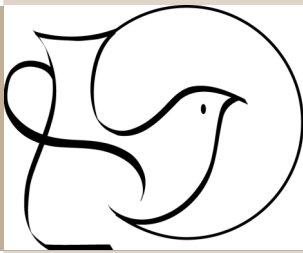


This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
5:00 p.m. - Traces of the Trade



April 19, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

Welcome Team

Greeters: Elizabeth Stauffer,
Karen Sommers
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Carla
Miller, LaVon Short
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey,
Steve Fath
Nursery: Judy Snyder, Laura
Dick; Bonnie Miller, Cheryl
Snyder

This Week at Waterford

Monday

5:15 p.m. - All In meeting
7:00 p.m. - MLC / Fell. Hall

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. - New member mtg
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - MYF
7:00 p.m. - Venture Club, JYF

Thursday

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

Zoom prayers

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Thank You

Thanks to our church family for the support you give to projects initiated by Mennonite Women. Twenty sewing kits were completed this month and given to MCC for distribution.

We also exceeded our 300 sewn school bags goal and now have 324 completed and ready to fill this fall. After our school kit drive in July/August and the relief kit drive during November/December, precut material will again be available to sew more school bags during the winter months. You can still return completed bags to Karen or Joyce's church mail box.

Thank you each one for your part in ministry to our brothers and sisters in need!

—Joyce Bontrager for Mennonite Women

We would like to express our gratitude to the Mennonite Education Fund and its supporters for the contributions towards our children's education at Bethany this past school year.

—The parents of: Gretchen and Lucas Bateman; Cori Chupp; Ethan, Hannah, and Lena Claassen; Neer Goswami; Jasper and Eliza Method; Gio Molina; Dominic and Zeke Ramer

Waterford Mennonite Church

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Goshen, IN 46526
Phone 574-533-5642
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 225

Nurture Hour - 220

Finances – April 5, 2026

Operating Fund	\$2,680.00
Mennonite Ed	\$837.55
Either Fund	\$2,855.00
<i>Budget Total</i>	<i>\$6,372.55</i>
Jubilee Fund	\$60.00
Least Coin Fund	\$44.00
Total	\$6,476.55

Looking Ahead

April 26: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Installation of Ursula Hess
(*Luke 24:13-35*)

May 3: Receiving New Members

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser
Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz
Monday - Thursday

Ursula Hess

Out of Office

Katie Misz - April 21-29

Cindy Voth - April 22

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?

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

Sunday April 19: Mennonite Action Pledge Sunday

Mennonite Action is grateful for the ways Waterford members have supported the organization through financial gifts, by hosting and taking part in the Build Your Courage Tour last December, and most of all by showing up at actions to protest the violent policies in the Middle East and the violent ways in which immigrant neighbors and asylum seekers are being arrested and torn from their families in our own cities and communities.

As a church, Waterford is committed to living out Anabaptist theology in contemporary times. Through the training, resources, and organizing provided by Mennonite Action, including our local Michiana chapter, we can be part of a larger movement speaking out for an alternative way of peace through justice and building communities of welcome and respect for human rights and dignity.

Mennonite Action is funded almost entirely by individual donors rather than through large grants or foundations. Monthly donors help provide a sustainable source of necessary income, enabling staff to project resources into the future and spend less time on fundraising. They are inviting Waterford, along with other supporting churches, to help them reach their goal of 750 individual monthly donors by the end of this year.

This Sunday, April 19, is Pledge Sunday. If you are interested in contributing or knowing more, please stop by to see Liz Gingrich at a table near the library.

You may also sign up directly at this link to pledge your tax deductible monthly donation: <http://mennoniteaction.org/donate>

Waterford Announcements

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* tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. 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.

Anabaptist World Magazine 2026 Group Subscription: It's time to renew our group subscription to Anabaptist World magazine. If you would like to renew your subscription or begin a subscription, please complete the form in your mailbox (or on the table below the mailboxes) and return it with the subscription fee of \$49 to the Church Office **by May 3, 2026**. (Make check payable to **Waterford Mennonite Church**, with Anabaptist World on the memo line.

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 three or four 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.

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. Last week, in your mailbox, there was 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.

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.

