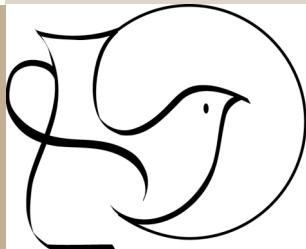


This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture Hour;
classes for all ages
12:00 p.m. - Fundraiser meal for
Carlos Ramos

**January 4, 2026**

The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jerry & Joyce Troyer
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade
Ramer, Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann,
Jordan Kauffman
Nursery: Neer Goswami,

This Week at Waterford**Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. - Mentors, Mentees
7:00 p.m. - FFMT / FH

Thursday

8:30 a.m. - Mennonite
Women / MYF Room
6:00 p.m. - Worship MT
6:30 p.m. - Stephen Ministers
Rm 15, MYF Rm
7:00 p.m. - Reparative
Justice Group / Rm 22
7:00 p.m. - Ecuador Prayers
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

Youth Learning Tour to Benin

Cindy Voth

In 2003 Waterford Mennonite Church entered a partnership with Benin Bible Institute (BBI) in Cotonou, Benin. Over the past 23 years, this partnership has flourished and created opportunities for cross-cultural learning and bridgebuilding between Goshen, Indiana, and West Africa. A highlight of our partnership is the sending and receiving of delegates. Our typical pattern (except for the COVID years) is that WMC sends delegates to BBI one year and receives delegates from BBI the following year.

We renewed our partnership during a delegation visit to Benin in November 2023. In the fall of 2024, we welcomed the BBI Board President Germain Dossou and BBI Board Member Jocelyne Ahoga.

Several years ago, we started to dream with our friends at BBI about the possibility of bringing a youth delegation from Waterford. What would it be like to provide the opportunity for Waterford youth to travel to Benin and interact with Beninese youth? What might our Waterford youth learn about the global church and our amazing God through such learning opportunities? And so the dreaming continued until we discerned with BBI that the timing was right for such a trip to occur.

I am delighted and excited to share with you that there is a group of 13 youth and 7 adults from Waterford who are planning to participate in a Youth Learning Tour to Benin in July 2026. I will lead the trip, along with Rod & Lynda Hollinger-Janzen, who will serve as our interpreters and translators of the language, culture, relationships, history, and more! We will be joined by other adult leaders: Matt & Becky Bateman, Melissa Gillette, and Shawn Stutzman.

See **Benin** on page 3

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 256

Finances – December 28, 2025

Operating Fund	\$10,984.55
Mennonite Ed	\$790.00
Either Fund	\$3,905.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	\$15,679.55
Jubilee Fund	\$1,026.00
MMN	\$200.00
Total	\$16,905.55

Looking Ahead

January 11: Cindy Voth;
Holistic Health: Physical
(*Psalm 139*)
January 18: Panel; Holistic
Health: Emotional/Mental

Pastoral Team

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

Out of Office

Cindy Voth - January 4

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-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

Winter Worship Series Continued

Holistic Health

Cindy Voth for Worship Ministry Team

On January 11 we will return to our Holistic Health Worship Series. Prior to Advent, we devoted two Sundays to focusing on our spiritual health and one Sunday focusing on our healthy boundaries and sexuality. As we pick up the series again, we will spend time considering how we are invited as followers of Jesus to seek health and wholeness with our physical, emotional and mental, and relational health.

Layna and Lacy Stoltzfus will continue to offer the gift each week of a liturgical dance. Loanne Harms will continue to work on our visual arts collage of items we have contributed. As a reminder, here are items to bring for the upcoming Sundays. There will be a basket located at the entrances to the sanctuary where you can place your items.

