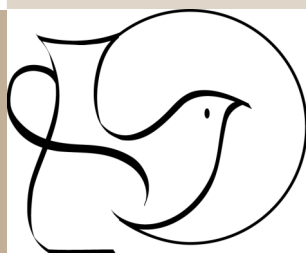


### **This Sunday:**

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour;  
classes for all ages  
10:30 a.m. - Children's musical  
practice in the sanctuary



**December 7, 2025**



# *The Waterford Buzz*

### **Welcome Team**

Greeters: Esther Farmwald,  
Kathy Miller  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade  
Ramer, Len Harms  
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann,  
Jeff Claassen

### **This Week at Waterford**

#### **Monday**

7:00 p.m. - MLC

#### **Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. - Worship MT

6:00 p.m. - Children's Musical  
practice

7:00 p.m. - VC, JYF, MYF

#### **Thursday**

8:30 a.m. - Mennonite  
Women / MYF Rm

7:00 p.m. - Ecuador Prayers /  
Zoom

#### **Saturday**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. To Build Our  
Courage training

9-11 a.m. Musical practice

#### **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

## **2025 Stephen Ministry Retreat**

*Karl Birky, Stephen Leader*

“Accept, O Lord, and treat as Your own my liberty, my understanding, my memory — all my decisions and my freedom to choose...Hold me in your life-giving gaze, and I neither need nor want anything else.”  
(Ignatius of Loyola)

We reflected on the above and other teachings of Ignatius at our November 22 Stephen Ministry Retreat held at WMC. Naomi Wenger from AMBS led our holy time together as we reflected on our work as Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders at Waterford Mennonite Church. We shared the joys we experience and the indwelling of God in our lives. Offering God our freedom to choose seemed particularly difficult because in our culture we value self-sufficiency and independence.



Stephen Ministers and Leaders with  
Naomi Wenger (seated, center)

We said thank you to Karen Thompson and Bonnie Miller as they completed their service as Stephen Ministers. Two other individuals from WMC are currently in Stephen Ministry training and we anticipate with gratitude and joy that they will soon join our ministry team. We look forward to being some of God's ears and heart in ministry to persons at WMC. Thank you, church community and pastors, for your love, support, and help with this part of the Church's ministry.

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 253 online

### Finances – Nov. 30, 2025

Operating Fund	\$3,200.00
Mennonite Ed	\$2,230.00
Either Fund	\$3,755.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$9,185.00</i>
Jubilee Fund	\$1,100.00
Four Way Mission	\$75.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,360.00</b>

### Looking Ahead

December 14: Children's Musical; Advent: Joy in the Desert  
(Isaiah 55:1-13; Psalm 42; Isaiah 40:1-5; John 4:13-14)  
December 7: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Advent: Love Comes Down; Longest Night  
(John 1:1-18; Psalm 130:5-8; Isaiah 9:2, 6)

### Pastoral Team

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

### Out of Office

Cindy Voth - December 7

### 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)

## Endowment Fund

### November 2025 Endowment Fund Grantees

*Doug Yoder, for the Endowment Fund Committee*

The Waterford Endowment Committee has made distributions this Fall to the following three organizations:

- Ecuador Four Way Mission
- Elkhart County Habitat for Humanity
- Wakulima ni Sisi, a Kenya Farm project Ariana Pérez Diener and her husband are starting.

Each project is receiving \$1,690.

The Endowment fund disburses 5% of the Fund balance of around \$200,000 each spring and fall to projects outside of regular WMC program expenses and applications are welcomed. The guidelines are available on the WMC website.

## Senior Adult Event

### SAMT hosts harpist Anna Hagan

*Deron Bergstresser, for Senior Adult Ministry Team*

About 75 Waterford senior adults were together on Sunday afternoon, November 16, for sweet treats and sweet music. The music was provided by Anna Hagan, a local harpist, who has played professionally since she was a teenager. She shared a beautiful program of classical, Christmas, and even country music ("Thank God I'm a Country Boy," yeah!).

The music sounded even better after root beer floats and conversation.

This event was hosted by the Senior Adult Ministry Team. Stay tuned for more events in the new year.



## Four Way Mission

In last week's Buzz, we read about the transition from Two Way Mission to Four Way Mission and were introduced to some of the students that the mission's funds have helped.

Here's a brief overview of the income we have received from the various supporting partners.

<b>Period: Jan 2024 - Sep 2025</b>		
<b>Contributions</b>		
Giving to Two Way Mission through WMC	\$ 30,441	69%
WMC Mission and Service Ministry Team	\$ 5,105	11%
WMC Endowment Fund	\$ 5,040	11%
Advisory Group Members	\$ 3,851	9%
	<b>\$ 44,437</b>	<b>100%</b>

Here's a brief summary of how we have shared these resources with our sisters and brothers in Ecuador

<b>Investments</b>		
University Education	\$ 27,298	72%
High School Support	\$ 2,375	6%
Ninawachi Mission Institute	\$ 300	1%
Leadership Training	\$ 6,291	17%
Medical Assistance	\$ 1,105	3%
Church Mobilization	\$ 300	1%
Total Investments	<b>\$ 37,669</b>	<b>100%</b>

Here's a brief summary of our involvement in educational scholarships.

<b>INVESTMENTS IN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION</b>		
<b>University Education</b>		
Tuition	\$ 6,699	25%
Materials	\$ 591	2%
Technology	\$ 3,588	13%
Internet	\$ 3,730	14%
Apartments	\$ 4,266	16%
Food	\$ 5,660	21%
Travel	\$ 2,764	10%
	<b>\$ 27,298</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Continued on page 4*



*Continued from page 3*

We also introduced the board members who will be guiding this new organization: Jerrell Ross Richer, Executive Director; Steven L. Fath, President; Neil Amstutz, Vice President; Debbie Fath, Secretary; Josiah Graber-Ditzler, Treasurer; and Ursula Hess, Member at large.

