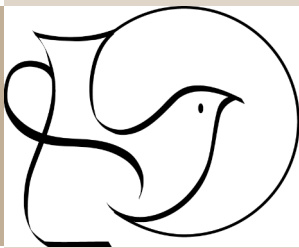


Sunday, September 13, WMC celebrated a service of baptism, complete with chalk drawings on the carport and parking lot.



September 20, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Classes for all ages
1:30 p.m. - Youth Peace Conference

Welcome Team

Greeters: Carolyn Chupp, Esther Farmwald
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, LaVon Short
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey, Jordan Kauffman
Nursery: Dee Birkey, Laura Dick, Susan Gingerich,

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - Venture Club
7:00 p.m. - JYF, 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

Fruit of the Spirit

Cindy Voth, for Worship Ministry Team

On September 22 we officially leave behind the season of summer and embrace the next season of autumn. This season in the northern hemisphere brings with it the significant season of harvest. Fruits, vegetables, and crops planted in the spring have spent the summer growing and producing, and now the time to harvest has arrived.

Walking into a lush field of corn, one should not be surprised to see that it is indeed corn that is harvested from that field. Or walking down the fragrant aisles of an apple orchard, one should not be dismayed to realize that it is indeed apples that are just waiting to be picked and enjoyed in your favorite recipe for apple pie.

In his letter to the Galatians the Apostle Paul warns in 6:7 that "you reap whatever you sow." One can't head to the apple trees wanting to harvest grapes, nor can one combine a field of soybeans and want them to suddenly become summer wheat.

Worship Ministry Team invites us to enter an autumn worship series as we consider the question: What is the fruit that is being grown within us and shared with the world around us?

Paul, in the previous chapter to the Galatians, encourages believers to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in their lives (5:22). There is an understanding that one living in and by the Spirit will live differently in the world because of the work and presence of the Spirit within that individual. This is also true of entire communities. Waterford Mennonite Church, a faith community centered on Jesus, should live differently in the world (including our local community) because of the Spirit at work within and through us. What does that difference look like for us as individuals and as a faith community?

(Continued)

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 287

Nurture Hour - 205

Finances – September 13, 2026

Operating Fund	\$3,720.00
Mennonite Ed	\$1,336.00
Either Fund	\$2,430.00
Subtotal	\$7,486.00
Children's Offering	\$11.00
Least Coin Fund	\$41.00
Jubilee Fund	\$60.00
Total	\$7,598.00

Looking Ahead

Sept. 27: Sermon: Cindy Voth;

Fruits of the Spirit: Love

(Luke 10:25-37; Matt. 5:43-48)

October 4: Sermon: Monica Miller;

Fruits of the Spirit: Joy

World Communion Sunday

(Luke 15:8-32)

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

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

This autumn we will embark on a nine week worship series studying the nine fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness (generosity), faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. How are these fruits being harvested in our lives and in our shared life together? What needs to be sown and nurtured in us to eventually bear these fruits? Each week we will consider one of the fruits by dwelling with a teaching or parable from Jesus. Together we will consider what Jesus had to share about the fruit of patience or gentleness or peace...

You will see in the chart below that we will have the gift of having several special guest preachers. We will welcome back Pastor Monica Miller on October 4; we will look forward to hosting Drew Strait, professor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, on November 8 for both worship and an adult joint nurture hour; and we will gratefully receive wisdom from some of our WMC Senior Adults on November 22.

Our bulletin covers will be designed by some of our WMC Artists: Jordan Graber Kauffman, Lacy Stoltzfus, Matt Bateman, Melissa Chupp, Veronica Berkey, and Mark Daniels. Loanne Harms will create our worship visual arts, adding another layer of color each week to represent the various fruits of the Spirit. In addition, Loanne has assembled kits for each person of every age to create a keychain with nine differently colored beads to represent the nine fruits. WMT envisions that we will place our keychains somewhere to remind us of this calling to manifest these fruits in our lives. Perhaps you will choose to place your keychain with your keys, or on your backpack or purse, or on a kitchen cabinet hook, or next to your Bible. We hope their colorful presence will invite us to be individuals and a community that demonstrates these fruits of the Spirit.

As our calendar transitions into autumn, together let us consider the fruit we are producing and sharing with each other and the world around us. May the Spirit move in our midst as we continue to seek to faithfully follow Jesus in our daily lives.

Date	Fruit	Scripture Passages	Preacher	Special Elements
9/27	Love	Luke 10:25-37; Matt. 5:43-48	Cindy	
10/4	Joy	Luke 15:8-32	Monica Miller	World Communion Sunday; welcome back Pastor Deron; thank you to Interim Pastor Amanda
10/11	Peace	Mark 4:35-41; Matt. 15:22-33	Cindy	
10/18	Patience	Mark 4:26-29; Matt. 13:24-30	Deron	Deron sharing reflections on sabbatical renewal leave
10/25	Kindness	Matt. 13:33; 14:13-21	Cindy	
11/1	Goodness (Generosity)	Matt. 7:15-20; 18:21-35	Deron	All Saints Day rituals
11/8	Faithfulness	Matt. 15:21-28	Drew Strait	
11/15	Gentleness	Luke 15:1-7; Matt. 19:13-15	Cindy	
11/22	Self-Control	Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 12:35-40	WMC Senior Adults	

MEF Proposal

Eat, Listen, Learn

JD Smucker, Ministry Leadership Council Chair

“I have a question” is one of the most common sentences you might hear in the school classroom. We are life long learners, and have a hunger for understanding things. We use questions in discussions to bring about a more clear understanding of the issues. Two months ago an independent review group began meeting to review all the Mennonite Education Fund research and discussions of the past year (see April 26 Buzz article). Independently working outside of MLC, they came up with three options for how we could approach our congregational support of grades 5-12 Christian Education at Bethany. It was a very focused project which does not include the college portion of MEF.