- Jan. 11: Physical health—something medical, an adhesive bandage, a splint, gauze, medicine bottle, etc.
- Jan. 18 & 25: Emotional/mental health—incense, CD, mantra, yoga pose, stress ball, anything that helps you relax or focus
- Feb. 1: Relational health—photo of friends, family, social media post, address book page, thank you card, etc.
- Feb. 8: Relational health—(although we are not including financial in this series, we did focus on this last year and want to include it in our collage, so) check book page, check, balance sheet, small coins, etc.
- Feb. 15: Holistic Health—weaving it together and final collage (hopefully)

We are grateful for the wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and experience within our faith community. We look forward to hearing from a variety of voices during this series as guest preachers, members of panels, and weekly testimonies.

Date	Theme	Preacher or Panel Members
1/11	Physical Health	Cindy Voth
1/18	Mental and Emotional Health	Panel: John Kaufman, Judy Snyder, and Sheldon Swartz, facilitated by Deron Bergstresser of
1/25	Mental and Emotional Health	JE Misz
2/1	Relational Health	Deanna Beth Chupp
2/8	Relational Health	Panel: John Hershberger, Gilberto Perez, and Cindy Voth, facilitated by Brent Beck
2/15	Holistic Health: Weaving them all together	Katie Misz

Benin, cont. from page 1

The youth going are: Gretchen Bateman, Cori Chupp, Gideon Miller, Dominic Ramer, Ethan Claassen, Lacy Stoltzfus, Lucas Bateman, Miles Gillette, Noah Sanchez, Liam Wyse-Fisher, Hannah Claassen, Susanna Stutzman, and Thomas Voth.

The 13 youth are committed to paying \$500 toward the anticipated cost of \$2,100 per person (\$1,600 airfare, \$500 in-country expenses). I have encouraged them to find ways to save or work for the money (I even provided statistics of how many avoided trips to Starbucks it would take to save \$500!). These youth are also committed to monthly meetings where we are learning about the culture and customs of Benin, along with Beninese religious beliefs and worldviews. At our last meeting we enjoyed African groundnut stew made by the Hollinger-Janzens as we looked at various biblical texts and considered how we interpret them and how our Beninese siblings interpret them.

While in Benin, we look forward to meeting multiple times with the same group of Beninese high school youth from a local congregation. During those times we will be sharing and learning about how each of us experience God, worship, faith, and discipleship in our various contexts.

Our Beninese friends are hard at work to organize our lodging, food and various activities, and will make final determinations about how the visit will be arranged. We anticipate that it may involve some of the following cultural and historical learning experiences of previous WMC Delegates such as visiting the Slave Port, a local school, touring BBI's School and Farm, the Palace in Abomey, visiting La Casa Grande children's home, eating traditional Beninese food, and more.

We invite your prayers for our group as we continue to prepare for the trip. We believe that the preparations prior to going are extremely important for our engagement while we are in Benin. We seek to have a posture of curiosity and learning while being open to fully engage in our learnings and building of relationships.

We warmly invite you to our main fundraiser (and perhaps only fundraiser!!) on February 1. Instead of our normal monthly potluck, our group will provide the lunch of African groundnut stew, rice, various toppings, and dessert. (If you haven't had groundnut stew before, it's like haystacks with the stew being peanut based and, of course, delicious!). During the lunch we will share things we have been learning about and things we are looking forward to.

Thanks to the youths' contributions to the trip, WMC budget for our BBI Partnership exchanges, and donations already received, we are needing to only raise an additional \$9,000. We invite you to come with hungry bellies and generous spirits to our fundraiser on February 1. Donations can be made at anytime with checks being made out to Waterford with "BBI Trip" in the memo line.

