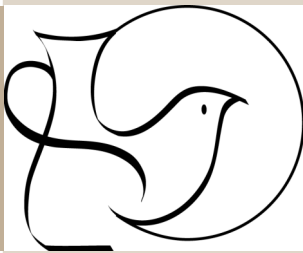


Benin Trip Fundraiser

WMC youth going to Benin this summer served groundnut stew with toppings and dessert at our first Sunday fellowship meal.



February 8, 2026

The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

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

Welcome Team

Greeters: Del & Shirley Yoder
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto,
Denise Diener
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler,
Steve Fath
Nursery: Brenda Janzen, Barb
Landes; Becky Bateman,
Cori Chupp

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. - BBI Planning Grp
Zoom

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

5:30 p.m. - GDMT / Culvers

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



Benin Fundraiser

Thank you so much for your support at our fundraiser! We enjoyed working together to make and serve the meal, and we hope you enjoyed it as well. Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support as we continue to prepare for our July 2026 Youth Learning Tour to Benin! We received \$5,592 at our lunch last week. THANK YOU!!!

Did you miss the lunch and still wish to contribute to the trip? No problem! Checks may be made out to Waterford with "Benin Trip" in the memo line. Thank you again for your support and generosity!

Cindy, Rod, Lynda, Shawn, Melissa, Matt, Becky, Gretchen, Cori, Gideon, Dominic, Ethan, Lacy, Lucas, Miles, Noah, Liam, Hannah, Susanna, and Thomas

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 214

Nurture Hour - 184 (+13 - Open Door Retreat)

Finances – February 1, 2026

Operating Fund	\$4,479.05
Mennonite Ed	\$675.00
Either Fund	\$3,155.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$8,309.05</i>
Benin Fundraiser	\$5,592.00
Benin Trip	\$250.00
Four Way Mission	\$75.00
Total	\$14,226.05

Looking Ahead

February 15: Sermon: Katie Misz; Holistic Health: Weaving It all together; Communion
(1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

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

Pastoral Team

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

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

From the Beehive: An Update on MELT

JD Smucker

During the past five weeks Helen Bowman, Liz Gingerich, and I have been meeting with members of the congregation interested in sharing their reflections, questions, concerns, and thoughts about the Mennonite Education Fund Guidelines. What I thought would be a couple months of folks sharing their opinions has become a journey into the lives of many who I would not have understood as well simply from a congregational meeting or casual conversation. It has been a gift to be invited into someone's home, and to have the time to listen without needing to have any answers. The whole point was to enter into conversation without answers, to hear unique perspectives, emotion, pain, thanksgiving, celebration, and a whole spectrum of views on Mennonite Education.

Often the process of what we do is more important than the finished product. In a past career as a choir director, I was reminded daily how the journey of creating is a never ending learning experience. When a choir performs a concert, it is simply a window for others to view the journey or progress of the choir. The concert is not an end in itself, and sometimes external factors such as colds, emotional stress, a badly tuned piano, or even the weather, can influence the outcome of a concert. It would be nice, but we cannot control everything, and there is no perfect concert.

So, in the coming weeks as we listen, discuss, reflect, and move forward, I pray we can also be reminded that the journey is ongoing. We are a faith community finding our way, as we agree, disagree, or agree to disagree, or maybe don't really care. We work at this together.

Thanks to all who have shared in the MELT listening opportunity so far. If you would like to be heard, but have not been contacted, please send a note to JD or the church office. The journey continues.

Thank You

*Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he sees,
Yours are the feet with which he walks,
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. —*

Lyrics adapted from a prayer by St Teresa of Avila

A huge thank you Waterford congregation for your amazing response! WMC completed 36 relief kits during November and December 2025. These were delivered to MCC at the Depot on Monday and will be prepared for shipping to families whose lives have been disrupted by conflict or disaster around the globe. Our prayers accompany these simple items praying that recipients will know they are not forgotten.

Lent

Dwelling in Dissonance

Cindy Voth, for Worship Ministry Team

Lent is the season of the church that is set aside for prayerful reflection as we prepare to faithfully follow Jesus through the events of Holy Week. We will begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Everyone is invited to a 6:30 p.m. worship service where we are reminded who we are and who God is. Within the service, pastors will offer to place ashes on foreheads or hands as signs not only of our mortality but also of forgiveness and new life. Following the service, all are invited to join others in the Fellowship Hall for a time of board games and snacks.

