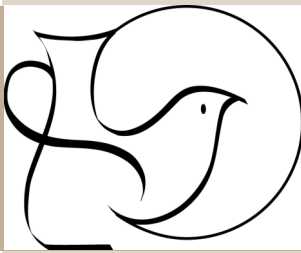




August 23, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
 10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
 4:00 p.m. - JYF pool party / Claassen's
 6:00 p.m. - Ice cream social / WMC Pavilion

Welcome Team

Greeters: Miranda Pfahler, Karen Pfahler
 Ushers: Dennis Myers, Carla Miller, Mark King
 Audiovisuals: Shawn Stutzman, Jeff Claassen
 Nursery: Dee Berkey, Laura Dick, Mary Ann Wieand, Carla Miller

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

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

Supporting Our Public School Educators

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

This spring the Ministry Leadership Council submitted a proposal to our "Collaborative Missional Group" (formerly called Mission and Service Ministry Team) to create a new line item in their program funds to support our WMC Public School Educators. This idea emerged from things we learned through the Mennonite Education Listening Tour (MELT). In the listening process we heard a strong congregational desire to actively support our local K-12 Public Schools while continuing our support of Mennonite Education.

Did you know that we currently have 35 individuals from WMC working in our local public schools? 35!! This week each of these individuals will receive a gift of \$75 to use for any supplies they need for their classrooms, students, or educational roles. Along with the gift they received this note: Thank you for the ways you are investing in the lives of children and youth from our local communities! Please accept this small gift as a symbol of your congregation's love and support of you as you serve and educate in our public schools. The funds can be used for anything that you need for your classroom, students, or educational role. In the very small chance that you do not have any need, we invite you to share the funds with any need you see at your school. As you use the funds may you be reminded that your congregation is praying for you, asking for God's loving presence to surround you as you support your students in our local schools. May there be enough strength and joy for each and every day! ~Your Church Family at Waterford Mennonite Church

We checked and doubled checked our lists, however, we realize that we might have accidentally overlooked someone! So please contact me if you are working in our public schools and did not receive a gift! We do in fact have one for you, too!

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 225

Nurture Hour - 228

Finances – August 16, 2026

Operating Fund	\$7,916.00
Mennonite Ed	\$1,315.00
Either Fund	\$7,080.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$16,311.00</i>
Benin T-shirts	\$80.00
Least Coin Fund	\$28.00
Total	\$16, 419.00

Looking Ahead

August 30: Sermon: Lyle Miller;
Stewardship I

(Psalm 24:1-2; Acts 4:31-35)

September 6: Sermon: Lyle
Miller; Stewardship II
(2 Corinthians 8:1-7)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team
Leader

Monday - Thursday

Katie Misz, pastor

Monday - Thursday

Ursula Hess - Sr. Adult Chaplain

Amanda Stoltzfus - Interim pastor

Deron Bergstresser, pastor

On Sabbatical

Out of Office

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

Janet Shoemaker, Editor
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

Supporting Our Schools

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

For over the past 11 years, WMC has had a special relationship with Prairie View Elementary School (PVES). We are one of three local churches who are in partnership with PVES through a program called “Supporting Our Schools” or SOS for short. Within our partnership we are invited to support the students as well as the teachers and staff at PVES. Throughout the year we do a variety of things within our partnership:

- Each fall we purchase 100 headphones for students to use during testing.
- We keep a ‘granola bar cupboard’ stocked in the main office. The bars are offered to students who might arrive too late to get breakfast, or when needed throughout the day.
- We give \$1,000 for teachers to apply for grants for specific projects or needs for their classrooms. This is administrated by the school counselor, Erin Behan Morillo.
- Once a year we provide a special breakfast treat for all the staff members. This year the breakfast will be on November 16th.
- One day during Teacher Appreciation Week we provide lunch for all the staff. This year the lunch will be on May 3, 2027.

In addition to the above, I also invite you to join in a clothing drive for the nurse’s office at PVES! Specifically, they have sent the following wish list of needs to have on hand:

New underwear sizes 4-8 for boys and girls

Pants, new or gently used, sizes 4-10 for boys and girls. They request pants with elastic waist such as sweatpants or lightweight cotton pants (not jeans).

Clothing donations may be added to the bin outside of the church office from now until September 7th.

Thank you for the ways you participate in helping us to partner with other local churches to provide care and support to one of our local elementary schools.

Helping Our Neighbors

Shammah Outreach and B Light Restoration Center (shammahoutreach.org) are parts of a ministry led by IN-MI Mennonite Conference-credentialed pastor, Lynette Hartzman, among people in survival mode in Flint, Michigan. They serve “the least of these” with breakfasts and other necessities, referrals, listening, accompanying in various ways and sharing Jesus. Lynette is currently writing a grant to help secure staffing resources, but needs to show “already-money-in-the-bank” by the end of this month to meet the last eligibility criteria. Any contributions in the next week to the GoFundMe drive at <https://gofund.me/7f147c0ae> are greatly appreciated!

Relief Sale Quilters



Last Sunday, at least eight women spent at least part of the afternoon finishing the quilt that will be donated to the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale in September. They managed to complete it shortly after 5:00 p.m.

Counterclockwise from left to right: Carol Lehman, Monica Stutzman, Carolyn Chupp, Julie Zehr, Diane Bodiker, Karen Hostetler, Dee Birkey. The empty space on the far right end was occupied by Esther Farmwald who took the picture.

