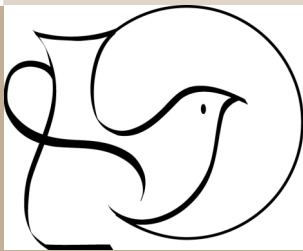




April 12, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

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

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jerry & Joyce Troyer
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Wade Ramer, Denise Diener
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Dom Ramer
Nursery: Dee Birkey, Susan Gingerich, Cori Chupp, Brenda Janzen

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks & Games / FH

7:00 p.m. - MYF

Thursday

6:00 p.m. - GDMT / Culvers

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

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
Phone 574-533-5642
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Meet Al Mortenson



I was raised on a small family farm near Rochester, Minnesota. Our family belonged to a Lutheran church nearby which had a beautiful sanctuary and altar area. I thought that was where God lived.

That began changing one evening when I was fourteen years old and watched a telecast of a Billy Graham crusade. Through Mr. Graham's sermon, the Holy Spirit helped me realize that

God could be a reality in my daily life. I opened my life to knowing and following Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord.

I began reading the New Testament and came to the desire to be baptized as a believer. In reading further, one of my favorite passages became Matthew 28:19 — "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Missionaries from other countries often spoke at our church and I was fascinated when hearing about their work and service.

Eventually it became time for me to register for the draft. I just couldn't understand how followers of Christ could both make disciples and kill people in other nations. So, when I turned eighteen in April of 1971, I registered for the draft as a conscientious objector. In October of that year, I was baptized as a believer at the Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. (I had moved to Waco to attend Baylor University). In the fall of 1975 one of my church members shared with me a copy of Sojourners magazine in which I read an article entitled "The Radical Reformation — Anabaptists." I have identified as an Anabaptist Christian ever since.

See New Attender on page 3

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 240

Finances – April 5, 2026

Operating Fund	\$9,610.00
Mennonite Ed	\$2,505.00
Either Fund	\$4,210.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$16,325.00</i>
GMA	\$1,364.20
Four Way Mission	\$75.00
Total	\$17,764.20

Looking Ahead

April 19: Sermon: Matt Miller;
Bethany Concert Choir
April 26: Sermon: Deron
Bergstresser; Installation of
Ursula Hess

Pastoral Team

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

Out of Office

Elvina Schmidt - April 12-14
Cindy Voth - April 13

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

Farewell Blessing

To My Waterford Church Friends:

When, as retirees, Paul, my late husband and I moved to Goshen from Toledo, Ohio, we searched for a suitable congregation. We found and connected with Waterford and gained many friends here.

Due to a move to Manor IV (from another Greencroft home) at the firm request of my family, I have been adjusting to a new living place and new routines, including personal care as an 89-year-old. In the process of getting adjusted to different activities of time, place, friends and medical care, I have had to leave behind many things as well, including independent transportation.

Fortunately, four members of my family are now living in Goshen. They have been very helpful in many ways. In addition, after consideration and discussion, I have decided to join two of my sisters in the church they attend. That congregation is Assembly.

It is not that Waterford is unsuitable. On the contrary, there is much I appreciate there: my Sunday School class, other activities for enjoyment and especially, the caring for one another that I have experienced.

Here is my blessing in parting:

In the Trusted Shepherd, may you find
Strength of body, peace of mind;
May the Lord's blessing enrich your life;
No troubled hours, no anxious strife,
Good health, good friends, and all the rest;
With these good gifts may you be blessed.
May God's dear love be ever near,
To bless each day, all through the year.

Gratefully yours,
Barbara Hodel

Senior Adult Program



Waterford Senior Adult Ministry Team hosted the Threshold Singers on Sunday afternoon, March 29. They shared music of peace and comfort, and gave us the experience of what they call a "song bath." This was a taste of their beautiful ministry of music, which includes singing for people at home or hospital who are on the threshold between life and death.

About seventy senior adults and several Goshen College students enjoyed this time together.