MCUSA

MC USA joined Indigenous leaders and partner organizations in a Native-led ceremony in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to honor the children who died at the **Carlisle Indian Industrial School** and to acknowledge Mennonites' historical involvement. Read more about this important step toward truth-telling and repair at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/carlisle>

Sue Park-Hur, MC USA director of racial/ethnic engagement, urges churches to embrace diverse, **Christlike hospitality** in the new year and highlights a practical checklist to help leaders create welcoming spaces. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/ready-to-welcome>

MMN

Live out your faith through service! **Mennonite Voluntary Service** (MVS) is now accepting applications for the 2026-27 term. This one-year volunteer experience is open to individuals age 20+, with the option to extend placements for an additional one to two years. Serve with organizations addressing critical community needs, such as health, education, immigration and more. You won't do it alone, though! By living with peers in a unit house and growing with a local faith community, MVSers join in the global movement to work for peace and a more just world. Ready to jump in? Go to MennoniteMission.net/MVS to learn more and apply.

AMBS

Earn a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership! Develop a customized learning plan around your goals, gain expertise in five key competencies and grow in effective Anabaptist leadership while based in your ministry or leadership context. Students in this program must be able to travel to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary each January to participate in the required weeklong residencies on campus. Apply by Sept. 15 to begin in January. ambs.edu/dmin

Visit Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Schedule a personal visit (either in person or online) to learn about how our affordable on-campus and distance-friendly programs can prepare you to lead effectively and live faithfully—wherever God calls you. Contact us to learn more about the AMBS experience: ambs.edu/visit

Goshen Public Library

Senior Social: **Cybersecurity Lunch & Learn**, Wed., January 14, 10:15 a.m. Learn how to stay safe online with a special focus on **avoiding scams, protecting your personal information, and recognizing red flags**. **Free lunch provided** - registration is **REQUIRED**, and space is limited so please be sure to sign up today: <https://bit.ly/Library-Social-Jan>

Thank You

Dear Waterford Church Friends,

We have had a shower of cards celebrating Lucille's 90th birthday, our 70th wedding anniversary and Christmas. The messages were thoughtful and meaningful and a blessing to us. Thank you for sharing. May God bless you throughout the coming year,

Lucille and Arnold Roth

Waterford Announcements

Everyone is invited to the haystack benefit meal for Carlos Ramos this Sunday after the nurture hour. Pathfinders and Seekers will be hosting the meal. If you are unable to attend the benefit meal, but wish to contribute, your donation may be made in cash or check made out to Samaritan Trust and given to Karen Sommers. This is not a tax deductible donation.

Nursery Signups on class clipboards and the participation station! There is still a need for nursery volunteers during worship and the nurture hour. There is a sign-up sheet on each Sunday school clipboard and we would like to have at least three people from each class sign up. There is also a signup sheet at the participation station. Thank you for caring for our youngest Waterford community!

A big thanks to all who participated in collecting items for relief kits. **Mennonite women meeting** this coming Thursday, January 8, will be putting together complete kits from items donated, as well as adding cord to school bags sewed, quilting, knotting and maybe even some knitting. Plan to join the fun anytime after 8:30 a.m. and stay for the carry in lunch, if you are able.

Showcase your talent in our **Open Mic night** on Sunday, January 11, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Are you musical, a poet, a storyteller, a comedian? Do you have a hidden talent that you would like to share? Sign up at the participation station if you have something to contribute. We need audience members as well. Don't worry about missing that Sunday night popcorn, we'll have it ready and waiting!

Upcoming Events

Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich is teaching his last class of Wealth and Poverty. This is the subject of Goshen College's **Yoder Public Affairs film screening** on January 14, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the Umble Center. Please click the link to learn more: <https://www.goshen.edu/about/news-events/events/yoder-public-affairs-film-screening-robert-reich-in-the-last-class/>

Anabaptist Disabilities Network and Herald Press invite you to a **webinar with Tatum Tricarico**, author of **Blessed is the Body, a Lenten devotional** centered around disability justice. In this daily devotional, Disability rights activist Tatum Tricarico helps us turn the tables on Lent. Rather than a time of feeling condemned or guilty, Lent is when we can take a breath and finally say I am human, and still, I am beloved by God. During the webinar Tricarico will share insights from her book and have time to answer questions. Please join us on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom: <https://MCUSA.zoom.us/j/89439571091>