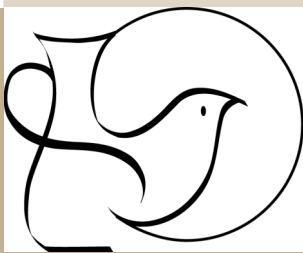


The MCC Learning Tour group visiting MCC Partner CASM (Comision de Accion Social Menonita) in Honduras. The vests they wore bore an emblem on the back that identified them as CASM subjects to facilitate security clearances and minimize security risks as they traveled to places where CASM and MCC were engaged with migrants.



May 17, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
5:00 p.m. - Congregational Meeting / FH

Welcome Team

Greeters: Velma & Sheldon Swartz
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, LaVon Short
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey, Jeff Claassen
Nursery: Shelby Eby, Layna Stoltzfus; Barb Landes, Cori Chupp

This Week at Waterford

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

MCC Leadership Learning Tour (LLT 13-25 April 2026)

George Thompson

Greetings Waterford Sisters and Brothers. As I mentioned in the May 3 “God’s Work Among Us” about the MCC Leadership Learning Tour, I decided to abandon my notes in the interest of time. Looking back over my notes I realize there were a few important points I would still like to share.

The group that went on this two-week LLT included Canada, US, and some regional MCC leadership. Against a lot of odds, it was a very successful tour. Over hundreds of miles in two countries (Honduras and Guatemala), every aspect of the agenda was accomplished as planned. This was made possible by the tenacity and diligence of our leaders, the Area Directors of Latin and Central America and the Caribbean (Cesar Flores & Lisette Miranda and Jacob Lesniewski). We visited many MCC partners—agencies or organizations that are engaged in relief and development or peace, justice, and equality work.

Migration was the main theme of our tour. In recent years there have been many deported or self-returning migrants. Most are destitute. MCC and its partners meet returning migrants at airports, at bus terminals and literally on the streets. In Honduras, they work with centers that may (or may not) receive some government support to provide immediate and transitory needs like food, clothing, medical or psychological support. In Guatemala, we visited a Catholic Partner. Casa del Migrante provides hundreds of mattresses for transient stays. Of course, these centers are short term. After a few days that might grow into a couple of weeks, the hope is that returning migrants will have found relatives or friends to assume care for them, though many remain destitute and downtrodden.

Continued...

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 230

Nurture Hour - 197

Finances – May 10, 2026

Operating Fund \$3,025.00

Mennonite Ed \$3,155.52

Either Fund \$5,330.00

Total \$11,510.52

Looking Ahead

May 24: Joint Area Pentecost
Service at Goshen College

May 31: Receiving New
Members

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz

Monday - Thursday

Ursula Hess

Office hours this week

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9-12, 1-3

Tuesday CLOSED

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 no more than 600 words and sent to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

Janet Shoemaker, Editor
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

This is where MCC & Partner classes have been such an uplift. While mostly women attend the training classes, the skills are numerous: e.g. Budgeting, Soap Making, Perfume Making, A/C Repair, Local Building Methods, Climate Resistant Gardening, Establishing Tortilla and other food shops, to name a few. I witnessed numerous expressions of extreme gratefulness to MCC from individuals and families for MCC's encouragement and assistance toward independence.

One partner we visited in Honduras was a Mennonite Church and School (Iglesia Evangelica Menonita & the White Dove School). Over the years MCC has assisted in numerous ways to strengthen and/or provide educational opportunities for children and youth in a neighborhood that used to be severely affected by gang violence. I was blessed to hear some of the older school children talk about how happy they were to have a chance to complete their schooling.

