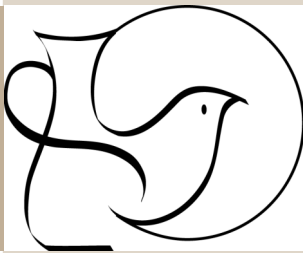




January 18, 2026



# *The Waterford Buzz*

## **This Sunday:**

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

## **Welcome Team**

Greeters: John, Diana and Jeff  
Hershberger  
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade  
Ramer, LaVon Short  
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey,

## **This Week at Waterford**

### **Wednesday**

4:00 p.m. - Children's Cluster  
6:00 p.m. - Haystacks/Games  
Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday**

7:00 p.m. - Safe Church team  
*Zoom prayers*

Monday - 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday - 8:00 p.m.

## **Renewal Leave for Pastor Deron**

*Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader*

Waterford's pastoral sabbatical leave policy grants a 3-month sabbatical after five years of serving the congregation and every five years thereafter (i.e. 6th, 11th, 16th years, and so on). Within the policy are noted three reasons for why WMC supports pastoral sabbaticals:

1. To provide opportunities for pastors to experience a time of reflection on their calling, personal spiritual growth, nurture, and discernment of the congregation's future ministries.
2. To provide opportunities for the congregation to care about the health and ongoing ministry of pastors.
3. To provide opportunities for the congregation to nurture long-term pastorates and to enhance congregational goals and mission strategy.

This summer it will be time for Pastor Deron's first sabbatical at Waterford and he will be taking this renewal leave from June 28 to September 28. Later this spring, in a future Buzz article, Pastor Deron will be sharing more about his sabbatical hopes and plans.

## **Waterford Mennonite Church**

65975 State Road 15  
Goshen, IN 46526  
Phone 574-533-5642  
[office@waterfordchurch.org](mailto:office@waterfordchurch.org)

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 232

Nurture Hour - 226

### Finances – January 11, 2026

Operating Fund	\$1,250.00
Mennonite Ed	\$2,566.95
Either Fund	\$7,015.00
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$10,831.95</b>
Least Coin Fund	\$64.00
Benin Youth Trip	\$1,480.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,375.95</b>

### Looking Ahead

January 25: Sermon: JE Misz;  
Holistic Health: Emotional/  
Mental  
(Mark 2)

February 1: Sermon: Deanna  
Beth Chupp; Holistic Health;  
Relational  
(Proverbs 2:1-8)

### Pastoral Team

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

### Out of Office

Katie Misz - January 19-20  
Cindy Voth - January 19-20

### Office hours this week

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

**Greeter signup:** [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRLd0Ydw\\_QxRIQUvRhUscNV-](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRLd0Ydw_QxRIQUvRhUscNV-)

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)

## Open Mic Night

About 100 people filled the fellowship hall to enjoy music, jokes, storytelling, poetry recitation and other mysterious acts last Sunday evening.



*Clockwise from bottom left: Lydia and Jeremiah Voth; Jon. Wieand; Merle & Mary Hochstedler; Matthew and Christina Herrmann; Matilda Graber-Ditzler and Charlie Lehman; Leroy Bontrager. Below: Menno Mission Sisters*



*Photos by  
Vyron  
Schmidt*



## School Bags

### Mennonite Women Update

Joyce Bontrager, MW President

A big thanks to each of you who have sewn school bags. Currently there are 180 completed bags (yes, strings and all). Thanks, too, for those who donated cording for the drawstrings and to the women who took time to string the sewn bags this past Thursday during Mennonite Women gathering. We are well past our halfway goal of completing 300 bags by spring.

Once again, Karen Hostetler has provided pre-cut fabric for the bags. You are invited to pick up some material and instructions for this simple sewing project. You can find them on a table in the front foyer this week. There is a box of finished bags under the mail boxes if you need to see what they look like. Bring back your sewn bags and place them in the "finished" box.

Also, on Thursday, Carla Miller was a BIG help in sorting and making up complete relief kits with the individual items donated. Dee Birkey has also put her skills to work and will have a final count for us after she sees them delivered to the Mennonite Resource Center in February.

## Waterford Announcements

**Holistic Health:** This week, you are invited to **bring something** that represents **mental or emotional health** such as: incense, CD, mantra, yoga pose, stress ball, anything that helps you relax or focus. There will be baskets at the doors to place these items.

**Mennonite Education Fund:** It is time for students and college students to submit applications for the 2026-27 school year. This past week parents and families were sent an email with the application form and guidelines. If you would like a printed copy of these documents please contact Karen Hostetler at karen@waterfordchurch.org. For 2026-27, students in grades 5-12 attending Bethany are eligible to apply. Applications are due February 28, 2026.