Our Sunday morning worship services during Lent will follow the Narrative Lectionary as we focus on the theme “Dwelling in Dissonance.” We will draw from the worship resource created by members of the Atlantic Coast Conference, published in the *The Leader* by MennoMedia. This year we will follow the accounts of Holy Week as recorded in the Gospel of John. The authors write,

“We invite your congregation to ask each week, ‘What is the dissonance in this passage?’ Dissonance occurs in music when two or more notes strike the listener as discordant. Our ear instinctively knows the note that will bring resolution and wants the dissonance to resolve to something more harmonious. Similarly, we might be tempted to rush through the discord within these

Lenten texts, anticipating the already-and-not-yet resolution of Easter. Can we stay in the hard places with Jesus and linger throughout Lent at the edge of our understanding, so we might more fully remain open and present to the hard places and the mysteries we face today?”

Our Sunday worship services will be led by an intergenerational mentor and mentee pair. Each week will include a time of confession and receiving words of assurance, along with singing Voices Together 636, “Spirit, Open My Heart,” and a dramatic retelling of the scripture passage. Each Sunday in this series we will also receive the blessing of special music.

During Holy Week, we will gather on Wednesday, April 1, for a Maundy Wednesday service which will include a shared simple meal and a time of footwashing. For our Easter Celebration on April 5, we will have a sunrise service at 7 a.m., brunch in our fellowship hall at 9 a.m., preservice singing in the sanctuary at 10:15 followed by worship at 10:30 to celebrate the resurrection where we will also share in Communion.

In the chart below you will find the scripture texts for each week, weekly themes, and the name of our preacher and worship leaders. We invite everyone to come to our Lenten journey ready to patiently dwell in the dissonance found in the events and experiences of Holy Week as shared in the Gospel of John.

Date	Theme	Scripture	Preacher	Worship Leaders
2/22	Love and grief, glory and belief	John 11:1-44	Cindy Voth	Loanne Harms and Lydia Voth
3/1	Obvious and hidden	John 13:1-17	Deron Bergstresser	Lyle Miller and Ethan Claassen
3/8	Standing up and standing back	John 18:12-27	Cindy Voth	Brent Beck and Liam Wyse-Fisher
3/15	Submission and power	John 18:28-40	Deron Bergstresser	Rosanna Kauffmann and Eliza Method
3/22	Complicity and innocence	John 19:1-16a	Cindy Voth	Shelby Eby and Layna Stoltzfus
3/29	Palm Sunday	John 19:16b-22	Deron Bergstresser	Lynda Hollinger-Janzen and Cori Chupp
4/5	Easter: Death and resurrection	John 20:1-18	Katie Misz	Krista Daniels and Lacy Stoltzfus

Mentor-Mentee Night

While different mentor/mentee pairs engaged in various activities, some chose to make signs for a Mennonite Action protest at Target this coming Saturday (See announcement at the top of Friday's email.) Below are some of those creations. *Photos by Katie Misz*



Update on the Prykhodko Family

A New Business Venture

David Gingerich

Under normal circumstances I would never write a promotion or classified advertisement in our church publication. However, in this circumstance, I'm doing just that. You should know that I've had this approved with our church staff.

As you may recall, Pavlo and Anastasiia Prykhodko and their three children lived with Marge and me for nine months last year after immigrating to the United States from Ukraine. Our Pathfinders Sunday Class was their sponsor. Pavlo works at Wieland Design and Anastasiia works as a para for Goshen Schools. Artem is a Freshman at Goshen College, Tymofii is a seventh grader at Goshen Junior High, and Yuniia, age three, is in daycare at Walnut Hill. You will occasionally see them attending our worship service, but they usually attend their Ukrainian church service in Wakarusa.

Generally speaking, they are doing well. However, they struggle financially. In an effort to earn additional income, they have started a cleaning business focusing on upholstery and carpet/rug cleaning. They do this in the evenings and on Saturdays. They have purchased equipment, chemically safe cleaning supplies, and have started an LLC. The name of their business is called Furnisoft Cleaning. Marge and I have had them do cleaning for us and we were very pleased with the results. They were detail oriented and professional. They also include stain and odor removal.

If you are interested in their services I would advise you to contact them by text or email. Since they do not speak English well, they use their smart phones to help translate. Below are their contacts. Thank you for giving this consideration as a way of helping others. If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Marge or me. I do have some "before" and "after" photos of my favorite chair, but I'm not sure Marge will want me to share them!

