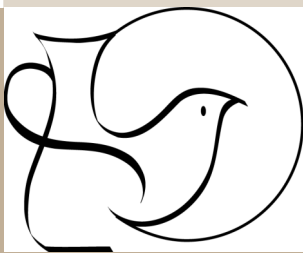




May 31, 2026



# 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, Ken Otto, Mark King  
Audiovisuals: Bob Hochstedler, Shawn Stutzman  
Nursery: Susan Gingerich, Becky Bateman; Julie Zehr, Neer Goswami

## **This Week at Waterford**

### **Monday**

7:00 p.m. - MLC/FH

### **Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. - MYF

### **Thursday**

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

## **Senior Adult Corner**

*Brenda Janzen, interviewer and compiler\**



Elsie Hershberger Yoder was born the eldest of four children in 1939. Her family lived in Holmes County, Ohio, and were Amish at the time. When she was 10 years old, her father sustained a farm injury that left him unable to handle farm horses any longer. The family moved to New Paris, Indiana and joined Fairhaven Mennonite Church, which was Amish Mennonite. This group drove vehicles and used electricity which allowed her father to continue farming. Elsie went to school from fourth grade

through two years of high school in New Paris. At that point, her parents thought she could quit school and help with the farm.

When she was 18, a girl friend introduced her to Simon Yoder from Ohio. They dated and married within seven months. Simon had moved to Goshen and went to work for Greencroft in construction and maintenance. Elsie completed her GED and had two daughters, Colleen and Diana. In 1968, The Mennonite Board of Missions asked them to go to Hesston, Kansas, where Simon's construction skills were needed at Hesston College. They accepted and lived there from 1968-1971. When they returned to Goshen, Simon built their home and started his own building business, S.A. Yoder Construction. He built many houses in Goshen from 1971 through the early 80s. This means that the family moved often, as he sold their homes and built new ones. He then started a furniture store. Through these years, Elsie was the bookkeeper for the businesses. Later, their daughter, Colleen, managed the furniture store when Simon and Elsie retired.

*Continued...*

## Life at Waterford

### Last Sunday Attendance

Worship held at College  
Mennonite Church

### Finances – May 24, 2026

Operating Fund	\$5,580.00
Mennonite Ed	\$150.00
Either Fund	\$3,980.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$9,710.00</i>
Reparations Fund	\$75.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,785.00</b>

### Looking Ahead

June 7: Sermon: Cindy Voth:  
Psalm of Trust  
(Psalm 121)

June 14: Sermon: Deron  
Bergstresser; Psalm of Sacred  
Pause  
(Psalm 46)

### Out of Office

Cindy Voth - June 3

### 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, Friday  
9-12

**Greeter signup:** <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/>

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](mailto:buzz@waterfordchurch.org)

In 1989, their daughter Diana and her husband were killed in an auto accident. They had been married only one year and did not have children. Diana's husband had two from a previous marriage. This was a very painful time in their life. Elsie later served as a facilitator for grief support groups at Ryan's Place. She knew from personal experience the pain of the loss of a child. Colleen is married and lives in California with her husband. They had one son who grew up to marry and give Elsie their great-grandchildren with whom she has an active relationship. They get together often to play games, bake cookies and talk.

Elsie and Simon were members of Waterford Mennonite Church for many years, beginning soon after it started in 1960. She continues to be a member, but primarily live-streams the services at home. She participates in the Sojourners Sunday School class as much as she is able to. When Simon developed health issues and dementia, the family moved him to the Maples Health Center at Waterford Crossing in October 2023. Elsie decided to buy a condo on campus to live close to him. Unfortunately, Simon passed away three weeks after she moved. This was a difficult time with multiple adjustments. Elsie feels at peace now about being at Waterford Crossing. She maintains frequent contact with her grandson and his three children, as well as several nieces and her sister in Shippshewana. For the last 40 years, she has met with two friends every weekday for breakfast. Those times of fellowship give her life.

*\*Editor's note: This article was originally written for and published by Waterford Crossing. It was edited for the Waterford Buzz by Ursula Hess.*

## Stephen Ministers

### Local Stephen Ministry Network Gets Together

*Karl Birky*

What do twenty-four Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders from College Mennonite Church, Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church and Waterford Mennonite Church do when they get together to just be together? They talk (a lot), share their joys and challenges in Stephen Ministry (there are many more joys than challenges) and they make their own sundaes (even though it was May 12, a Tuesday evening). Waterford Stephen Leaders hosted the evening. It was filled with sharing stories, fun, relaxed conversations and connecting to work together to meet ministry needs in our community.