—Pastor Deron for SAMT

Movie Night

Film Showing: *Traces of the Trade*

Reparative Justice Group

Sunday, April 19, 6 p.m., the Benin Bible Institute youth delegation and the Reparative Justice Group invite the congregation to watch *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*. This documentary (about an hour) explores reparations for the USA's legacy of enslavement of African people. After the viewing, we will have a 30-minute discussion. Mentor-mentee pairs are encouraged to attend together, and Waterford has invited the eight congregations of the Reparations -Inspired Fund of Elkhart County to join us.

In *Traces of the Trade*, filmmaker Katrina Browne writes about discovering that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history, shattering the common perception that slavery was only an issue in the South. She and nine cousins (out of 200 relatives who were contacted about participating) retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the Black/White divide in the USA.

From 1769 to 1820, the DeWolf family trafficked in human beings. They sailed their ships from Bristol, Rhode Island to West Africa with rum to trade for African men, women and children.

Captives were taken to plantations that the DeWolfs owned in Cuba or were sold at auction in such ports as Havana, Cuba, and Charleston, South Carolina. Sugar and molasses were then brought from Cuba to the family-owned rum distilleries in Bristol. Over the generations, the family transported more than 10,000 enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean. They amassed an enormous fortune. By the end of his life, James DeWolf had been a U.S. Senator and was reportedly the second richest man in the United States.

The documentary follows ten DeWolf descendants (ages 32-71) as they retrace the steps of the Triangle Trade, visiting the DeWolf hometown of Bristol, Rhode Island, slave forts on the coast of Ghana, and the ruins of a family plantation in Cuba. Back home, the family confronts the thorny topic of what to do with all that they learned. In the context of growing calls for reparations for slavery, family members struggle with the question of how to think about and contribute to "repair." Meanwhile, Browne and her family come closer to the core: their love/hate relationship with their own Yankee culture and privileges; the healing and transformation needed not only "out there," but inside themselves.



New Attender cont. from p. 1

In August of 1976, I moved to Louisville, Ky., to attend graduate school and continued to be an active member of a Baptist church. In late 1989, while I was reading a copy of the book entitled *Living More With Less*, I read a story about the Paoli Mennonite Fellowship near Paoli, Ind., about fifty miles northwest of Louisville. I soon visited that church, joined in January of 1990 and was an active member until moving to Greencroft in February of this year.

I worked as a social worker in health-related services in Louisville and southern Indiana for thirty-five years and retired in 2015. In 2016 I became an active volunteer at Menno-Hof Amish/Mennonite Visitor's Center in Shipshewana and have volunteered there as a tour guide for one or more months almost every year since. When in this area, I visited many Mennonite churches in Elkhart/LaGrange counties including Waterford. I enjoyed and appreciated Waterford church's worship services and adult nurture classes and looked forward to the time I could become a full member of Waterford. And now that time has come! I am thankful for God's grace and guidance throughout my life.

Update

Reparations Process at WMC

Luke Gascho, for the Reparative Justice Group

The Reparative Justice Group (RJG) of Waterford Mennonite Church has been looking at various options for how the congregation can be involved in reparations for significant harms done, past and present, to Indigenous People and to people from Africa who were enslaved by the United States. The RJG has provided several learning experiences and times for discussion with the congregation over the past several years. The RJG submitted a proposal for reparations to the Ministry Leadership Council in January 2026.

It is proposed that people at WMC be invited to make financial gifts that are above budget to a reparations fund. A basket will be made available on the fourth Sunday of every month in which individuals may place their monetary reparations. A brief announcement will be made on this Sunday regarding the purpose of the reparations basket. Checks should be written to WMC with Reparations Fund in the memo line.

It is recommended that the collected money will go to the Reparations-Inspired Fund of Elkhart County.

The funds will be used to redress both past and ongoing harm from centuries of white supremacist policies and practices. The money will be used to support Indigenous and Black people, organizations, and movements in their work of self-determination, ending oppression, and repairing racial harm.

MLC approved the proposal on February 16, 2026.