Another partner in Guatemala City is called Proyecto Esperanza (Project Hope). We walked for hours in what was called "The Market," a one to two square mile area near the center of the city that has been shunned by the government and therefore receives no city services. Yet there are thousands of people there. Proyecto Esperanza estimates there are 5000 children in "The Market." MCC, working alongside Proyecto Esperanza has established a school outside of The Market to provide meals and lessons for many of the children who cannot qualify to attend schools outside of The Market. This also helps adults (again, mostly women) to train, start, and maintain businesses in The Market while their children are under Proyecto Esperanza's care. Altogether, this has the result of raising some families out of dire or poverty-stricken circumstances.

At the Seminary in Guatemala City (SEMILLA) we attended a celebrative gala to commemorate 50 years of MCC work in Guatemala and El Salvador following a devastating earthquake in the region. MCC's sustained participation has often started with a catastrophe. At right is a picture of the locally fine-cut commemorative trophy.

On the last day, we went to Antigua, a thriving city in a valley, full of cobblestone streets and many businesses that cater to tourists. The city is flanked with several active volcanoes, one of which erupted while we were in the country. Antigua was originally Guatemala's capital but a devastating earthquake in 1773 mandated moving the capital to Guatemala City. Some of the Spanish ruins have been maintained in Antigua.

MCC exists in 45 countries around the world. While its actual monetary impact on a project is sometimes small, its contribution can be very significant when it assists with training, advises on Peace and Justice issues and provides personnel "free of charge" to partners. Short-term youth volunteers play a significant role here! And the experience usually has a positive life-changing effect on the volunteer! MCC Leadership Learning Tours are designed to get leaders into the field where there are "boots on the ground," so to speak; except the boots are not there to knock people down, but to lift them up! May it be so.

Editor's note: For more stories of the people they met and MCC's work with migrants and development, you can watch George's presentation on May 3 at youtube.com/watch?v=iQxgLOIxtgQ



ALL-IN

All-In Survey Report to WMC

Lorene Miller, All In Project Leader

In April the All-In Committee administered surveys to WMC to obtain current information on the observations and experiences of worship practices and persons with disabilities. Results were gathered from individual respondents and focus groups, including elementary students through senior adults. Approximately 100 persons participated in the survey process in some form.

Predictably, the observations and comments varied and some even conflicted. Nevertheless a strong majority of respondents appreciate the worship experience at Waterford and the intentional inclusion of persons with disabilities.

While the committee and WMC will seek enhancements to inclusivity, we don't want perfection to minimize the good.

Please click on this [link](#) to view a more detailed summary of the survey results.

MCUSA

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, MC USA's denominational minister of Peace and Justice, shares five practical ways congregations can practice **faithful environmental stewardship** and respond to climate change with hope and action. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/cultivating-hope/>

Waterford Announcements

Congregational Meeting: Plan to attend the May congregational meeting this Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. Bring finger foods to share. Please bring with you your copies of the agenda, ballots, and additional information in your box today. If you will not be able to be there and want to vote absentee, there is a basket on the table outside the office to put completed and signed ballots by noon, Sunday May 17. *Note: The meeting will not be Zoomed.*

Save the Date! Our next "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" will be on June 28! Forms will be in mailboxes on May 31 to sign up to be a host or a guest. —Fellowship Ministry Team

Next Sunday, May 24, is **Pentecost Sunday**. There will be a **joint service** with other area Mennonite Churches at **College Mennonite Church** beginning at 9:30 a.m. Pre-service singing starts at 9:15. There will be an offering taken for the Emergency Fund at First Light Mission. Cash or check made to Central District Conference with "Pentecost" written in the memo line. There will be no service or nurture hour at Waterford.

We are needing one or two additional ushers for our Sunday morning services. If you would like to be a regular or substitute usher, please contact Glenn Reinford at reinfordgl@gmail.com or 574-304-3472.

MMN

Anchorage needs a Service Adventure leader! Are you sensing God's call to mentor and guide young adults as they grow in faith, service and community? Want to live in a beautiful place like Anchorage, Alaska? 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!**

Upcoming Events

The Neglected and Ignored: On May 18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Koinonia Room at College Mennonite Church, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi will give an overview of Potawatomi history on this land and context for the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous people. We might even be honored with a drum and dance presentation!

