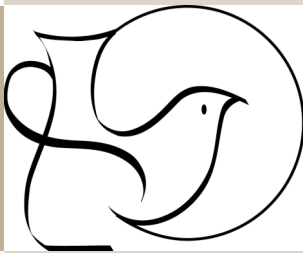




November 23, 2025



# The Waterford Buzz

## **This Sunday:**

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour;  
classes for all ages  
12:00 p.m. - Makers' Day / FH  
4:00 p.m. - Open Door/Belmont  
Neighborhood Fellowship / FH

## **Welcome Team**

Greeters: John, Diana, Jeff  
Hershberger  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto,  
Wade Ramer  
Audiovisuals: Shawn Stutzman,  
Jeff Claassen

## **This Week at Waterford**

### **Monday**

7:00 p.m. - BBI planning  
group / Rm 4

### **Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. - MYF

### **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

## **October Congregational Meeting**

### *Ministry Leadership Council*

A congregational meeting was held on October 12 around tables in the Fellowship Hall where finger foods were shared. Welcome and opening prayer were by Rose Shetler, MLC co-chair. Luke Gascho from WMC Reporative Justice Group provided background and shared resources on reparations, including a three-point action platform for racial justice: truth telling, education, and reparations in Indigenous and Black Communities. Meeting participants engaged in table group discussions around the overarching question: How might WMC best pursue reparations in response to injustices past and present that result from the Doctrine of Discovery? No decisions were made regarding reparations at this meeting.

Rose shared background on the proposed revisions to the guidelines for Mennonite Education Fund (MEF) Aid Plan which congregants had received ahead of the meeting. A vote was called with a number of people voicing concerns, comments, and questions before the vote was taken. Pastor Cindy Voth and Rose responded to questions, and those in attendance were encouraged to add comments to the ballots. The vote results were as follows:

Yes, I affirm: 77 votes, 83.7%

No, I do not affirm: 13 votes, 14.1%

Abstain: 2 votes, 2.2%

These totals include 20 absentee ballot votes. *(Please note, the results have changed slightly from what was announced at the end of the meeting due to a ballot recount.)*

See **Congregational Meeting** on page 3

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 225 (+31 MYF retreat)  
Nurture Hour - 237

### Finances – Nov. 16, 2025

Operating Fund	\$15,115.64
Mennonite Ed	\$2,915.00
Either Fund	\$5,480.00
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$23,510.64</b>
Least Coin	\$23.00
Four Way Mission	\$1,050.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,583.64</b>

### Looking Ahead

November 30: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Advent: Hope in the Furnace  
(Daniel 3:1, 8–30; Habakkuk 1:1–5; 3:17–19; Psalm 26:1–7)  
December 7: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Advent: Peace in the Valley of Bones  
(Ezekiel 37:1–14; John 11:25–26)

### Pastoral Team

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

### Office hours this week

Monday, Wednesday  
9-12, 1-3  
Tuesday, Thursday - Friday  
CLOSED

**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)

## Advent Worship Series

### Advent 2025: “Be Amazed!”

Cindy Voth, for Worship Ministry Team

November 30 marks the beginning of the season of Advent. During this liturgical season of the church, we will join believers around the world in a time of watching, waiting, preparing, and expecting. Once again, this year we will utilize the worship resource in “The Leader,” a periodical produced by MennoMedia. Like last year, this Advent we will be following the assigned texts from the Narrative Lectionary instead of the Revised Common Lectionary. We are excited about this opportunity to enter the familiar season of Advent with unfamiliar pairings of biblical stories.

The theme this year is “Be Amazed!” The resource planners, from Mennonite Church Canada, noted that what all of the Biblical stories have in common is that they are amazing! “There is, in each of them, a common thread of God acting in powerful and astonishing ways. The responses seen in many of these passages and likewise evoked in us readers is that of awe. Be amazed!”

Within the weekly worship services we will dwell with the assigned biblical passages, learn a new hymn as we light the advent candles, and have a projected image each week that correlates to the specific theme of the morning. Behind the scenes, Loanne Harms and Kathy Miller will create our worship visual arts.

