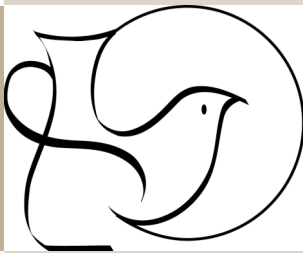




November 30, 2025



# 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, Mark  
King, Ken Otto  
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,  
Jordan Kauffman

## **This Week at Waterford**

### **Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. - Mentor/Mentees

### **Thursday**

6:30 p.m. - Stephen Ministers  
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](mailto:office@waterfordchurch.org)

## **Introduction to Ecuador Four Way Mission**

*Steve Fath, on behalf of Four Way Mission*

On Sunday evening, September 28, 2025, we introduced the new Ecuador Four Way Mission to Waterford Mennonite Church. We recognized how significant the Waterford congregation has been as a vital partner in the work of Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer and their family serving with Mennonite Mission Network from 2014 to 2023 in the eastern Amazon rainforest region of Ecuador. Initially, we came to know this as Two Way Mission.

With the changing circumstances in Ecuador, it became increasingly unsafe for Jane and Jerrell to return to serve in the area that experienced an increase in dangerous activities. Their relationships to the Cofán indigenous people, built during their time in Zábalo, have continued to flourish and so for the last two years we explored ways to build on those strong connections. After many conversations with trusted leaders in the US and in Ecuador, the doors to a new ministry opened for us. We decided to transition to a new focus of providing university scholarships and leadership training for the Cofán people.

In August 2025, Four Way Mission, Inc., became incorporated in the state of Indiana as a nonprofit organization and was granted status by the IRS as a U.S. 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit organization.

In our meeting, we introduced our three Ecuadorian partners, Julián Guamán, Silvia Guamán and Klever Guevara, who initially invited us to build a partnership with their Ecuador Four Way Mission Foundation which they are simultaneously creating there. They spoke of the idea of a broader incorporation of the four ordinal points of God, Creation,

*Continued on next page*

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 217

Nurture Hour - 222

### Finances – Nov. 23, 2025

Operating Fund	\$11,870.00
Mennonite Ed	\$4,355.00
Either Fund	\$14,305.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$30,530.00</i>
Jubilee Fund	\$60.00
Four Way Mission	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,090.00</b>

### Looking Ahead

December 7: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Advent: Peace in the Valley of Bones  
(*Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:25-26*)

December 14: Children's Musical; Advent: Joy in the Desert  
(*Isaiah 55:1-13; Psalm 42; Isaiah 40:1-5; John 4:13-14*)

### Pastoral Team

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

### Out of Office

Cindy Voth - December 1-2

### 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](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 sent to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

Janet Shoemaker, Editor  
[buzz@waterfordchurch.org](mailto:buzz@waterfordchurch.org)

Communities and People and called it a more comprehensive Four Way Mission. They have offered to be our eyes, ears and heart in the disbursement of the funds we are currently raising here in our context.

With the prayer and financial support of Waterford Mennonite Church, the Mission and Service Ministry Team and many individuals in the congregation, we started providing scholarships in early 2024 and currently have 4 full time students enrolled in the Ruminahui University in Sangolquí located about 11 miles south of the capital city of Quito.

Jerrell introduced us to Betty and Kendra who are in the nursing program at the university preparing to serve the medical needs of their community which has no access to Cofán speaking healthcare providers in their village. The nearest clinic is a one-hour boat ride on the Aguarico river.



Betty writes: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, thank you very much for the financial and spiritual support you have given me to continue my nursing studies. Thank you for your generosity; it is a great blessing and a reminder of God's love. I will pray for you that the Lord may reward you and fill you with health and joy.



Kendra writes: I'm very grateful to the brothers and sisters who are supporting us. Thanks to you, we have this opportunity to continue studying at Rumiñahui University Technological Institute. I'm very happy! Thank you.