AMBS

AMBS Trees of Life Retreat:

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

Anabaptist Short Course

Bundle. Get the best deal on Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's collection of discussion-based online short courses! Take four noncredit online courses in 2026–27 for only \$995 USD total and save more than \$400. (The regular price is \$350/course.) Each course lasts six weeks and will help you deepen your understanding of Anabaptist history, thought, witness and practice. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. ambs.edu/bundle

Pathways Retreat

Pathways Retreat is offering a variety of programs and workshops this spring: Attuning to the Seasons, God's Wonderful Creatures, Weekly Yoga, and Created to Care Youth Summer Camp. Inner Soul Groups are forming for fall 2026 through spring 2027. Learn more at pathwaysretreat.org. Read their [newsletter](#).

Warren and Rhoda Byler Yoder, from **Open Door church in Jackson, MS** will be sharing on Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 pm, at East Goshen Mennonite Church. They are excited to share about their church's new initiative called **Peace Lab**. They have created a residential "camp" for teens to help Next Gen leaders learn the work of peace to address the world's craziness. If you want a preview, visit their website: opendoormennonite.org. Please join us to hear more about Open Door's vision!

Want to make some new friends and learn a new craft, all while helping out those in need around the world? Come join us on our next **Crafting Day** on Saturday, May 30 from 10-2 at East Goshen Mennonite Church, lower level. Bring a lunch and a friend! We will be making Norwegian Star ornaments, fabric ornaments, headbands and paper beads. No skills needed and all supplies will be provided. The completed items will be sold at the Mennonite Relief Sale in September. **Please rsvp by May 27** to crafting.mMrs@gmail.com. Hope you can join us! Our last crafting day of the year will be August 22.

SING HOPE! Join **The Open Fifths** as we conclude our tenth anniversary season with two concerts featuring spirituals, hymns, and songs arranged for low voices. Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31, 7 p.m., Reith Recital Hall, Goshen College Music Center. We look forward to celebrating with you! Advance tickets at the Goshen College box office and goshen.edu/tickets - \$15, \$10 students; or \$10 for tickets directly from Jeff Miller & Ben Hochstedler.

MCC Grandparents' Day Kit Packing: What better way to spend time with your grandchildren than volunteering together to pack kits for MCC? Grandparents are invited to bring their grandchild(ren) to an MCC kit-packing event at the MCC Material Resources Center in Goshen (1013 Division Street) on Wednesday, June 24 or Thursday, June 25 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Please register for one (or both) time slots by visiting mcc.org/goshen-grandparents or by calling 574-534-4071.

Ryan's Place is hosting **two summer day camps for grieving children and teens**. Camp Hope and Camp Horizon provide compassionate support and a nurturing environment for individuals coping with the death of a person. Camps are designed to foster healing and resilience through meaningful activities and connections. Camp Hope is for children ages 6 to 12, June 23–25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Camp Horizon is for teens ages 13 to 18, July 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Both camps will take place at 1566 Regent St, Goshen. Camps are **FREE** to attend, but **pre-registration is required**. Call 574-535-1000 or visit ryansplace.org for more information.

Join MC USA for a **summit exploring the impact of militarism**. We'll come together to reflect, learn and engage in thoughtful dialogue on waging peace in meaningful ways. The summit will be held at Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, Pennsylvania, November 6-7. [Sign up here](#) to receive updates about registration and the summit.

Opportunities

Camp Amigo Nurses Needed! We are seeking volunteer nurses to support our summer camp program Sunday through Friday, as well as individuals who may be available to fill in for a day or two as needed throughout the summer. This is a meaningful opportunity to care for campers and be part of the fun, impactful ministry experience! For more information, please contact kelsie@amigocentre.org. To apply, visit AmigoCentre.org/Summer-Employment.