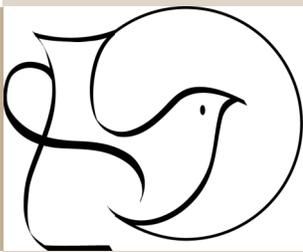




February 15, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

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

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jon. & Mary Ann
Wieand
Ushers: Ken Otto, Wade Ramer,
LaVon Short
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,
Colin Berkey
Nursery: Krista Daniels, Lacy
Stoltzfus; Lorna Claassen,
Hannah Claassen

This Week at Waterford

Monday

7:00 p.m. - MLC / FH

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - Ash Wednesday
Service / Sanctuary

7:15 - Games & Snacks / 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

From the Beehive: Next Stage of MELT

JD Smucker, co-chair Ministry Leadership Council

They say the snow will melt and spring will come. As I write this, it is snowing again, and another two hour delay for schools. It may be hard to have hope for spring to come when the snow has been around for so long and the chilling temperatures are frozen in place. My dad grew up on a farm, and every year of his life when the winter months were dreary he would take out his seed catalogues and prepare for the garden planting, still months away. It gave him some hope and he could dream of the warmth, the feel of spring in the air, and planting new seeds.

Our journey with MELT (Mennonite Education Listening Tour) has produced an abundance of fruit. Later in February, the anonymous thoughts shared over the past two months will be available for public reading. In order to give a more organic read, comments will not be consolidated.

Ministry Leadership Council is planning two gatherings where all are invited. First, on Wednesday, March 4, at 6:00 p.m., we will have a 45 minute meeting in the sanctuary where we will be sharing the history and basic information about our Mennonite Education Fund at Waterford. This information meeting will especially be geared toward any of our recent new attenders who might not know the history or the practice.

Then, on Sunday, March 15, we plan to have a Conversations that Matter Café gathering for another round of sharing and listening. We will be gathering in the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. and invite you to bring finger foods to share and openness to share and to listen.

See **MELT** on page 3

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 225

Nurture Hour - 216

Finances – February 8, 2026

Operating Fund	\$16,325.00
Mennonite Ed	\$3,291.75
Either Fund	\$3,853.32
Budget Total	\$23,470.07
Benin Trip	\$250.00
Jubilee Fund	\$60.00
Total	\$23,780.07

Looking Ahead

February 22: Sermon: Cindy Voth; Lent: Love and Grief
(John 11:1-44)

March 1: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Lent 2: Obvious And Hidden
(John 13:1-17)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team
Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser
Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz
Monday - Thursday

Out of Office

Cindy Voth - February 17

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

Thank You

Fundraising Update: Youth Learning Tour to Benin

Cindy Voth, pastoral team leader

Twenty individuals from Waterford are very excited to travel to Benin in July to visit with our partners at Benin Bible Institute for a youth learning tour! The 13 youth and 7 adults have been meeting monthly to learn and prepare in anticipation of our trip. Thank you for praying for us and for all of you who offered financial support during our recent fundraiser meal! I have received multiple requests asking what additional funds are needed, so I wanted to provide you with this update.

As we continue with our fundraising, we are down to raising the final \$7,500 needed for the trip—so amazing! Thank you for your generosity and support of our youth as well as our partnership with BBI.

Breakdown of Budgeted Costs:

- Roundtrip Airfare including trip insurance: \$38,000 (\$1,900 per person)
- Visas to visit Benin: \$1,500 (\$75 per person)
- In-country expenses (travel/housing/food/etc.): \$10,000 (\$500 per person)
- Additionally, all of the individuals going on the trip are responsible for paying for their passport (if needed), required Yellow Fever Vaccine (\$240), and malaria prevention medicine.

Breakdown of income:

- Deposits of \$500 from 13 youth - \$6,500
- WMC Budget for BBI Partnership Exchanges - \$6,500
- Fundraiser Meal on 2/1 - \$5,592 minus \$400 costs = net \$5,195
- Additional Donations Received - \$23,730
- Remaining financial need: \$7,578

If you feel led to donate to the remaining financial need, checks may be made out to Waterford with “Benin Trip” in the memo line. Any funds that are not used this summer will remain in our WMC’s equity BBI Partnership account for future exchanges with sending and receiving delegates.

Thank you again for your generosity and support! .

Changes / Corrections to the directory

Arlen Ambler’s correct email address is aaambler@yahoo.com.