We also met Tarquino and Milena who are studying in the teachers training program via satellite internet and are able to study from their homes in Zábalo. The community sees the importance of having teachers who speak both Cofán and Spanish to help them preserve their own language yet be prepared to communicate in Spanish with the rest of the people in Ecuador.

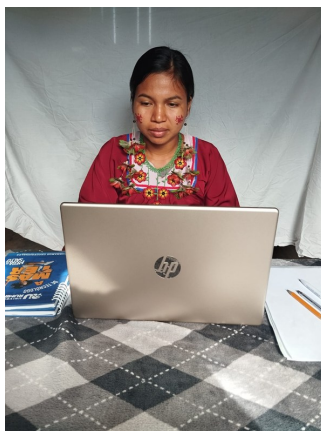


Tarquino writes: I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support you've given me during my undergraduate studies in Teaching and Educational Innovation at Rumiñahui University. I'm now in my fourth semester and am excited to have only one more semester left to complete my studies. Your support has been essential for me to continue with my academic goals and achieve my dream.



Milena writes: I dropped out of school years ago, and now, after many years, I am starting my studies again. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the brothers and sisters for the valuable support they have provided to the higher education of Cofán members who want to prepare for professional life.

Despite our limited resources, we dream of improving ourselves and contributing to the well-being of our people. Your solidarity opens academic doors and strengthens the hope, identity, and dignity of a community that strives to keep its culture alive and look toward a future with greater opportunities.



How have we supported these students from January 2024 to September 2025? Look for an overview of how Four Way Mission is assisting these and other students and for ways that you can contribute in next week's Buzz.

## Makers' Day



Em Hunsbaker, Erin Smeltzer, Lacy Stoltzfus, Shelby Eby and Tyler Kronk are just some of the people who spent a day together working on art or craft projects last Sunday afternoon.

## Waterford Announcements

**Court Chupp is looking for a 1 bedroom apartment**, or even an extra spare room, in the Goshen area. Please contact him at 574-536-9625 with any leads.

**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 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

**Join the great Menno Give this #GivingTuesday.** Mennonite Church USA Executive Board, Mennonite Mission Network, and MennoMedia are joining together in this special event promoting the work of Anabaptist faith formation, education and mission. Your contribution of any size will make a lasting difference. Support The Great Menno Give here: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YM1N/campaign/C-156XK>

## MCC

**Young adult Peace Camp January 8-11, 2026:** Do you ever feel like you're constantly working, doing more and more, but never quite getting ahead? Does it seem like there's never enough time, never enough money, and that taking a break is impossible? **Living Abundantly Peace Camp** creates space for young adults (ages 18-30) to understand the systems behind our stress, explore how Jesus challenged similar structures in his time, and practice alternatives rooted in collective care and community. At Camp Deepark, Westbrookville, New York. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## AMBS

### Online Short Course:

Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Jan. 28 – March 10. Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. This six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary will be taught by Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 7 to save \$50.

[ambs.edu/short-courses](https://ambs.edu/short-courses)

**The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation: May 11–21.** Participants in this pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military's 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas. This intensive graduate-level course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. Sign up by April 1. [ambs.edu/trail-of-death](https://ambs.edu/trail-of-death)

It's time to decide **if you want to play in the Christmas Orchestra on Dec. 14.** Sign up this Sunday at the participation station so JD can get the music to you by next Sunday.

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.

**Relief Kit supplies.** You can purchase items for a complete kit, purchase individual items, or make an online donation at [mcc.org](https://mcc.org) Just click GIVE in the homepage banner. Find a list of contents at the display table by the library. Add your donations to the boxes under the display table by Sunday, December 21.

## Upcoming Events

**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.

**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.](#)

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](https://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.

You are invited to Emma Church on Sunday, December 14, for our **12th Annual Men's Chorus Christmas Program From Manger to Majesty.** There will be only one program this year at 6:30 p.m., with food and fellowship following the program. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.