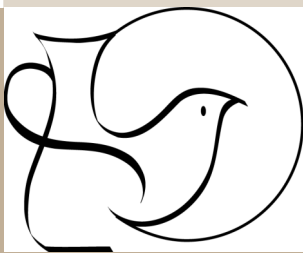




May 5, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
12:00 p.m. - Fellowship Meal

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jon. & Mary Ann Wieand
Ushers: Ken Otto, Douglas Graber, Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Steve Fath
Nursery: Cynthia & Gordon Bontrager; Krista Daniels, Lacy Stoltzfus

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - Mentors/Mentees

Thursday

3:00 p.m. - Senior Adult MT
6:30 p.m. - Stephen Ministers
MYF Rm, Rm 15

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

Sabbatical Plans

Pastor Deron Bergstresser

Thank you, Waterford, for offering your pastors the gift of rest and renewal!

As I prepare for a sabbatical (June 29 - September 28), I am deeply grateful that over 23 years of pastoral ministry, I have had the privilege of three sabbaticals. Each one seemed to come at just the right time, inviting me to grow as a person and a pastor, to deepen my love for God and the church, and to be uniquely present in an important stage of family life.

The summer of 2026 feels like the right time again, as Annette and I prepare for the “empty nest” when our younger daughter joins her sister in college this fall. We’re grateful for this unique summer to spend time giving thanks for what has been and anticipating what will be.

Sabbatical will also be a time for silence, prayer and study — alone and in community. **I Kings 19:11-13** will give my summer an overall focus. It’s a reminder to let God’s stillness and quiet interpret my life and ministry for me, from deep within. Sabbatical silence challenges me to be confronted with my own inner noise, and to listen beyond it — for deeper love, a clearer sense of call, and an opening to correction, growth and new possibilities.

The spiritual purpose of my sabbatical is to return with renewed energy for ongoing fruitful ministry with you as we seek to follow Jesus and serve our community together.

Continued...

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 219

Nurture Hour - 220

Finances – April 26, 2026

Operating Fund \$4,397.75

Mennonite Ed \$8,175.00

Either Fund \$4,655.00

Budget Total \$17,227.75

Reparations Fund \$3,234.00

Total **\$20,461.75**

Looking Ahead

May 10: Receiving New Members

May 17: Sermon: Esther Farmwald with Katie Misz;
Grad Sunday

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team

Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz

Monday - Thursday

Ursula Hess

Out of Office

Cindy Voth - May 3-6

Janet Shoemaker - May 4-9

Office hours this week

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

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

My plans include:

- **July 13-16:** Silent retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery, Madison, Wisconsin, a ecumenical Benedictine center. I'll stay in the hermitage, walk the 130-acre campus, and join the daily prayer rhythm, including morning and evening centering prayer groups.
- **July 21-30:** Family trip to Durango, Colorado. We will stay in an Airbnb and go hiking, visit Mesa Verde National Park, and take in some hot springs. We're open to suggestions from Colorado natives and enthusiasts!
- **August 29-30:** The Journey of Growth Workshop with the Enneagram Institute (via Zoom). I have long appreciated the Enneagram as a tool for spiritual growth, self-awareness, and increasing empathy toward others.
- **September:** Annette and I plan to spend a few days in Chicago at Holy Cross Monastery. We look forward to attending Solemn Vespers with Sola Laudis, a professional choir that sings the masterworks of the Renaissance in the context of the evening liturgy.

I will also join a Men's Inner Soul group at Pathways Retreat Center in Goshen. Designed for leaders, this group meets monthly for a full-day retreat, sharing contemplative prayer and group spiritual direction.

I'll also have several weeks at home in Goshen. I'm committed to renewing my daily practice of centering prayer, including while running or hiking. I'd like to write some poems and songs. We are also hoping to visit my family in Pennsylvania.

I look forward to reading, re-reading, or finally finishing the following books. Feel free to pick one (or more) if you are interested in reading along with me. I would love to have a book conversation with you when I return!

- **Spirituality and prayer:** Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*. Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart*. Barbara A. Holmes, *Crisis Contemplation: Healing the Wounded Village*. Cynthia Bourgeault, *The Heart of Centering Prayer: Nondual Christianity in Theory and Practice*.
- **Aging and end-of-life wisdom:** Joan Chittister, *The Gift of Years*. Stephen Jenkinson, *Die Wise*.
- **Theology:** Willie James Jennings, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*.
- **Learning my Pennsylvania history:** John L. Ruth, *This Very Ground, This Crooked Affair: A Mennonite Homestead on Lenape Land*.
- **Because it's the best novel on religion and the arts, family, and coming of age (in my opinion):** Chaim Potok, *My Name is Asher Lev*.