Merv Chupp’s new address:

Greencroft Healthcare, Vista, Rm 231
1225 Greencroft Dr

Miranda Pfahler has moved to:

1101 S Main St
Goshen, IN 46526

Class Activity



The Agape class gathered in celebration of the Mardi Gras season bringing shoebox floats and ready to dive into Jambalaya, Gumbo, and King Cake. Mardi Gras season runs from Epiphany to Ash Wednesday and is celebrated as carnival in many countries besides New Orleans. We had a "bead-i-ful" evening of fun, food, and fellowship.



Photos by Loanne Harms



MELT (continued from page 1)

Following this gathering, Ministry Leadership Council will review all that we have heard and learned through this listening process, and then will discern what are next steps. We will look forward to sharing an update with the congregation in April.

Our hope is that everyone has the opportunity to share their views in a way that all can be heard. It takes time, and there is still snow on the ground. But hopefully we are preparing our seed lists for planting in May, when we can enjoy the earth beginning to show signs of new growth.

Cupcake Wars



The MYF spent the evening of February 4 in a cupcake decorating competition.



Photos by Mariko Claassen and Matt Bateman

Birthday Bouquet



Field of Flowers



Coral Reef Fish.



Under the Sea

Worship Series Elements

Below: Layna (left) and Lacy Stoltzfus (right) performed a liturgical dance to Lauren Daigle's "You Say" every Sunday of our Holistic Health worship series. The dance was choreographed by their mother, Amanda Stoltzfus. Right: Loanne Harms created a collage from items brought each Sunday representing different aspects of health.



Photos by Vyron Schmidt



Photo by Loanne Harms

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday:

- **We will share in communion.** Let's prepare ourselves in our relationships with others, with ourselves, and with God in anticipation of sharing the bread and the cup. As did the early church (Acts 2:43-47), we will collect offerings for the **Sharing Fund**. This fund benefits people in need within the congregation.
- You will find a **ballot for the affirmation of Ursula Hess** for Chaplain for Senior Adults. Please return marked ballots to the basket on the table outside of the office by noon, next Sunday, February 22. There will be extra ballots by the basket for those who need one.

There will be an **Ash Wednesday service on February 18 at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. This short service will help us remember who we are and who God is. Pastors will offer to place ashes on foreheads or hands as a sign, not only of our mortality, but also of forgiveness and new life. Everyone is invited to stay for **Game night beginning at 7:15** after the service. Bring snacks to share.

2nd Annual Chili Cook Off: Sunday, February 22, 5:30 p.m. at WMC. Does your chili charm the taste buds of all who partake of it? Find out by participating in a friendly chili cook off. If cooking chili is not your thing, sign up to bring a side dish to share and "Taste and See" which chili you think is worthy of the Golden Ladle. **Sign up by this Sunday** at the Participation Station!

The Pastoral Team will be holding a **New Members Class** meetings this spring. **Please RSVP** to Pastors Cindy, Deron, or Katie **by February 22** if you are interested in being part of the class.

Next Sunday, February 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., **Waterford will host a free MCC Workshop, "Prepared Churches - Solidarity with Immigrants"** in our sanctuary. If you are concerned about how we can support our immigrant neighbors, consider attending. It will be over in time to join in the chili supper. See the MCC announcement below for details.

Upcoming Events

MCC Workshop: Prepared Churches - Solidarity with Immigrants: Our churches are called to be places of peace, welcome, and safety for all. Yet, with recent changes to immigration enforcement policies, faith communities are facing new challenges in protecting and accompanying immigrant neighbors. You're invited to participate in a free workshop on **Sunday, February 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Waterford Mennonite Church**. Join Abraham Diaz Alonso (MCC Central States Immigrant Program Coordinator) and Galen Fitzkee (MCC U.S. Legislative Associate) in this workshop to help your church understand immigration enforcement, know your legal rights as a faith community, develop a plan of action in case immigration agents show up at or near your church community, and learn how faith communities can advocate for policy change. We will cover a variety of topics that affect our congregations and the most vulnerable among us. More information at mcc.org/goshen-prepared-churches

MCUSA

MC USA's **2026 Lent at Home Worship Guide** invites households to journey through Lent with simple rituals, Scripture from John's Gospel and opportunities for reflection. This guide, titled "Dwelling in Dissonance," helps all ages hold grief and hope together, as we walk with Jesus toward resurrection. Available in English and Spanish. Download it here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/lent-at-home-2026>

In her Menno Snapshots blog, Shé Langley, MC USA's director of event planning and digital marketing, shares **five practical AI and automation tools** churches can use to reduce burnout, improve communication and support ministry, while grounding technology use in ethical, pastoral and climate justice values. Read it here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/ai-for-churches/>

MMN

Become a Service Adventure leader! Are you sensing God's call to mentor young adults as they grow in faith, service and community? Want to live in beautiful places like Anchorage, Alaska or Colorado Springs, Colorado? Answer the call and become a Service Adventure unit leader! Unit leaders mentor the young adults in the unit and provide some oversight and guidance for the household. Ages 24+ should contact Michael Oyer at MichaelO@MennoniteMission.net!