## Buy a Shirt, Give a Gift

### Benin Youth Learning Tour Update

*Cindy Voth, pastoral team leader*

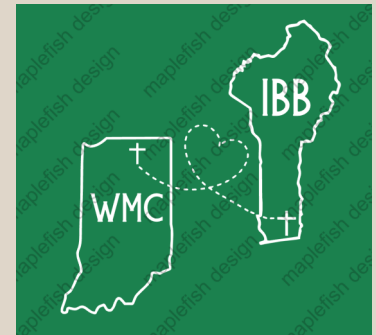
On July 23 a team of 20 from Waterford will leave for a Youth Learning Tour in Benin with our partners and friends at Benin Bible Institute. The group is made up of 13 MYFers and 7 adults. Our group has been meeting monthly to prepare for our trip, learning about things such as Beninese culture and faith practices. (We are SO grateful for Rod and Lynda Hollinger-Janzen who have guided our sessions and will provide leadership for our time in Benin). We've also spent time talking about how we articulate our own faith in Jesus, and the faith and worship practices that are important to our community at Waterford Mennonite Church.

We have worked with WMCer Benji Hurst to design a t-shirt that highlights how Waterford and BBI have moved into the second generation of our beautiful partnership. You are invited to order a shirt for yourself for \$10, and we invite you to also consider ordering an extra shirt that we will take with us to give to some of our friends at BBI! Our goal is to take 50-60 shirts with us to give as gifts. Our group will be meeting several times with a parallel group of Beninese high school youth, and we will be excited to gift them and others a t-shirt that celebrates our decades long partnership.

You may stop by the table in the foyer the next several Sundays to order your shirts. Checks may be written out to "Waterford Mennonite Church" with 'T-shirt' in the memo line. Thank you for the ongoing ways you are partnering with us as we continue to prepare for our upcoming time in Benin.



**BACK**



**LOGO**



**FRONT**

## Directory Changes

Elizabeth Stauffer's new email address is [stauffer.elizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:stauffer.elizabeth@gmail.com)

Brenda Janzen's correct contact information:

Email: [bsjanzen76@gmail.com](mailto:bsjanzen76@gmail.com)

Phone: 574-312-5235

Please make note of these changes in your directory.

# Shrub Removal

## Thank You

Many, many thanks to the mentors and mentees who spent their gathering on May 6 weeding and mulching the flower beds along the front of the building and in the Remembering Life Garden! It looks beautiful!

### Pathfinders "Social"

On May 16, the Pathfinders class put on their work gloves, pulled out their power tools and a tractor and took out their frustrations on the large shrubs on the west side of the church encroaching on the entry to the west door.



They cut off branches of seven shrubs,



pulled out the stumps,



loaded up and



hauled away the debris.

### Save the date: Vacation Bible School July 21-24.

We will partner again this year with local Mennonite churches for Bible School! This year will be hosted at Silverwood Mennonite Church. Invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids, and more! Interested in volunteering? We need activity station leaders, group leaders, drama team, and worship band participants. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Amy Zoller [alziu91@gmail.com](mailto:alziu91@gmail.com).

Register at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6uhm2\\_ZNyg-i9RoSz8CRY\\_JkrmMpic\\_oWAm1lLqM2Mwz9wQ/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6uhm2_ZNyg-i9RoSz8CRY_JkrmMpic_oWAm1lLqM2Mwz9wQ/)

And then they ate pizza.

**Thank you,** Pathfinders, for taking the initiative to remove overgrown landscaping!



# Waterford Announcements

This is the last Sunday of the month and we will be collecting an offering for the **Reparations Fund**. Look for the people holding baskets at the exits to the sanctuary where you can drop your gift at the end of the service.

Next week is the **first Sunday of June** which means three things:

- 1) We will be having our regular **first Sunday fellowship meal** which will be hosted by the Seekers class. Bring a dish—or two—to share!
- 2) We will begin our **outside worship** in and around the pavilion. If you plan to sit on the lawn—or expect to because you don't get there in time to sit under the roof—bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on, sunscreen, hat or umbrella, and water. The service will be livestreamed into the sanctuary for those unable to withstand the heat or uneven ground.
- 3) We will begin our June nurture hour electives. Look for a bulletin insert next week with the description and location of each elective.

We are looking to curate a list of potential **mentors and prayer partners**. Please fill out the slip in your box today and return it to the basket at the participation station.

Be sure to check your box for the **“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner”** information. Complete forms may be returned to the box at the participation station.

