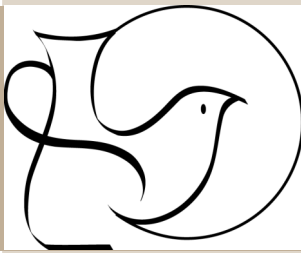




August 9, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Joint adult Nurture
Hour in sanctuary; classes for
children and youth

Welcome Team

Greeters: Elizabeth Stauffer,
Karen Sommers
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto,
Denise Diener
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey,
Steve Fath
Nursery: Becky Bateman, Aaron
Lehman; Julie Zehr, Neer
Goswami

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:p.m. - MYF / Claassen's

Thursday

8:30 a.m. - Mennonite Women
MYF Rm

3:00 p.m. - Sr. Adult MT

7:00 p.m. - Ecuador Prayers

Zoom prayers

Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
Phone 574-533-5642
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

From the Beehive

JD Smucker and Rose Shetler, co-chairs, Ministry Leadership Council

WMC is a welcoming congregation. Diversity is one of the hoped for distinctives of our congregation. A congregation with many opinions, voices, and perspectives is something that makes us stronger.

"You see things that I can't and conversely I see things that you can't, and that's why we are better together than apart—we minimize each other's blind spots *because* we are different, not because we are the same. The Bible doesn't say you need to be like me. One of me is enough, God made us different because our differences—our diversity—more accurately reflect the face of God."

— Skot Welsh, Mending Sunday

When we are in a diverse setting, we are reminded of our blind spots. These are things that we cannot see ourselves and it takes others to help us see what we are missing. A year ago MLC proposed some revisions in the MEF plan, which at the time seemed like the right thing to do. Over the past number of months through MELT and a Conversation Cafe, MLC came to the realization that there were blind spots in our process. We wish we could go back and begin again, including more of the diversity of perspectives in the mix of the initial decision making, but realize now (a year later) that we need to find a way to move ahead. A year is a long time to work on something. Or it is a short time, if we want to create something that is lasting and forward thinking.

If you are tired of MEF discussions, we understand. If you feel that WMC has not resolved the MEF issues that need further discussion, we also understand. That is why MLC is recommending that we take a few more months to allow an independent committee to review the

Continued...

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 190

Nurture Hour - 205

Finances – August 2, 2026

Operating Fund	\$8,632.32
Mennonite Ed	\$675.00
Either Fund	\$4,695.00
Subtotal	\$14,002.32
Four Way Mission	\$75.00
Total	\$14,077.32

Looking Ahead

August 16: Sermon: Katie Misz;
Back to School Sunday
(Luke 2:41-52)
August 23: BBI Trip report
(Revelations 7:9-12)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team
Leader
Monday - Thursday
Katie Misz, pastor
Monday - Thursday
Ursula Hess - Sr. Adult Chaplain
Amanda - Interim pastor
Deron Bergstresser, pastor
On Sabbatical

Out of Office

Katie Misz - August 10

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

perspectives and information collected over the past year, and bring a recommendation to the congregation. We are hoping that this process can be completed by December of this year. An independent committee (not MLC) made up of four or five persons, helps us see the blind spots that may have occurred in the MLC process of revising the MEF plan.

Blind spots are a way of life in a diverse community. Each day we have a choice to build up each other as we prayerfully fill in the blind spots with perspectives that strengthen our relationships and ties with each other. May we have the patience and a listening spirit as we humble ourselves into being open to change through a few more months of process in order to support our students desiring to attend Mennonite schools in the future.

MyCoinsCount

This year the My Coins Count funds will be designated to **Food and the new Education projects** of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Due to the wars and conflicts in many places on earth, the global crisis is getting worse. MCC helps make emergency resources available to families who are fleeing war and conflict, helps farmers deal with changing weather patterns and learn new ways to increase the yields of their crops, offers new ways for gardeners to grow fresh vegetables and shares animals that help families build up their flocks and herds to provide food and extra money for school and other needs.

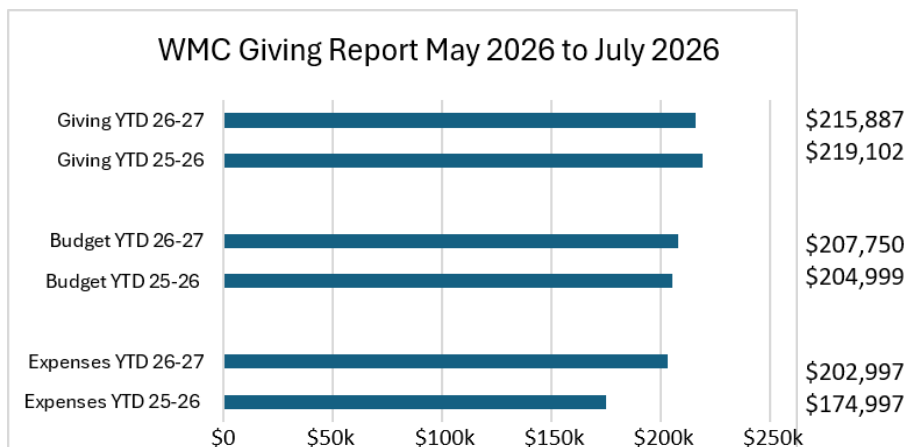
We will begin collecting coins on Sunday mornings beginning August 16 to take to the Michiana Relief Sale on Sept. 25-26, 2026. You are invited to match all or part of the money dropped into the coin jar. Matches have been the single most valuable way to increase the totals in many congregations. Those offering matching checks through the sale will get a tax receipt around the end of the year.

