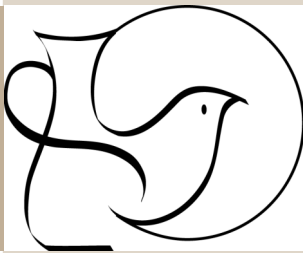




December 14, 2025



# *The Waterford Buzz*

## **This Sunday:**

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour;  
classes for all ages

## **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Susan Gingerich,  
Myra Oswald  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto,  
Denise Diener  
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,  
Jordan Kauffman

## **This Week at Waterford**

### **Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks &  
Games / FH

### **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)

## **An Open Door**

*JD Smucker, for Ministry Leadership Council*

When I was a student at Goshen College I lived in High Park dormitory (now a parking lot) and we had something called open house hours. This was when anyone could visit, and the two doors to our floor were always open and unlocked. In the forty years since my college days, this changed as our technology made it easier for each student to have an ID card to open the locked hall doors and their own room door.

Over the years, our language has changed. ICE no longer only refers to frozen water. The use of guns has come into our community.

Divisiveness in our political culture has created broken relationships and fear. We live in a very different city of Goshen compared to my college days. At Waterford, not much has changed when it comes to open doors. We have lots of places where we can enter. Six doors are open on Sunday mornings.

In the coming weeks you will find two doors open to everyone on Sunday mornings. The north doors and the south doors. Limiting entrance into the building will provide some peace of mind by keeping the two outside nurture wing doors locked, as well as the Remembering Life garden doors, the west door by the nursery, and the east door to the pastors hallway locked. We live in a world where continued wisdom is needed in how we care for those inside, and at the same time we are proactive in monitoring the possibilities of what we see happening in our world around us. Praying that we can find a balance of care for those inside, and welcoming to those outside of our building.

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 183

Nurture Hour - 154, + children's musical practice

### Finances – December 7, 2025

Operating Fund	\$11,847.90
Mennonite Ed	\$1,610.00
Either Fund	\$4,590.00
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$18,047.90</b>
MYF Benin Trip	\$20,000.00
Ron Graber Memorial	\$100.00
Four Way Mission	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,647.90</b>

### Looking Ahead

December 21: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Advent: Love Comes Down; Longest Night  
(John 1:1-18; Psalm 130:5-8; Isaiah 9:2, 6)

December 28: Cindy Voth; Christmas: God Among Us  
(John 1:19-34; Psalm 32:1-2; Isaiah 40:3)

### Pastoral Team

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

### 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)

## Thank You

On behalf of the Ecuador Four Way Mission, we extend our thanks and appreciation for the approval of the WMC Endowment Fund grant request we submitted.

With this grant...we will be able to help publish materials in Spanish written by Julián Guamán, an indigenous Kichwa scholar, historian and theologian to provide Anabaptist training materials to use in their leadership training classes.

Your committee has been generous to us as we have navigated the changes in the ministry of the Ross Richer family. The grants we have received have made it possible for the Waterford congregation to play a crucial role in the extension of God's kingdom in Ecuador. We realize that without the support of the Waterford congregation our task would have been much more difficult.

We are honored to steward your gift with integrity and care.

Steve Fath, President Four Way Mission

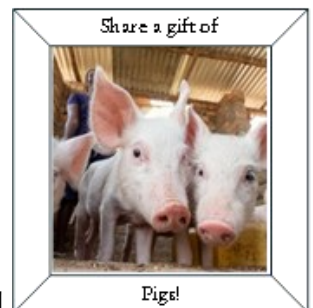
## Christmas Giving

### MCC Gift Ideas

The holiday season has begun, and we are looking forward to Christmas with hope and anticipation. Christmas is a time to celebrate Emmanuel, God with us, and to share joy with friends and family near and far.

But, are you having a hard time trying to find meaningful Christmas gifts? At [mcc.org/Christmas](https://mcc.org/Christmas) you can find a variety of gifts to give to make this season bright for people around the world.

Choose something small like a chicken or a duck; go big and gift a farmyard or a well; or find the perfect gift somewhere in between. No matter the gift, you can know that you are sharing joy with our brothers and sisters around the world this holiday season and beyond.



# Waterford Announcements

**Be sure to join us this Sunday! The Christmas Orchestra will play for** the prelude, the opening songs and the offertory. Then, in lieu of a sermon, the children will present **“Starry Night,” a Christmas musical.** And after the service, Fellowship Ministry Team is providing **donuts to go with your coffee** (or tea). Don't miss it!

**Nursery Sign-ups:** The nursery is opening back up! We are looking for volunteers to hold babies during worship as well as volunteers during nurture hour. A youth and an adult can work together, or two adults. Sign up at the participation station. Feel free to sign up for multiple weeks! Talk to nursery coordinator Laura Dick or a member of the children's cluster with further questions.