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday:

- In an effort to relieve the congestion in the foyer after the service, there will be a **new coffee location** for our fellowship time. Instead of the coffee cart being in the foyer, it will be in the south fellowship hall, and there will also be drinks served from the kitchen window.
- THIS SUNDAY, August 23, is our **ice cream social at 6:00 in the pavilion**. We will move indoors if it rains. Bring an ice cream topping to share along with a blanket or chair to sit on outside. Yard games are welcome too! Some of our ice cream will be made using a bicycle to power an ice cream freezer. Come check it out!
- **JYF** will meet at Jeff & Mariko Claassen's for a pool party this afternoon from 4:00 to 5:45—just in time to make it to the ice cream social.

Nursery signup sheets for September through December will be on the class clipboards this week. There is also a copy at the participation station if you will not be in a class in the next two weeks, but would like to sign up.

The ice cream bike is being tested at the ice cream social for use at the **Michiana Bike Ride** which takes place Aug. 28-30. The Ride raises money for Mennonite Central Committee. If you're interested in donating to MCC for the Ride, you can write a check out to Waterford Mennonite Church with "MCC Bike Ride" in the memo line.

Fall Gifts Discernment Ballots for church leadership positions are due August 30. Please put your completed ballots in the basket on the table by the office door. There are extra ballots on that table, and on the first table under the mailboxes for those with multiple voters in their households.

Two more weeks to buy school supplies and build completed **school kits for the Mennonite Central Committee** school kit drive. You may also donate a monetary gift or just supplies as you are able and place them in the boxes at the table near the library.

MCUSA

MC USA's Iris de León-Hartshorn shares three **faith-based practices for leading change** — letting go, embracing experimentation and modeling the way of Jesus — to help church leaders navigate transformation with hope and grace. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/change-leadership/>

MMN

Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples Just Peace Pilgrimage

LOCATION CHANGE: Journey to the Homeland of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the **Yakama Nation** in central Washington. You and your community are invited to engage with contemporary Indigenous realities, explore the histories of Indigenous Peoples, and examine the complexities of Indigenous-settler relations. What might it mean for your community to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and actively contribute to the work of truth-telling and repair? Hosted by the [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#) and led by Coalition Executive Director Sarah Augustine. September 22-26. Contact: Stephanie Weaver, StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net. Learn more and register: MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace

AMBS

Companions on the Way: Chaplaincy in Interfaith

Contexts: Sept. 28–30 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana. What does it mean in this day/age/moment to be a companion and spiritual caregiver to those whose faiths and cultures are different from your own? Join us for a unique conference on the practice of spiritual care in interfaith contexts, with a special focus on the ministry of The Nazareth Hospital EMMS. Register by Sept. 21. ambs.edu/chaplaincy-conference

New *Vision* issue available: *Decolonial Discipleship as an Intercultural Church*

The Spring 2026 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Hyung Jin (Pablo) Kim Sun, PhD, and Sarah Kathleen Johnson, PhD — explores how practices of decolonization and genuine intercultural engagement need to be understood as deeply interconnected aspects of our collective journey toward peace, justice and reconciliation. [Read Vision for free online.](#)

Pathways Retreat's Inner Soul Groups are forming for fall 2026 through spring 2027. Daily prayers will resume on August 25 at the new start time of 8:15am. Learn more at pathwaysretreat.org.

Upcoming Events

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat will be showing at the Goshen Theater August 21, 22, 28, 29 at 7:30 p.m. and 23 and 30 at 2:30 p.m. Susanna Stutzman & Leif Billings are members of the cast. [Click here for tickets.](#)

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center program for young children: Join us for [Tales & Trails](#), Monday, Aug. 24, as we read *A Rock Is Lively* by Dianna Hutts Aston. Together, we'll explore the many ways rocks can be examined, discovered and played with as we venture into Merry Lea's gravel pit. Be sure to wear weather-appropriate clothing for hiking and outdoor play, including sturdy shoes for walking on rocky ground. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Glacial Retreat Center at Merry Lea. Register at the link above.

Miami Correctional Facility is a maximum-security prison that holds the largest number of ICE detainees in Indiana. This vigil is one of fifty throughout the state to tell the Indiana Department of Corrections Commissioner to "End ICE detention at Miami Correctional!" **Join Mennonite Action Michiana**, Indivisible and The Indiana Organizing Project at **St. Peter's United Church of Christ, South Bend, Sunday, August 30, 4 p.m.** If you can help us **paint a banner, plan to attend, need a ride, or can provide a ride** to the event, please complete this [Google form](#) to let us know!

Yoder-Culp Funeral Home is offering an **Advance Funeral Planning Workshop** on Tuesday, September 22, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. over a free dinner at the Funeral Home. The discussion will include the services, merchandise and trust options that Yoder-Culp offers. RSVP to Ethan at 574-533-3153 by September 18. See the flier on the bulletin board for more information.

How can you be a blessing to others? Bid on an item at the **Quilt Auction at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale**. Come and view the comforters and quilts of all sizes, quilted wall-hangings, plus knitted and crocheted afghans on Friday evening, Sept. 25. Then **bid either in person or online on Saturday morning, Sept. 26 beginning at 8:00 am**. See the website for information about how to bid on an item - <http://www.mennonitesale.org/quilt-auction>. For more information contact Gail Shetler, 574-333-7142.

[Parables of Peace](#) is a new racial equity curriculum from Mennonite Central Committee designed for faith communities ready to move from awareness of racial injustice to embodied action toward mutual flourishing. Through four parables, this curriculum invites people to read Scripture through a racial equity lens, asking hard questions about power, imagining what liberation looks like, and committing to concrete next steps. [Download the curriculum for free](#)

Free Resource Available

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