Pavlo: 574-392-1323

Anastasiia: 574-349-8734

Email: furnisoftclean@gmail.com



Waterford Announcements

Holistic Health: This week, you are invited to **bring something** that represents **relational health** such as: photo of friends or family, social media post, address book page, thank you card, etc. There will be baskets at the doors to place these items.

In case winter is feeling cold and blustery, you might want to join the warm fellowship at **Mennonite Women** this coming Thursday. Things to do, people to meet and fun to be had. You can even bring luncheon food to share or just stay a few hours, anytime after 8:30 a.m. All help is appreciated.

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 February 15** at the Participation Station!

Have you recently **decided to make Waterford your new church home**, or have you been attending Waterford for a period of time but have not yet become a member? The Pastoral Team will be holding a **New Members Class**, meeting on **March 5 and 12** from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the church. During the sessions, time will be spent getting to know each other, sharing the leadership structure of WMC, visiting with and learning about the areas of ministry of each of the pastors, and asking questions. It is anticipated that new members will be received in April. **Please RSVP** to Pastors Cindy, Deron, or Katie **by February 22**. If you are interested in being part of the class but have a schedule conflict for the proposed meeting dates/times, please let a pastor know that as well.

Upcoming Events

Student winners of the annual Goshen College Concerto-Aria Competition will perform their works with the GC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Jimin Seo. Saturday, February 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sauder Concert Hall. Tickets at goshen.universitytickets.com/

Feeling the press of life's distractions and divisions? Join spiritual director Debra Burrsma and artist Jo-Ann VanReeuwyk for one or more **retreats exploring wholeness and integration of heart, mind, and body** in the soulful context of **The Hermitage** in Three Rivers, Michigan. Spiritual awakening will be nurtured and deepened through contemplative conversations, silence and gentle practices using scripture, nature and the creative arts (story, poetry, visual arts, and music). Come as you are (with or without art experience) and be welcomed into this grace-filled slow space for hearing, healing and wholeness. Retreat dates are February 13-14, March 27-28, and April 24-25. For more information go to <https://www.hermitagecommunity.org/event/hopes-hold-on-the-heart/>

MCUSA

MC USA is now accepting applications for the 2026-27 **BIPOC Scholarship**. The Scholarship aids students who identify as Black, Indigenous and/or People of Color who are members or active participants of an MC USA congregation and who are attending or plan to attend an MC USA-affiliated Mennonite college, university or seminary. Learn more and apply here: <https://bit.ly/49LLYLi>

MC USA is launching a new **collaborative workshop series to help churches and leaders practice healthier ways of navigating conflict**. The first training kicks off in Beaverton, Oregon on March 12-14! Discover what's behind this new initiative and how you can take part. Read more and register at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/conflict-transformation-workshop/>

Marco Güete, director of Hispanic Ministries for MC USA, highlights how **Anabaptist-rooted theological education pathways equip Hispanic and Latino leaders** for faithful, contextual ministry without leaving their congregations. Read his Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/walking-together/>

MMN

Just Peace Pilgrimages — Christ at the Border. Embark on a life-changing journey to Calais, France to witness and learn alongside organizations that are doing justice and relief work among the migrant population there. Fleeing for their lives, thousands of people converge in Calais hoping to cross the English Channel to find a new life in the United Kingdom. **Dates: April 6-18, 2026; Registration deadline: February 15, 2026** Visit 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 Feb. 16. View clinic descriptions and register:

ambs.edu/clinics

Thinking about seminary?

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary offers generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and church matching grants for students learning on campus or at a distance, full time or part time. Complete your Admissions Application now to be eligible to apply for **merit-based scholarships** by the March 15 priority deadline and **ministry scholarships** by the April 1 priority deadline. (Students must be admitted to apply for scholarships.) Seminary study is more affordable than you might think! ambs.edu/affordability

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 speeches will be judged on adherence to the theme of peace/social justice, clarity of organization, adequacy of evidence, and general standards of delivery. 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.

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/.

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.

Opportunities

Some churches in Elkhart are again organizing English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults. **Volunteer teachers are needed for the next session of classes, March 1 - May 26** meeting at Prairie Street Mennonite Church. Sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m. There will be an **informational meeting** on Monday, February 16, 6:30 p.m. at Prairie Street Mennonite Church to hear about the program and ask questions. Please contact Sueann VonGunten, vonalter2@gmail.com or 574-612-3108 with your interest or questions.