Directory Change

Em Hunsbaker has a new address:

112 E Lincoln Ave, Apt 44
Goshen, IN 46528-3209

WMC Giving Report



Waterford Announcements

This Sunday, **Karl Shelly**, pastor at Assembly Mennonite Church, **will be our guest preacher**. Karl works closely with the Regional Consortium of Repair Network members of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, of which WMC is one of the members. Karl will be with us for a joint nurture hour in the sanctuary to talk about the history of the call for reparations from both the African American and Native American communities.

Women, mark your calendar and **plan to join Mennonite Women** this coming Thursday for any amount of time you have to share from 9 to 2. You might also enjoy the life stories of our own women that are being shared, as well as a yummy carry-in lunch and warm fellowship!

A recent **Goshen College international student graduate** will be working in the area and **needs a place to live**. If anyone has or knows of a room he could rent for a short while in someone's home, or a basement or other apartment for rent, please contact Philip Bender, 574-971-1831.

Upcoming Events

Want to learn Spanish? Each semester, Goshen College offers Spanish language classes for adults at every level. Classes are offered at novice, intermediate, advanced and superior levels, with a brief placement evaluation for new students. We've designed a supportive environment for busy adults. Evening classes twice a week fit around busy schedules. **Fall session:** Aug. 11 – Dec. 10 (no class Oct. 20 & 22 and Nov. 24 & 26). **When:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. **Cost:** \$350.

Mennonite Action Michiana Dessert and Solidarity Meeting. August 13, 7-8:30 p.m. at Assembly Mennonite Church, 727 New York Street, Goshen. Join us to hear Luke Kreider, Associate Professor of Religion and Sustainability at Goshen College, share about his recent trip to the Tent of Nations, a 100-acre family farm located six miles southwest of Bethlehem and surrounded by Israeli settlements. Bring a dessert to share. Coffee and tea provided. Childcare is also provided. Additionally, we will be giving information and inviting people to attend the "End ICE Detention at Miami Correctional" vigil in South Bend the last weekend in August."

MCC Great Lakes Open House on Thursday, August 20, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. You are invited to visit our office in The Depot building in Goshen (1013 Division Street) for an informal time of conversation and fellowship with MCC Great Lakes staff. Rukshan Fernando, new executive director for MCC U.S., will also be present to meet with attendees. We appreciate our dedicated MCC supporters and would love to get the chance to talk with you. Light refreshments will be served. For more information and to register, visit mcc.org/gl-open-house or **RSVP** to 574-534-4133 or GreatLakes@mcc.org by **August 14**.

Support the work of MCC through participation in the **Amigo Bike Michiana for MCC**, August 28-30, 2026. We are expanding the event to include children's activities. See our [website](#) for more details. **Registration deadline is August 15**.

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.](#)

Mennonite Action prayers in the College Mennonite Church sanctuary on Tuesday, August 18, from noon until 1 p.m. We will again sing and pray and hold silence as we lift to God our concerns for the world. We will remember many places where war and other violence is interfering with the lives and wellbeing of countless people, including innocent children and bystanders. We are called to protest evil in the world, and prayer is a form of protest! This is open to everyone to come for a short time or to stay for the hour. Let us not grow weary in the work for peace and justice!

Final Relief Sale Crafting Day: Come help us create items to sell at this year's sale. All supplies provided and no skills needed. We will meet at East Goshen Church, lower level, on August 22 from 10-2. Bring a lunch and a friend! Please RSVP to crafting.mmrs@gmail.com by August 18.

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.

Save the Date! 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.** More information to come!

Registration is now open for Mennonite Church USA's "[Waging Peace: A Militarism Summit](#)," Nov. 6-7, in Leola, Pennsylvania. Rooted in Anabaptist faith values, the two-day gathering brings Christians together to explore faithful responses to war, political polarization, nationalism and violence. Best-selling author **Shane Claiborne** is the opening keynote speaker. High school youth attend free with a youth sponsor/pastor. Space is limited, so register early. Learn more and register here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/militarism-summit/>

Opportunities

MCC Graphic Design & Marketing Associate: MCC seeks a detail-oriented and creative person to serve as the Graphic Design & Marketing Associate. This role will aid the work of MCC regional communications in East Coast and Great Lakes with a strong emphasis on design, marketing and internal communication and resource sharing. This position has the option for hybrid/remote work throughout the Great Lakes or East Coast regions. For more information and to apply by August 14, visit mcc.org/design-marketing.

Volunteer teachers are needed for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults, September 1 to November 19 at Prairie Street Mennonite Church. Sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Volunteering once or twice a week is your choice. Materials are provided. You do not need to be a trained teacher. If desired, you may start as an assistant-in-training working with a veteran teacher. Substitutes are available for illness and vacations. Please contact Sueann VonGunten, vonalter2@gmail.com or 574-612-3108 with your interest or questions.