Waterford MC is a Repair Network member of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and participates in the Regional Consortium of Repair Network members. The Reparations-Inspired Fund of Elkhart County emerged out of the collaborative work the Consortium. Additional information about the Fund can be found at <https://www.reparationsfundec.org>. The following information outlines the focus of the fund.

This fund is one way to respond to the numerous ways in which wealth has been extracted from people of color. This began with stolen land and enslaved labor and continued with numerous other forms of harm. This wealth has primarily benefited white people. It is our hope that this fund will further the work of healing and wholeness among Indigenous and Black communities as well as help predominantly white Christian congregations grow into their calling to be communities of repentance and repair.

We believe a cooperative fund of this sort – rather than having individual congregations/persons do their own, smaller initiatives – will make this effort more sustainable, more impactful, and more of a witness to the community.

The Fund will make its first distribution of funds in January 2027. The distributions will be guided by an advisory committee. WMC advisory members are Lynda Hollinger-Janzen and Jon. Wieand.

The first collection of money for the reparations fund will happen on Sunday, April 26, 2026. There will be baskets at sanctuary doors at the end of the worship service. Checks are to be made out to WMC with “Reparation Fund” in the memo line.

There will be additional teaching and learning opportunities regarding the meaning and importance of reparation in the coming months. MLC will review the reparations process in June 2026.

Waterford Announcements

June Nurture Hour Electives: During the month of June everyone is invited to participate in intergenerational electives in place of our regular nurture classes. As we plan for nine elective offerings, it is helpful to get a sense of how many would be interested in each of the electives. This week, in your mailbox, you will find information on the electives and a card to mark your interest. Please indicate the number of people in your household who are interested in any given elective. Return your card to the basket at the Participation Station by May 3.

Interior Design: Whether you are a professional designer or simply someone who loves making a house feel like a home, you may be interested in joining our new Interior Design Committee. We're looking for about 3 or 4 individuals to help us create and maintain a welcoming environment. If you feel a nudge to contribute your creative gifts to this ministry, we would love to hear from you. For more information or to express your interest please contact Jan Oostland at facilities@waterfordchurch.org.

LAST CALL: The "Draw and Share" poster for individuals to draw and write ideas about accessibility, inclusion, and barriers felt during worship will be available yet this Sunday on a table in the foyer. Please also return any paper or electronic copies of the All In survey by April 15. You can fill out the electronic survey [HERE](#).

Lunch for Prairie View Elementary School Staff: We will provide lunch for the 95 teachers and staff on Monday, May 4, during Teacher Appreciation Week. We will be ordering pulled pork and mac n cheese from Big C's BBQ and offering a smorgasbord of salads and dessert to serve 10-12 people. You can sign up at the Participation Station to provide any kind of salad or dessert. Items may be brought to the church on Sunday, May 3, or dropped off at the church between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m. on May 4.

Upcoming Events

Camila Perez Diener's senior art show, runs until April 24 in the Hershberger Art Gallery in the Music Center at Goshen College. An **opening reception will be held this Sunday**, April 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. See www.goshen.edu/about/news-events/events/senior-exhibit-ii-opening-reception/

Monthly Taizé-inspired gatherings for prayer: "Keep your lamps trimmed and burning": Sundays, April 12 and May 10 at 7:30–8:30 p.m. at Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, 909 N. Sixth St., Goshen. We will pray together with songs from the Taizé Community, Scripture, candlelight and stillness. Hosts: Walnut Hill and AMBS's Faith Formation Collaborative.

Yoder-Culp Funeral Home will be hosting a **seminar on funeral pre-planning** on Thursday, April 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Dinner will be provided while they share information about options for funeral planning. This is purely an education event to provide the community with options to reduce stress on their family at the time of their passing. Please **RSVP to Ethan at 574-533-3153 by Monday, April 13**. See poster on the bulletin board for more details.