Thank you for the opportunity to fully embrace this time of renewal. Please pray for my family and me as we enter this experience. And know that I am committed to praying for you as well.

Interim Summer Pastor

Sabbatical Coverage Plans

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

I am excited to share with you that our very own Amanda Stoltzfus has accepted the invitation to join the pastoral team as Interim Summer Pastor during Pastor Deron's sabbatical renewal leave. Within this role, Amanda will help provide care and support to our seniors ages 60 and older. She will work closely with Ursula Hess, Chaplain for Senior Adults, who provides care for our seniors who are unable to attend church. Additionally, Amanda will relate to Class Shepherds with members over 60 to stay in the communication loop of needs with class members. Amanda is looking forward to spending time with our senior adults (particularly ages 60-80ish), hearing their stories, sharing a cup of coffee/tea, and offering a compassionate presence during health and life challenges. Senior Adults, in the next month or so you might begin seeing Amanda more often as she will be accompanying Deron on some pastoral visits. Please join Katie, Ursula, and I in welcoming Amanda to this interim role!

Over the course of Deron's sabbatical we will also have the gift of hearing from several different guest preachers to cover Deron's preaching load. We will welcome back Pastor Monica Miller, Conference Pastor Sharon Yoder, and our own Lyle Miller. On August 9, Karl Shelly, pastoral team member at Assembly Mennonite Church, will serve as our guest preacher as well as leader of our joint adult nurture hour.

I (Cindy) will become the pastoral representative with our Stephen Leaders Team and will assist with pastoral care and funerals as needed. I will also meet regularly with Ursula and Amanda. Our very own Steve Fath will work with Ursula to help to provide leadership to the monthly senior adult gathering at Greencroft that Deron leads.

I am grateful for the many ways individuals are open to sharing their gifts and time during Deron's sabbatical! I pray that it will be a meaningful time of renewal for Deron, and a time of meaningful connections and community for our congregation.



Amanda Stoltzfus

Endowment Fund

Spring 2026 Endowment Distributions

Doug Yoder, for the Endowment Fund Committee

The WMC Endowment Committee received two requests for funds this Spring 2026.

- We have awarded \$1000 to the Goshen Community Chorale for their Spring concert which will be a five-year celebration of the Voices Together hymnal.
- We have awarded \$4200 to the Prykhodko family that Dave and Marge Gingerich and others have sponsored to pay part of the fees to renew their United for Ukraine status for their family of five.

The Endowment fund totaled \$224,400 at the end of 2025. Five percent of the fund is dispersed annually, two and one half percent Spring and Fall.

Guidelines and applications may be found on the church website.

Stephen Ministry Update

Stephen Ministries "50 Years of Caring"

Karl Birky, for Stephen Leaders

Stephen Ministries recently celebrated "50 Years of Caring" and five Waterford Mennonite Church members participated in the celebration. Begun in 1975 in St. Louis, the ministry is growing beyond the current 14,000 congregations worldwide. We estimate Stephen Ministries at Waterford Mennonite Church has cared for 100 people since it began in 2009. The celebration included the transition of the founding pastor of Stephen Ministries to the new CEO who shared his vision for the future.

Responding to the growing concern regarding mental health in our culture and society, Stephen Ministries has expanded their focus to empower congregations to teach people interpersonal and coping skills. The goal is to equip individuals to relate in healthy ways and know how to deal with the inevitable difficulties of life. The intent is to reduce the number of people experiencing a mental health crisis. Stephen Ministry at Waterford Mennonite Church will continue to be present with those among us facing change, loss, pain and questions as resources and Stephen Ministers are available. We continue to believe there is a need for additional Stephen Ministers at Waterford Mennonite Church, especially for men in our faith community.

Please talk with a Stephen Leader, a Stephen Minister, or someone who has received care about their experience and change, aware that participating could provide a similar change in your life. We believe Stephen Ministry makes a difference in people's lives and are confident you will too if you become involved with Stephen Ministry at Waterford Mennonite Church. If for no other reason, the Stephen Ministry training and becoming a Stephen Minister will change you.



Mel & Lorna Claassen, Karl Birky, and Debbie & Steve Fath at the "50 Years of Caring" celebration.

Worship Distractions

Cardinal in Distress

Loanne Harms

A female Cardinal at a window can symbolize good news, positive changes and the presence of loved ones who have passed away. Spiritually she represents loyalty, domestic comfort and the coming of brighter days.

But scientifically, she is seeing her reflection in the window and attacking it as a trespasser in her territory. Cardinals are very territorial especially during breeding season, and especially May and June. She repeatedly flies at the window to fight this perceived intruder causing herself stress and possible injury. And disturbing the peace of worship and work here at church.

To help ease her stress and restore peace inside for worship, our goal is to break the reflections of the glass, at least for the month of May. Research doesn't provide any positive solutions so we will continue to experiment. We appreciate your grace and patience as we explore and implement options.

