way Mission to Four Way Mission. Learn about ways you can continue to pray for and financially support this vitally important ministry. 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



This week you will find in your literature box a packet **of documents for our congregational meeting** on Sunday, October 12.

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.

**Next Sunday, October 5**, we will share in communion. We invite you to prepare your hearts for this sign of God's peace by making peace with God and with your brothers and sisters. And, as did the early church (Acts 2:43-47), we will also collect offerings for the Sharing Fund. This fund benefits people in need within the congregation.

Also, **October 5 will be our next fellowship meal**, hosted by Pathfinders. Bring a dish to share.

**"Woman: Created, Loved, Called,"** a WMC Women's Retreat, Saturday, October 11, at Waterford, for all women 18 years old and older. Karla Minter will guide us in looking at our purpose, at 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. From 9:00 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch together. Sign up at the participation station if you would like to be there. For more information contact Ursula Hess or Judy Snyder.

Upcoming Events	MCUSA
<p>The film, <b>Ben Between Africa</b>, will be shown on Sunday, September 28, at 3:00 p.m. in the Jennings Auditorium at Greencroft Community Center. The following is a brief description of the film.</p> <p><i>While searching for clues to her uncle Ben Gamber’s mysterious death, filmmaker Ari (Ben’s niece and EMU graduate) discovers boxes of family letters tucked away in a farmhouse attic. With these as her guide, she dives into the quickly fading past to uncover the connecting thread between Ben’s death in 1975, her family’s time as Mennonite missionaries in Ethiopia, and the downfall of Haile Selassie, Ethiopia’s last king. The search reveals the long-lasting effects of trauma, displacement, and family secrets.</i></p> <p>Q&amp;A Discussion with the filmmaker after the screening. For more details on the film go to <a href="https://www.benbetweenafrica.com">https://www.benbetweenafrica.com</a>. RSVP your plans to attend and to support the film at <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ben-between-africa-tickets-1579324966489?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ben-between-africa-tickets-1579324966489?aff=oddtcreator</a></p> <p><b><u>Watch Party for keynote address by Robin Wall Kimmerer Tuesday, September 30 at 6:45 p.m.</u></b> Assembly Mennonite Church, 727 New York St in Goshen, in the worship space. Assembly’s Green Team is excited to partner with <a href="#">Faith in Place</a> for their upcoming <b>Annual Environment &amp; Spirituality Summit</b>, happening September 29–30, 2025, and featuring keynote speaker <b>Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of Braiding Sweetgrass</b>. 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. <b>RSVP for the Watch Party</b> by registering for the Summit and selecting our location from the Watch Party list: <a href="https://aes-summit.org">https://aes-summit.org</a>. 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, <a href="mailto:mary.nycer@gmail.com">mary.nycer@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>MCC webinar: Detained and imprisoned—Immigration and mass incarceration in the U.S.:</b> On September 30, from 1:00-2:15 p.m., MCC will host a webinar to discuss the overlapping systems of immigrant detention and mass incarceration. Through guided panel conversation, speakers will consider the shared historical underpinnings, current manifestations, and spiritual ramifications of our approach to enforcement in the U.S. Join this free webinar to learn why solidarity with affected communities is important and how you can get involved to interrupt systems of harm. More information and registration: <a href="https://mcc.org/solidarity-webinar">mcc.org/solidarity-webinar</a></p> <p><b><u>Cycling Towards Empathy: Reimagining more inclusive spaces in our communities</u></b>, Thurs, Oct 2, 6:30-8:00 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m., Goshen Theater (216 S Main Street, Goshen). If you enjoy walking or biking in Goshen and Elkhart County, if you have children in your family and/or if you care to dream and learn what it could mean to live in a place designed for people as a priority over vehicles, then YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS THIS. Several local organizations, including the Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition, are hosting urban mobility expert Melissa Bruntlett, who will share how the strategies used in the Netherlands can be used to transform the unique transportation landscape in Elkhart County. The event is free and open to the public. Participants are invited to register for the event at <a href="https://tally.so/r/mB6E1N">https://tally.so/r/mB6E1N</a>. Read more about the event here: <a href="https://vibrantelkhartcounty.org/bruntlett-building-blocks-talks/">https://vibrantelkhartcounty.org/bruntlett-building-blocks-talks/</a>.</p>	<p><b>Emma Nord</b>, a recent graduate of Eastern Mennonite University, <b>spent July traveling Europe with the EMU Chamber Singers</b>. The choir concluded their trip by performing with four other ensembles at Mennonite World Conference’s Anabaptism at 500 celebration in Zurich, Switzerland. Read about her experience in MC USA’s Menno Snapshots here: <a href="https://mennoniteusa.org/united-to-sing">mennoniteusa.org/united-to-sing</a></p>

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 Winter 2026 cohort begins Jan. 23; apply by Nov. 14 to save \$100! [ambs.edu/journey](https://ambs.edu/journey)

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.

This year, the **annual Indigenous Peoples’ Celebration in Goshen** will be held at **First Fridays on October 3**. Beginning at 6 p.m. at [Ignition Music Garage](#), 120 E. Washington Street, there will be a presentation by Madelene Big Bear and performances by the [Ribbon Town Singers](#) and the [Pokagon Band Dancers](#).

**Refractions**, an exhibit from GC art professor **Tiffany Wyse-Fisher**, explores a relationship between illumination, reflection, refraction, and perception. Through backlit photographs of mirrored images, she invites viewers to step into a space where reality folds into itself and there is a tension between reality and the surreal. Wyse-Fisher’s ceramic pieces play with light and shadow in a different way, creating shifting patterns of light and shadow. By merging photography and ceramics, she invites the contemplation of light and shadow as both the subject and medium. *Refractions* will be available in the **Hershberger Art Gallery**, Goshen **College Music Center**, from September 14 to November 9, 2025. The art gallery is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and weekends from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., with longer hours during events held in the Music Center. The **reception** for this exhibit will be held during Homecoming Weekend, on **Saturday, October 4, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with an artist talk at 6 p.m.**

Goshen College will present its annual **Homecoming Music Gala in Sauder Concert Hall on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m.** The concert will feature performances by Voices of the Earth, Vox Profundi, the GC Chamber Choir, and the Goshen College Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$10 (\$8 for seniors and students) and are available at [goshen.edu/tickets](https://goshen.edu/tickets). The event will be livestreamed. <https://www.goshen.edu/news/live-stream/>

**Vox Profundi**, Goshen College’s low voice choral ensemble, will be joined by low voice ensembles from area schools and the community for a day of rehearsals and workshops, culminating in an evening festival concert in **Sauder Concert Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m.** Free and open to the public.

Join us Thursday, October 9, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at **Center for Healing & Hope for a “Blessing of the Bricks”** Open House to celebrate the installation of the tribute terrace. Enjoy light refreshments, special guest remarks, and a chance to explore the clinic and all it offers. We will have order forms and QR codes available if you’d like to purchase your very own brick to be installed next Spring, or you can do that any time by visiting: [www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/cfhh/](https://www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/cfhh/)

**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

**Seeking Shalom Peace Camp for young adults, November 1-8, Camp Friedenswald, Michigan.** *“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city... Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jeremiah 29:7, NIV)* Come explore the meaning of shalom as a wholistic sense of peace that is not just the absence of violence, but the presence of life-giving relationships and dignity for all people. [Register](#) by October 5!