Amigo Centre Wild Church Retreat, May 15-17. Experience the presence of God through observations of nature and sharing with others: witness the hope of the Creator in the delicate flowers; smell the aroma of new beginnings in the fresh pine air; and hear the wisdom of God through the voices of others. Facilitated by Sharon Brugger Norton, pastor of Outdoor Sanctuary Wild Church. **Register by May 1** at bit.ly/AmigoRegistration.

Upcoming Events

Give soap full of hope — Help MCC collect bars of soap in April & May: MCC provides soap to hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps in countries where soap is expensive or difficult to source. There is a need for soap beyond what is supplied in kits. MCC Great Lakes invites you to take part in a special collection of bath soap and laundry soap throughout April and May. Find specifications and more information at mcc.org/soap. Drop off soap at the MCC Material Resources Center at the Depot.

Shane Claiborne to speak Monday evening, April 20 in Goshen. Author and activist Shane Claiborne of Philadelphia, Pa., will speak at 7 p.m. Monday, April 20, at College Mennonite Church. His topic: "A Crisis of Faith and Democracy." Sponsored by Michiana Voices for Middle East Peace, the event is free and open to the public. For more info, contact: ana@michianavoices.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.

MCUSA

Mennonite Church USA joined hundreds of faith leaders to sign a **letter rejecting demonization of migrants**, erosion of human and Constitutional rights. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/call-to-christians/>

In "Widen the circle of our heart and our awareness," Mennonite Church USA's **Glen Guyton reflects on his trip to Minneapolis** and challenges the church to expand its compassion, deepen its cultural humility and actively embody Christ-centered love in a divided world. Read his Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/widen-the-circle/>

MMN

Tap a shoulder: What moves someone to step up and serve? Often, it's a parent, pastor, church leader or mentor planting a seed. Did you know more than 600 current pastors and church leaders first answered their call through voluntary service? Who in your family and congregation might be ready for that same life-shaping experience? Who needs your encouragement to share their gifts and discover how God is at work in the world?

Applications are **open to individuals age 20+**, for the **Mennonite Voluntary Service 2026-27 term** — a one-year experience with the option to extend for an additional one to two years. **Placements are available in four locations:** Alamosa, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, California; and Tucson, Arizona. Learn more MennoniteMission.net/MVS.

AMBS

Church matching grants for seminary. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary offers grants of up to \$3,000 per academic year to match contributions that congregations, conferences and regional churches make toward an eligible full-time graduate student's tuition costs. Part-time students may be eligible for matching grants as well. We're committed to making theological education affordable and accessible for students across the church — tap a shoulder! ambs.edu/church-matching-grants

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 4 for the for-credit course or by May 22 for the noncredit retreat. ambs.edu/trees

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.

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.mmrs@gmail.com by April 23. Bring a friend!

Camila Perez Diener's senior art show runs until April 24 in the Hershberger Art Gallery in the Music Center at Goshen College. Gallery hours: Weekdays, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2–4 p.m. See www.goshen.edu/about/news-events/events/senior-exhibit-ii-opening-reception/

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, 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.

Join **Mennonite Action Michiana for our April Dessert** and Solidarity meeting, Thursday, April 30, 7-8:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Mennonite Church, 23786 Sunnyside Ave, Elkhart. **Steve Thomas**, USA Co-Coordinator of Mennonite Men **will report on the recent joint initiative** of Mennonite Men, Mennonite Palestine-Israel Network (MennoPIN) and Mennonite Action staff **planting olive trees alongside Palestinian farmers**. They returned home eight days before the U.S. and Israel bombed Iran. Bring a dessert to share. Coffee and tea provided. Childcare also provided.

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>

Opportunity for kids

Created to Care Summer Camp: Join Mennonite Central Committee and Pathways Retreat on July 13-17 for a week of discovery, action and fun as we learn what it means to care for God's creation! Created to Care is a hands-on day camp (9 a.m.-12 p.m.) for youth entering 4th-6th grades who want to explore the connection between our faith and the natural world around us. The week will culminate with a visit to the Pokagon Band in Dowagiac, Mich., on Friday. Registration fee is by sliding scale. More information and registration at mcc.org/created-to-care