## Upcoming Events

**Mennonite Action Prayers** at College Mennonite Church on January 20, noon to 1 p.m. in the sanctuary, will focus on immigrants throughout the world, including the USA, and the ongoing war in Gaza. We will also pray for Iran, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Sudan and people in other places around the world who face conflicts, hunger, homelessness, illness, and grief. We will pray with songs, scripture, silence, and spoken prayers. This is an open time where people may stop in briefly or stay for the hour.

### MCUSA

MC USA invites you to an interactive online (Zoom) meeting on **coping with and processing grief** on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. Sponsored by The Corinthian Plan, MC USA's healthcare plan for pastors and church workers, this webinar will encourage and equip attendees with practices that lead toward resilience and peace. All are welcome to attend. Register here: <https://bit.ly/48d6TGo>

### MMN

#### Just Peace Pilgrimages:

Embark on a life-changing journey to **Calais, France** and interact with various organizations that are doing justice and relief work among the migrant population there. Thousands of hopeful people travel there and attempt to cross the English Channel for a better future in the United Kingdom. April 6-18, 2026. Registration Deadline is February 15, 2026. Contact Stephanie Weaver at [StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net) or visit [MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace](https://MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace) to learn more!

## AMBS

### 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)

**Scholarships available!** Ready to pursue seminary studies? Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, offers generous need-based financial aid, church matching grants and scholarships for students learning on campus or at a distance, full time or part time. Complete your Admissions Application now so you can be eligible to apply for merit-based scholarships by March 15 and ministry scholarships by April 1. [ambs.edu/affordability](https://ambs.edu/affordability)

## MCC

**Celebrating 50 years of *More-with-Less*!** Herald Press and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) invite you to **share stories of food, joy, and resilience** to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the *More-with-Less* cookbook. This beloved cookbook's call to thrift, Christian compassion and abundant living is just as urgent and relevant today as it was in 1976. Go to <https://bit.ly/MoreWithLess50> to learn more and to submit stories, blessings or ideas for simple approaches to sharing food and fellowship. Please share your story by Feb. 15 for a chance to be featured in the 50th anniversary edition or additional digital resources—and receive a chocolate oatmeal cake recipe as thanks!

**SUGARCANE**, the award-winning debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie, is a **groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school**, shedding light on years of forced separation, assimilation and abuse that Indigenous children experienced at the hands of Church and government. This urgent and timely film brings the hidden story of cultural genocide to audiences worldwide while celebrating the resilience of Native people as they work to overcome cycles of intergenerational trauma. Tuesday, January 20, and Wednesday, January 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. in College Mennonite Church Koinonia Room.

Shake off the winter doldrums by joining us for a **Crafting Day at East Goshen Mennonite Church on January 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** All materials needed for these crafting days are always supplied with no skills needed! Everything made will be donated for sale at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale. Items being made this time will be pinecone/gum tree ball wreaths, Morse code bracelets and denim baskets. If you have old jeans to get rid of, we'll take them! We are open to any project ideas. Please RSVP to [crafting.mmr@gmail.com](mailto:crafting.mmr@gmail.com) by Jan 20. Hope to see you and feel free to bring a friend and a sack lunch!

**Voices in Color for Social Justice:** Center for Healing & Hope and artist Francisco Ávila invite you to attend this art exhibit opening and reception on Sunday, January 25, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Center for Healing and Hope (400 W Lincoln Ave). Meet the artist, see the works, and hear the stories behind them.

**All are welcome to join Mennonite Action Michiana for an evening of dessert and fellowship on January 27, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship** (2509 Berkey Avenue, Goshen)! Energized by December's Courage School training, we are gathering to discuss opportunities to support our immigrant neighbors and take action for Palestine. We will hear from a few representatives from local organizations connected to this type of solidarity and advocacy work and have opportunity to network and discuss ideas. Dessert, tea, and coffee will be provided, as well as childcare. Come meet the team and discover ways to get involved!

## Opportunities

**Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes is seeking a Donor Relations Associate:** This full-time position contributes to the overall fundraising efforts of MCC by serving as a major gift officer in the Great Lakes region. The Donor Relations Associate will be the face of MCC to many of our top donors and constituent groups, with a strong focus on personal contacts with major donors. The position is eligible for remote, hybrid or in-office work location within the Great Lakes region. For more information and to apply by January 30, visit [mcc.org/gl-dr-associate](https://mcc.org/gl-dr-associate)

**Goshen College seeks four staff members for a \$5 million storytelling initiative** that will launch two podcasts, a speech contest, a documentary film and a storytelling conference on climate change. The college is seeking a **senior producer, content production manager, events manager and marketing manager**. The storytelling initiative, More Than Just Stories, is part of a national campaign by Lilly Endowment Inc. in support of Christian faith and life. For details, visit [www.goshen.edu/about/employment](https://www.goshen.edu/about/employment)