Here are other highlights as we enter into the spirit and hope that comes with the Advent and Christmas season:

Date	Theme – Be Amazed:	Scripture	Preacher	Special Elements
11/30	Hope in the furnace	Daniel 3:1, 8-30; Habakkuk 1:1-5; 3:17-19; Ps. 26:1-7	Cindy Voth	
12/7	Peace in the valley of dry bones	Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:25-26	Deron Bergstresser	
12/14	Joy in the desert	Isaiah 55:1-13; Ps. 42; Isaiah 40:1-5; John 4:13-14	Children’s Musical: <i>That Starry Night</i>	Christmas Orchestra
12/21	Love comes down; Longest Night	John 1:1-18; Psalm 130:5-8; Isaiah 9:2, 6	Cindy Voth	
12/28	God among us	John 1:19-34; Psalm 32:1-2; Isaiah 40:3	Cindy Voth	9:00-Brunch; 10:30-worship; no nurture hour
1/4/2026	Come and see	John 1:35-51; Psalm 66:1-5; Matthew 2:1-12	Deron Bergstresser	

## **Congregational Meeting, cont. from page 1**

Pastor Cindy closed the meeting with a prayer of blessing, and the meeting was adjourned. Please see the following article for a follow-up response from Ministry Leadership Council to the MEF guidelines revisions.

### **October Congregational Meeting: A Response from Ministry Leadership Council**

For those who attended the October 12 Congregational Meeting, it became apparent that some were dissatisfied with the limited amount of engagement Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) had with the congregation in the revisions of the guidelines of the Mennonite Education Fund (MEF) Aid Plan. This came through in the questions and concerns raised in the meeting, and that 29% of the ballots included comments indicating a desire for a more robust process, both from those who voted yes and those who voted no to affirming the revisions.

MLC has concluded that we are not finished with the task of evaluating MEF and seeking congregational input. We are committed to finding the best plan for this important ministry while also supporting other needs and emerging ministries at WMC. We are just beginning to flesh out what a good MEF review process may entail. In the coming months, there will be opportunities for listening and sharing perspectives.

We ask for grace and forbearance with each other as a congregation as we discern and navigate what has historically been a divisive issue. We ask for your prayers for MLC — for wisdom from God who gives liberally to those who ask.

*Ministry Leadership Council — Rose Shetler and JD Smucker, co-chairs;  
Christa Graber Kauffman, secretary; Jim Gascho, treasurer; John Kaufman;  
Jerrell Ross Richer; Linda Short; Cindy Voth, pastoral team leader*

## **Waterford Announcements**

**Bring a worship arts item for our collage this Sunday**, something that reflects your personal sense of self, such as: perfume, after shave, razor, gym membership card, nail polish, necktie, etc. There will be baskets at the doors to place these items. (Next Sunday, December 30, is the first week of Advent, so we will resume collecting items in January.)

If you would like a paper copy of the **“Dealing with Death”** folder, there is a signup sheet at the Participation Station table. Please sign your name and we will get one printed for you.

**Mennonite Action is coming to Waterford Mennonite Church** as part of their national **To Build Our Courage** tour! Saturday, December 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. we will host their training kills in non-cooperation, grassroots organizing, and mutual aid, along with time for worship in prayer, song, and sharing a noon meal together. Join us as we continue organizing against ICE and for peace and justice in Palestine. This will be a time of inspiration, courage, skill building, and connection with each other. Learn more and sign up here: <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/tour>. As hosts, **we will be providing the food for lunch** and would like your help. Please see the signup sheet at the participation station to see how you can contribute.

## **MCUSA**

Rachel Ringenberg Miller, MC USA denominational minister for ministerial leadership, provides **tips for growing intergenerational congregational connections**. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/intergenerational-connections/>

## **MMN**

### **Just Peace Pilgrimage: 2026**

Your congregation, Sunday school class and other groups are invited to **join Mennonite Mission Network in a seven-day Civil Rights or Christ at the Borders Just Peace Pilgrimage** to explore how God is weaving justice and reconciliation in U.S. and other communities. Engage firsthand with people, churches, and organizations who share how they pursue peace. Through group reflection, prayer, and worship, process these experiences and connect them to your faith; then return home as “changed people” who can inspire and lead change in your own community. For more information about a pilgrimage for your group, contact Stephanie Weaver, [StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net). [www.mennonitemission.net/JustPeace](http://www.mennonitemission.net/JustPeace)