**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.

**Relief Kit supplies:** Bring your relief kit items and place them in the boxes under the display table by the library until **Sunday, December 28.**

**Thanks again to faithful greeters** who welcome visitors and us each Sunday. There is an opportunity for you to help with this ministry. The weekly BUZZ contains a link to the sign up sheet (in the left sidebar on page 2). Please consider adding your name to extend this welcome in 2026.

## Upcoming Events

All are welcome to the **Evergreen Singers' last concert of the season** this Sunday afternoon, December 14, at 2:30 p.m. in the Goshen Greencroft Community Center. It will be a combined concert with the choir and the orchestra. Several persons who attend Waterford sing with Evergreen Singers.

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.

**Mennonite Action Prayers at College Mennonite Church on December 16,** noon to 1 p.m. in the sanctuary, will focus on immigrants and the ongoing war in Gaza. We will also pray for Ukraine and Sudan and people in other places around the world who face conflicts, hunger, homelessness, illness, and grief. As we focus on celebrating the birth of Jesus, we are called to remember that people live in danger and with fear in the place where Jesus was born—in the West Bank as well as in Gaza. We will include times of silence, songs, scripture reading, and spoken prayers. Come for the hour or come and go as your schedule permits.

## MCUSA

Executive Director Glen Guyton urges **MC USA to face challenges with faith, reimagine its structure, and engage congregations in shaping a hopeful, Christ-centered future together.** Read more in his Menno Snapshots blog titled, “The Future of Mennonite Church USA”: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/the-future-of-mennonite-church/>

What does it mean to follow Jesus in a world shaped by violence and militarism? H.A. Penner, life-long conscientious objector, shares how his faith has led him to **practice war tax resistance and redirection** as an expression of Christian nonviolence. Read his Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/tax-resister> .

## MMN

Calling all 17–20 year-olds: Take a gap year that matters!

**Service Adventure** is a 10-month volunteer program (August 2026–June 2027) where you'll live in joyful community with peers and caring unit leaders, serve at a local nonprofit 25–35 hours a week, and grow deeper in faith with a supporting congregation.

Applications are open now—don't wait! Learn more and apply at [MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure](https://MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure)



## AMBS

**AMBS Nativity Exhibit.** During this Advent season, 150+ nativities from the collection of Campus Pastor Janeen Bertsche Johnson will be on display at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Library. The exhibit is free and open to the public during library hours at 3003 Benham Avenue in Elkhart. Park near Lambright Center and use the library tower entrance; part of the collection is visible in the entrance. Check daily for hours: [ambs.edu/library-hours](https://ambs.edu/library-hours)

**Leadership Clinics at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary:** Monday, Feb. 23. These daylong in-person clinics include Caring for Immigrants and Congregations in Times of Crisis; Faith Formation for Families in Anxious Times; Healthy Boundaries 101; Reflections on Blackness and Teaching Peace; and Your Voice in Worship. CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 26 to save \$15. View clinic descriptions and register: [ambs.edu/clinics](https://ambs.edu/clinics)

## Pathways Retreat

Pathways Retreat offers a **variety of programs and workshops:** Attuning to the Seasons, Contemplative Practices from Buddhism, Dream Weavers Reflection Group, Grief and Joy Watercolor Workshop, Weekly Yoga, and Men's Group Spiritual Direction. Learn more at [pathwaysretreat.org](https://pathwaysretreat.org).

The documentary, ***Conscience Point***, will be shown in the Koinonia Room at College Church on Tuesday, December 16 from 7-9 p.m. *Conscience Point* tracks the spirited path of one woman, Shinnecock activist Rebecca "Becky" Hill-Genia, who, together with other determined tribal members and allies, has waged a relentless, years-long battle to protect the land and her tribe's cultural heritage from the ravages of development and displacement. There will be a short discussion time after the documentary as well as some steps / advice for what to do next. We will be providing some drinks and snacks.

**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.

Plans are for the **MCC Meat Canner to be in Goshen in January**. They are looking for volunteers to help any day from Tuesday, January 6 – Saturday, January 10; and Monday, January 12 – Friday, January 16, 2026. The Canning will take place at The Depot, 1013 Division St., Goshen. The committee is also in need of funds to help pay for the meat. This year's Expected Budget will approach \$200,000.00. Please send your donations early. Make checks payable to: Foreign Relief MCC and send to: Ernie Miller, 59123 SR 13, Middlebury IN 46540. See announcement on the bulletin board for all the details.

## Opportunities

Mennonite Church USA is **seeking a Human Resources/Finance Assistant (.5 FTE)** to support a wide range of HR and financial functions for the MC USA Executive Board. Experience and knowledge in accounting are preferred, with a minimum of a two-year Business degree or equivalent experience. MC USA is committed to diversity among staff and welcomes people of diverse backgrounds and abilities to apply. The application deadline is January 5, 2026. Learn more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/employment>

**Employment openings at AMBS:** Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is accepting applications for a Director of the Church Leadership Center (full time) and a Development Associate for Canada (half time, with an anticipated start date of January 2026 or Spring 2026). See the job descriptions: [ambs.edu/jobs](https://ambs.edu/jobs)