AMBS

Take a summer course at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Hybrid courses

(combining online work and one week on campus) include Biblical Storytelling; Christian Leadership in the 21st Century; and History of Christian Spirituality. **In-person courses** (also open to auditors) include Spiritual Practices: Trees of Life and the Trail of Death Pilgrimage. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first two courses for credit! **Sign up by April 1** for the Trail of Death Pilgrimage and by May 4 for all other courses.

ambs.edu/upcoming-courses

AMBS Trees of Life Retreat:

May 29–30 (Friday at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary; Saturday at Camp Friedenswald). This retreat, led by Janeen Bertsche Johnson, MDiv, DMin candidate, will weave together study of biblical texts about trees; understanding of trees as organisms and within ecosystems; ecological issues; and spiritual practices. It can be taken for credit or as a noncredit retreat. Limit: 15 participants. Register by May 22. ambs.edu/trees

ambs.edu/trees

Pathways Retreat

Pathways Retreat offers a variety of programs and workshops: Honoring our Pain for the World, Pausing in the Wilderness of Lent, Attuning to the Seasons, Grief and Joy Watercolor Workshop, God's Wonderful Creatures, and Weekly Yoga. Learn more at pathwaysretreat.org or follow this [link](#) to our monthly newsletter

Meeting for Friends & Allies of Immigrants: The Goshen Call to Action community group invites you to a gathering, 6:30-8 p.m., on Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the Goshen Theater to learn about the suffering of local immigrants, the extent of ICE and Border Patrol activity in Elkhart County, the help available to immigrants and what good people can do to help meet their urgent needs. Speakers will include Goshen College students, Latino and Haitian immigrants, a Mennonite pastor who helps Venezuelan immigrants, two attorneys and others who help immigrants daily. Questions? Send an email to goshendemocraticparty@gmail.com.

C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest: Five Goshen College students will speak on themes of peace and justice during the 2026 C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in Umble Center. The participants will deliver 8- to 10-minute speeches on topics of their choosing that relate to peace and justice. The annual event is open to the public, and will be livestreamed at goshen.edu/live.

Global Voices Tour - MCC Friends & Alumni Gathering in Goshen on Feb. 19: All are invited to join MCC on Thursday, February 19 at 7 p.m. at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church (64901 County Road 11—please enter at the west end) for a unique opportunity to hear firsthand stories on the intersection of climate and peace. MCC speakers from South Asia and the Sahel will share how communities are navigating unpredictable weather patterns, drought, flood, and heat, through climate adaptation and peacebuilding. Be a prayerful witness to our global neighbors and learn how your own commitment to peace can make a difference. Learn more about this free event at mcc.org/global-voices-goshen.

Please join us for the next **crafting day** on Saturday Feb 28 at East Goshen Mennonite Church from 10-2. Bring a lunch. We will be continuing with our denim baskets along with making finger pin cushions, playing card holders, painting/decoupage wooden crates and decorating candles. We could use 2 litre bottle size caps, pretty paper napkins and any size unused pillar candles. All items made will be sold at the Relief Sale in September. RSVP by Feb 25 to crafting.mmrs@gmail.com.

Mennonite Men will be hosting a **men's retreat at Camp Friedenswald** with **RawTools founder Michael Martin**, March 6-8, 2026. The theme of the weekend will be "Becoming Malleable Men: Practicing Faith and Being Formed." Registration at friedenswald.org/retreats/.

The [2026 Religion and Science Conference](#), with keynote speaker Dr. Wesley J. Wildman, will feature three lectures, two of which are free and open to the public: Friday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 7, 10:30 a.m. This year's topic is "The Future of Spirituality: From Temples to Toolkits." Find details at the link above.

Amigo Scrapbooking, Quilting, and Crafting Retreat, March 6-8 & April 10-12. Treat yourself to a weekend of intentional time spent on creative projects, and let Amigo take care of the finer details! Extend the weekend; arrive early and stay late. Register by February 20 and March 27 at bit.ly/AmigoRegistration.