We concluded with a summary of ways the Waterford congregation and individuals will continue to play a vital role in this ministry. As a nonprofit organization all contributions and donations will be fully tax-deductible. Regular giving can continue through the offerings to the church by making the check payable to the Waterford Mennonite Church and noting “Four Way Mission” in the note line. Online giving is also available at [www.waterfordchurch.org](http://www.waterfordchurch.org) under “Online Giving” tab. You can direct your contributions to “Four Way Mission.”

You can also mail a check made payable to “Four Way Mission” directly to our business address:

Four Way Mission  
1511 Garland Dr  
Goshen IN 46526

We can also accept Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from IRA accounts for those over 70½. Distributions are tax free from your IRA if sent directly to Four Way Mission. Ask your IRA Custodian to send your distribution to Four Way Mission, 1511 Garland Dr., Goshen, IN 46526-4681.

We welcome your faithful prayers for our ongoing ministry and the support of our Cofán sisters and brothers in Ecuador. We host a monthly time of prayer on the second Thursday evening of each month via ZOOM. There is a link on the church website.

*Steve Fath on behalf of the Ecuador Four Way Mission.*

## Remembering those in need

### Gaza Needs

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

During this advent season, the needs of the homeless and endangered people of the world touch our hearts as we remember the perils faced by Jesus, his parents, and other families in Bethlehem.

I am sending a request for contributions from churches to help the children and adults living in churches and tents in Gaza with minimal food and health supplies as winter arrives.

Fellowship of Hope Mennonite Church in Elkhart has been gathering donations and sending them to trusted contacts in Gaza that are used to purchase food, especially for the hundreds sheltering in the St. Porphyrius Orthodox and Holy Family Catholic churches. Thank you to all who have contributed in the

past and we are asking again for your help in continuing to address their severe needs.

Please send checks to Fellowship of Hope, 1614 S. Sixth St, Elkhart IN 46516, or use the Givelify app. On either method, put “Gaza relief” in the message line.

In spite of the announced cease fire, children and adults in Gaza continue to be killed by Israeli military. Please contact our legislators and the President pleading to stop sending military resources and instead work with Israel, Palestinians, and other regional countries to find a way to a lasting peace. We believe that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, grieves at the carnage, and we pray His Spirit would move the responsible leaders in Israel, the United States, and the World to find a political solution to end this horror. Please pray and work for peace.

—David Janzen 574-370-6310

# Waterford Announcements

This Sunday, you will find **the new pictorial directory** in your mailbox. A big thank you to our photographers, Steve Fath and Jordan Kauffman, and also to Jordan who created the photo section of the directory.

**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.

December...This is a month of giving and receiving. Working on projects for MCC gives to many in need and you receive the blessing of fellowship with other women, as well as knowing you are doing a good work. **Plan to join Mennonite Women this Thursday, Dec. 11**, anytime after 8:30 a.m. for as long as your busy schedule allows. Sharing around the carry-in lunch table is interesting and we will be discussing projects for 2026. If you have ways you would like to see the Least Coin or Estate Funds used, please let me know.

**Mennonite Action's "To Build Our Courage"** training is next Saturday, December 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at WMC. This training will be a time of inspiration, courage, skill building, and connection with each other. Join us as we continue organizing against ICE and for peace and justice in Palestine. Learn more and sign up here: <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/tour>. As hosts, we will be providing the lunch and **need a few people to help with setting up and cleaning up for the meal**. Please sign up at the participation station.

**Relief Kit supplies:** Because of the missed in-person meeting last Sunday, we have extended the deadline for bringing your relief kit items until **Sunday, December 28**. Add your donations to the boxes under the display table by the library.

**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.

**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.

## MCUSA

The **MC USA Executive Board** recently shared a letter to all MC USA constituents regarding a **recent decision by Mennonite World Conference**. The letter expresses the Executive Board's deep concern and reaffirms MC USA's ongoing commitment to unity and peacemaking within the global Anabaptist community. Please read it here in English <https://bit.ly/3JUKeGT>.

## MCC

**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)

**Earn a Master of Divinity on campus!** Do you want to grow in faith and leadership in a vibrant, supportive community? Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's MDiv Campus program offers you in-depth biblical and theological study, personal/spiritual formation and mentoring on our campus in Elkhart, Indiana. Focus on pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, Christian formation, biblical studies, theology, peace studies or environmental sustainability, among other majors. Generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and matching grants are available. [ambs.edu/mdiv](https://ambs.edu/mdiv)

## 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).

## Upcoming Events

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.

Please join us for **Taize-inspired worship** on Sunday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Walnut Hill Mennonite Church. Note that this is a one-time change from our usual pattern of meeting on the second Sunday of the month. These community-wide services of contemplative song, scripture, and prayer are open to all. Come and be still in God's presence. If you would like to be on the email list for the Taize worship, please contact Carmen Horst at [cshorst@gmail.com](mailto:cshorst@gmail.com)

**Tibetan Monks presentation:** In an effort to increase our awareness of other faith communities, Michiana Voices for Middle East Peace is hosting a **group of Tibetan Monks on Tuesday, December 9** at Assembly Mennonite Church, 727 New York St, Goshen. A potluck dinner will take place at 5:30 p.m. followed by a program of music, dance and cultural information at 7 p.m. No charge, but a freewill offering will help the Monks build a new monastery in Northern India.

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.

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)