## AMBS

**AMBS Trinity House available for retreat use.** A distinctive cloverleaf-shaped house nestled among trees on the edge of the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary campus in Elkhart, Indiana, is available for daytime retreat use by individuals and small groups. The house contains two small rooms for one-on-one conversations, a larger room for gatherings of five to 10 people, a dining/meeting room with seating for 10, a kitchenette and two bathrooms. Please note: The space is designed for in-person retreats and does not have Wi-Fi connectivity or screens. Rates are \$50 for half-day use and \$85 for full-day use. [ambs.edu/trinity](http://ambs.edu/trinity)

**Online Short Course: Biblical Interpretation Across the Two Testaments:** Jan. 28 – March 10. Explore the harmful claim that the New Testament supersedes the Old Testament. How can we as Anabaptists read our Scriptures faithfully, creatively and respectfully? Instructors for this six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary are Mary Schertz, PhD, and Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 7 to save \$50. [ambs.edu/short-courses](http://ambs.edu/short-courses)

## Upcoming Events

**Bethany high school play** this weekend is ***Gathering Blue***, based on the book by Lois Lowry and dramatized by Eric Coble. In this companion story to *The Giver*, we find a society in which children are treated as commodities, the weak are discarded, false narratives are used to control the people, and artists are manipulated by the powerful. Three gifted children discover the hidden truths and unite to create for a better future. Shows will be Friday & Saturday, November 21 & 22, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 23, 3 p.m. with tickets at \$10 for adults, \$8 for students. [Order tickets Here!](#)

**Plant trees for justice.** Join Anabaptist Climate Collaborative, the City of Goshen and other congregations to **plant trees on Saturday, November 22, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Oakridge Park, 715 N 1st St, in northern Goshen.** These trees are part of a federal grant to plant trees in neighborhoods that are overburdened by pollution and have received a lack of investment. Trees sequester carbon, moderate and clean the air, and bring beauty and peace to neighborhoods. Bring gloves and shovels if you have them. Minors should be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Please register ahead of time, and ask any questions, by contacting Doug Kaufman at 574-536-6151 or [director@anabaptistclimate.org](mailto:director@anabaptistclimate.org).

**MCC's Immigration Network** invites you to a special **two-hour virtual training** designed to help your church understand immigration enforcement, know your legal rights as a faith community, and develop a plan of action in case immigration agents show up at or near your church community. [Register and more information.](#) **English sessions:** November 25, December 2

Ten Thousand Villages is now going completely online. The Goshen store (206 S Main St) is being renamed **"One Village Fair Trade"** and is having an Open House celebration on **Saturday, November 29, from 12 to 2 p.m.** They will still carry TTV products, but items from other fair trade companies as well. Ribbon cutting is November 26 at 12:00 p.m.

Join MCC on December 2 to learn about the **Dismukes Project and Black history in West Virginia.** Tylah Cline and Kristin Overstreet, MCC Appalachia staff, will share the story of Dr. Henry Dodford Dismukes, a Black doctor who started a hospital in the 1930s that faced injustice and was forced to close. MCC is working to tell Dr. Dismukes' story and creating a learning center to support the community. Join this free public event Tuesday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m. at Jennings Auditorium, Greencroft (1225 Greencroft Drive). Learn about the Dismukes Project at [mcc.org/dismukes](http://mcc.org/dismukes)

Goshen College is pleased to announce the **22nd annual musical celebration of Christmas, A Festival of Carols**, taking place on Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. in the Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall. [Tickets are now available](#) for the event, which will bring together four choirs and an orchestra in a festive celebration of the holiday season.

**Picket and Pray:** Join Mennonite Action, Christians for a Free Palestine, Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, and our partners **each Wednesday from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.** for a weekly 30 minute Zoom call for shared action for a Free Palestine and spiritual practice rooted in the Christian tradition. It is more important than ever that we not lose momentum in our struggle for justice and peace. We can do so much more together than we can do alone. Each "Picket and Pray" call includes a short program of check-in, prayer, and a collective digital action. We invite you to join us and invite your friends and loved ones. [Register here](#)