## MCUSA

Spiritual director **Rebeka Moeljono** invites us to explore how liminal space — in-between seasons of transition — can become sacred ground for **spiritual discernment**. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/liminal-space/>

Save the date for **MC USA’s Militarism Summit**: Nov. 6-7, 2026, in Akron, Pennsylvania. The summit will explore the impact of militarism and will include time to reflect, learn and engage in thoughtful dialogue on waging peace in meaningful ways. Sign up here to receive updates about registration and the summit as they become available. [https://mcusa.formstack.com/forms/militarism\\_summit](https://mcusa.formstack.com/forms/militarism_summit)

## MMN

**Just Peace Pilgrimages — South Africa Racial Justice Pilgrimage** — This South African solidarity learning pilgrimage will explore the long history and legacy of settler colonialism and apartheid, which was an unjust socio-political policy that fostered racial segregation. The pilgrimage will focus on the social constructs created around race, land dispossession and how they so thoroughly defined, and continue to define, South African society. Join Mission Network’s director for Africa and Europe Sibonokuhle Ncube and former executive director Stanley Green on this pilgrimage! **Dates: September 8-22; the optional safari extends the trip by 3 days. Register by July 15.** Contact Stephanie Weaver at [StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net) or visit [MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace](https://MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace) to learn more!

# Upcoming Events

**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](https://goshen.edu/tickets) - \$15, \$10 students; or \$10 for tickets directly from Jeff Miller & Ben Hochstedler.

**Loss of Turtle Island workshops:** You’re invited to join MCC for a participatory learning experience that depicts the historic relationship between European settlers — including Mennonites — and the Indigenous nations, the original inhabitants, of the land we now call the United States of America. Blankets represent the land and participants represent distinct Indigenous nations who experience colonization, genocide, broken treaties, forced removal, assimilation and termination — all in the spirit of the Doctrine of Discovery. There are two free local opportunities:

**Wednesday, June 3** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at College Mennonite Church in the Koinania Room: Register at [mcc.org/goshen-turtle-island](https://mcc.org/goshen-turtle-island)

**Sunday, June 7** from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at AMBS Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount in the Basement Fellowship Hall: Register at [mcc.org/](https://mcc.org/)

## AMBS

**Take a seminary course this fall!** Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's distance-friendly options include Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture; Christian Ethics and Peace Theology; Contested Texts in Paul and Their Reception (five sessions only); Practical Theology of the Climate Crisis; Spiritual Practices: Prayer and Scripture; Understanding Trauma in Ministry and Peacebuilding; and more. In-person courses are also available. Some courses may be audited. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first two courses for credit! Courses run Sept. 1 – Dec. 11; sign up by Aug. 24. [ams.edu/upcoming-courses](https://ams.edu/upcoming-courses)

## 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](https://pathwaysretreat.org). Read their [newsletter](#).

**Unmasking and Dismantling Settler Colonialism: CPT Delegation to Turtle Island August 9-17, 2026:** This delegation will do a deep dive into the historical and current realities of colonialism and explore ways we can get involved in the decolonization process. In addition to visiting Grassy Narrows (northwest Ontario), we will meet Indigenous community leaders and allies in Winnipeg and Kenora. Through this delegation we will explore themes such as environmental racism, class oppression, police and prison abolition movements, Indigenous solidarity, and allyship. **Application deadline is June 10.** Learn more details at [https://cpt.org/delegations/tisn?blm\\_aid=29906](https://cpt.org/delegations/tisn?blm_aid=29906)

**Called to the Stream of God's Justice: Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference Summer Fest 2026.** We look forward to gathering for our annual conference at Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend, Indiana, on **June 12-13**. Our time together will include worship, fellowship, equipping, and discerning in community. The weekend is open to all of IMMC. All are invited to participate in worship, lunch, workshops, and fun fest activities, and anyone can observe the delegate meeting on Saturday morning. Registration is \$50. Youth and young adults (ages 18-25) can register at half the cost: \$25 for 25 and under! Learn more and register at [im.mennonite.net/summerfest](https://im.mennonite.net/summerfest).

**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](https://ryansplace.org) for more information.

**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](https://mcc.org/goshen-grandparents) or by calling 574-534-4071.

## Opportunities

**The Hermitage** in Three Rivers, Michigan is seeking a **Hospitality Assistant**. Tasks include cooking meals, some housekeeping, and interacting with guests when needed. 25-30 hours per week; hours flexible but anchored to meal times; every other Saturday and at least two evenings a week. For a full job description, see the bulletin board by the mailboxes.

**We Make Indiana** is hiring for a **new community organizing position** based in **Elkhart County** to grow its network of faith communities committed to effecting change across our region and state. They're especially looking for people who:

- care deeply about community and want to make change happen
- are strong relationship-builders
- are energized by leadership development
- can work across lines of race, geography, and faith tradition

They invite the position to be shared with younger leaders or others who may not already see themselves as leaders but have the gifts for it.

**Application and information are available here:** [wemakeindiana.org/](https://wemakeindiana.org/)