MCUSA

In 2025, MC USA awarded four **Justice Fund grants** to congregations addressing urgent needs related to immigration justice and the ecological impacts of climate injustice. Read about the recipients and learn how to apply for a 2026 grant here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/justice-fund-recipients-respond/>

Michael Danner, MC USA's associate executive director of Church Vitality, explains that MC USA is not a membership association but **a community of co-laborers** in Christ, where congregations, conferences and the national church work together to support pastoral leadership, safe church practices and congregational vitality. Read his Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/were-not-an-association/>

MMN

Can a gap year change your life? Only if you're up for adventure! Applications are now open for the 2026-27 term. **Service Adventure** is a 10-month volunteer experience **for young adults ages 17-20**. Live in community with peers and unit leaders, serve with local nonprofit agencies, and grow in your faith with a supporting church congregation! Learn more and apply at MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure.

AMBS

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

(combining online work and one week on campus) include Biblical Storytelling and History of Christian Spirituality. **One in-person course** is available: Spiritual Practices: Trees of Life (May 29–30). Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first two courses for credit! Sign up by May 4. ambs.edu/upcoming-courses

Gain peacebuilding skills at AMBS! Prepare for work and scholarship at the cross-section of theology and transformative peacebuilding through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's 52-credit-hour **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies** program. ambs.edu/matps

Pathways Retreat

Pathways Retreat is offering a variety of programs and workshops this spring:

- Attuning to the Seasons
- Honoring our Pain for the World
- God's Wonderful Creatures
- Weekly Yoga
- Inner Soul Groups are forming for fall 2026 through spring 2027

Click on this [link](#) to find more information in their monthly newsletter or learn more at pathwaysretreat.org.

Mennonite Action Prayers, Tuesday, April 21, noon to 1 p.m., College Mennonite Church sanctuary. Come to pray and be in solidarity with other peacebuilders, praying for people and leaders in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Venezuela, United States, and the end of occupation, oppression, and violence everywhere. We will pray with songs, scripture, silence, and spoken prayers. This is a time to hold mixed feelings while struggling to respond to events in our world. You may stop in briefly or stay for the hour.

Relief Sale Crafting Day. Spring has sprung! Come shake off the winter doldrums with fun crafting and good fellowship. We will be meeting on **Saturday, April 25 from 10 to 2** (bring a lunch!) on the lower level of East Goshen Mennonite Church. We'll be making denim hair bows, denim keychains, fabric ornaments and decoupaged wooden trays. As always, all items made will be sold at the Relief Sale. Please rsvp to crafting.mmr@gmail.com by April 23. Bring a friend!

Greencroft Goshen will host a **free lunch & learn event for caregivers** on Wednesday, April 29, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Greencroft Goshen Community Center, at 1820 Greencroft Blvd., Goshen. The event will highlight Adult Day Services at Thelma A. Schrock Homestead and provide practical support and education for caregivers in the community. The event is free, but advance registration is required. To RSVP, please call Kerry Ann Sandsmark at (574) 537-4181 by April 22. For details about the program, see the "Lunch and Learn" flier on the bulletin board.

John McCutcheon Benefit Concert! Join us for a wonderful evening of music with the one and only John McCutcheon! A portion of the proceeds will go towards supporting the work of Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN). May 1, 2026, 7 p.m. at Waterford Mennonite Church. You can buy tickets (\$25) at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork1/1953412>

Opportunities

Prairie Street Mennonite Church is hiring a Bilingual Office Assistant. The Bilingual Office Assistant will primarily be responsible for coordinating administrative tasks to support the mission of an intercultural, Anabaptist congregation. A [full job description is available online](#) and applications for the position will be accepted through April 17. This is a part-time position (12-16 hours per week, negotiable) and with compensation ranging between \$18-23 per hour (depending on qualifications). Please write to Pastor Quinn if you have any questions (quinn@praiiestreetmc.org).

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart is accepting applications for a **full-time Digital Marketing and Publications Manager**. The person in this combined position will lead projects for AMBS's Marketing and Communications Team and the Institute of Mennonite Studies (IMS), the seminary's research agency. Responsibilities include: managing the seminary's website; overseeing digital marketing; database management; video production; social media strategy and implementation; and coordinating IMS's publications and digital media strategy. Applicants interested in half-time employment for either part of the role may note this preference in their cover letter. View the full [job description](#).