Directory Changes

Please make note of the following changes to your WMC directory:

Cora Askren has moved to Greencroft Healthcare, Vista #231.

Court Chupp
406 1/2 High Park Ave
Goshen, IN 46526
(574) 238-8968

Bonnie Miller's email should be bonita4@gmail.com

Matthew Herrmann
524 Alana Dr
Goshen, IN 46526

LaVon and Linda Short
2069 Whispering Pines Ct
Goshen, IN 46526

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday:

- **Noon fellowship meal** hosted by the Open Door class. Bring a dish or two to share. Remember to bring hot dishes in a crockpot or slow cooker.
- **June Nurture Hour Electives Survey forms** are due. Please return your card to the basket at the participation table. There are extra forms there if you need one.
- Last chance to turn in your **Anabaptist World Magazine 2026 Subscription** renewal payment and information. Subscription fee is \$49. Make check payable to **Waterford Mennonite Church**, with Anabaptist World on the memo line.
- **Lunch items for Prairie View Staff:** If you bring something on Sunday that needs to be refrigerated, please mark it well for PVES so it doesn't get served at the potluck! You can also drop off your salad or dessert at the church on Monday between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m.
- **You will find in your mailbox** the agenda and two ballots for our congregational meeting on May 17. If you need to vote absentee, there is a basket on the table outside the office to put completed and signed ballots by noon on the 17th.

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.

Upcoming Events

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.

MCUSA

"If the church can learn to stand in solidarity with communities in their most vulnerable places, not as saviors, but as siblings, then there is hope," wrote Pedro A. Ramos-Goycolea, pastor of Shalom Mennonite Fellowship in Tucson, Arizona, reflecting on his experience at MC USA's **2026 Hope for the Future gathering**. Read his Menno Snapshots blog, "[Faith that multiplies](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/faith-that-multiplies/)," here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/faith-that-multiplies/>

MMN

Live out your faith through service! **Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS)** is now accepting applications for the 2026-27 term. This one-year volunteer experience is open to **individuals age 20+**, with the option to extend placements for an additional one to two years. Serve with organizations addressing critical community needs, such as health, education, immigration and more. You won't do it alone, though! By living with peers in a unit house and growing with a local faith community, MVSers join in the global movement to work for peace and a more just world. Ready to jump in? Go to MennoniteMission.net/MVS to learn more and apply. **Placements are available in the following locations:** Alamosa, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, California; and Tucson, Arizona.

AMBS

Employment openings at

AMBS. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is accepting applications for four full-time positions: Director of Enrollment, Director of Library Services, Digital Marketing and Publications Manager, and Assistant Director of Maintenance. Please share about these openings with people you know who may be interested! See the job descriptions: ambs.edu/jobs

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

Saturday, May 9 the **Goshen Community Chorale** will present *Who Is My Neighbor?*, a community hymn sing held at College Mennonite Church. Dr. Regina Shands Stoltzfus will serve as liturgist for this sacred concert. Bradley Kauffman is musical director. The program will feature songs from the hymnal *Voices Together* (MennoMedia, 2020), with significant audience participation. The program will hold space for many emotions and sentiments, among them fear, anger, love, resilience, courage, and hope

Monthly Taizé-inspired gatherings for prayer: “Keep your lamps trimmed and burning”: Sunday, 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.

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.

Amigo Centre Golf Scramble, May 30, at Klinger Lake Country Club, (21050 US-12, Sturgis, Mich.). Proceeds from this event support Amigo Centre’s high-quality summer camp programming, especially providing registration scholarships for low-income youth. Register now at AmigoCentre.org/golf-scramble, or call 269-651-2811.

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.

Resource

In February 2025, **Mennonites in the Twin Cities gathered on [video](#) to share our experiences of life during Operation Metro Surge in the hopes of reaching you: our Anabaptist community across the country.** Many of us saw that our family and friends back home were not being given the opportunity to hear the truth of what we were witnessing daily: the best and worst in humanity, from one moment to the next. For many of us, the winter clarified our faith and what it means to be called to Christ-like action. And to take that action, even when shaking in our winter boots. While we are grateful for the recent drawdown of armed federal agents in our cities, the struggle is not over and it will take our citizens and state years to recover.

Find the video here: [Mennonite Voices from Minneapolis & St Paul](#)

The 34-minute video is intended to work well for viewing and discussion at church—in education hour, youth groups, or small groups. Sadly, the tactics we experienced in our streets are being employed in other communities around the country. We pray that our stories can inspire you, our fellow Anabaptists, to engage your elected officials, take steps to prepare, and ultimately protect your neighbors and each other. Thank you for opening your hearts to what we have to share.