In the coming week, these options will be available for all to read, so that we can begin (or continue) asking questions in search of an answer that best fits our congregation at this moment in time. Our MEF Review Group of Jason, Helen, Jeff, and Karl, is a keen bunch of people who have done insightful work.

On October 11 at 5 p.m. we will have a gathering called Eat, Listen and Learn. The evening will provide the opportunity for everyone to ask questions, and to hear from the MEF Review Group. The overall goal is to process this information openly by the congregation, without any filters from MLC. So the evening will not be like a Conversation Cafe, rather we hope for a less structured time of open discussion and questions.

The three options will be presented to the congregation for a vote in the congregational meeting on November 15 at 5 p.m. So, “I have a question.” With three options to consider, are you willing to join each other at the table again to discern the way forward as we bring closure to our discernment with our MEF guidelines?

Looking forward to your questions, even if I don’t have the answers.



Baptism



Those baptized were, from left to right, Amelia Green, Poppy Habecker, Gwen Habecker, Layna Stoltzfus, Hannah Claassen, Lucas Bateman, and Leah Berkey.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Minister Interest Meeting

The Stephen Leader Team: Karl Birkey, Anne Lehman, Bill Minter, Mel and Lorna Claassen

Do you ever wonder what people who have been cared for by a Stephen Minister think about the experience? Since confidentiality is a high priority, we asked for permission to share their thoughts. Here are some of the comments from people who were cared for.

- “My Stephen Minister patiently listened, and his body language showed he cared. I felt understood.”
- “Even strong people need a shoulder to lean on sometimes.”
- “It helped me so much to be able to talk, talk and talk some more. My Stephen Minister listened and cared! She was open to my schedule, and she cared for me just as I needed. She helped me so much and I could say anything because I knew it was confidential.”
- “The burden of pain shared with someone lifted those 1,000 lb weights off my shoulders.”

The Stephen Ministry Leadership team at Waterford Mennonite Church asks you to consider being part of this caring ministry by training to become a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministers say they grow personally through the training program, the peer support meetings, and while meeting with the person they are caring for. It is exciting to see God at work.

We invite you to consider becoming a Stephen Minister by asking us about it, exploring Stephen Ministry on their national website (stephenministries.org), checking with the pastoral staff and spending time with God discerning if this is a good place for your ministry at Waterford Mennonite Church. To learn more, you are invited to attend an informational meeting during Nurture Hour in the Nurture Wing rooms 34/35 on October 4.

Thank You

A BIG thanks to each of you who contributed in some way to the school kit project. Also, special thanks to Diane Bodiker for keeping the table stocked with bags, instructions, and a collection box, and getting helpers to transport the bags to the Resource Center. The Waterford Church family provided 230 kits toward MCC's goal of 30,000 kits this year. Deep appreciation for your generosity! North America (USA and Canada) exceeded their goal by collecting 46,481 school kits this fall.

Waterford Announcements

Things to do this Sunday:

The All-In elective will begin meeting this Sunday in the sanctuary and run through December 20. It will focus on **people of all abilities and ages worshipping together**. We will begin at 10:45 (so that members can join their regular classes for sharing time) for structured music and Bible activities. At 11:15 individuals will have elective choices of service projects, puzzles, and other ways to connect with the community. All Waterford attendees are invited to join this elective for a low-barrier Sunday school experience.

The Relief Sale is next weekend! There are four ways to **support Waterford's contribution** to this fundraising event for Mennonite Central Committee. You will find signup sheets and baking supplies at the table by the library:

1. Help out in the **popcorn booth!** Volunteers will make/sell popcorn in the popcorn booth. Children are welcome to help to pull a wagon selling popcorn and drinks at the quilt auction on Saturday morning. Direct questions to Lorene/Kevin Miller.
2. Work in the **soft ice cream booth**. The slots are only half full.
3. **Do you love to bake?** Consider donating your baked creations to sell at the sale. You can find pans, labels and guidelines for baking cookies, pies, cakes, bread, rolls, etc. on the table by the library.
4. **This is the last Sunday to bring your coins** for the MyCoinsCount project at the relief sale. If you find yourself disliking the idea of gorging on rich foods to feed others, these collected coins go directly to programs that provide food to people suffering from war and climate upheaval. You may also take your own coins/donations to the MCC booth on Friday or Saturday. Just let them know that you are from WMC.

Last Sunday to sign up for Fall Fun on the Farm: Join us at Knollbrook Farm (15463 CR 46) on Wednesday, September 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. for a bonfire and s'mores, corn maze, and other fall activities. Cost is \$9 per person payable to the church. **Sign up at the participation station** by September 23 so we can get an accurate head count to the staff at the farm. For more information on what Knollbrook Farm is all about, visit their website at <http://www.knollbrookfarm.com>. Bring extra cash if you are interested in purchasing pumpkins, gourds, mums, or other fall decor.

Sign up for the **Women's Retreat**, (October 3, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.), at the participation station. Artist Sylvie Gudin Koehn will lead our time together with Visio Divina and teach us forms of centering artwork. Bring a dish to share for lunch.

It's time for College Student Care Packages! On October 7, the mentors and mentees will assemble care packages for our college students. You are invited to bring baked goods, granola bars, candy, nuts, Cup Noodles, popcorn, dried fruit, salty snacks, and other shelf-stable items for the next three Sundays for these packages. No fresh fruit, please! Items may be placed on the table in front of the bulletin board next to the library.

Don't forget to write a **welcome back message for Pastor Deron** on the banner in the front foyer. Deron will return to us on Tuesday, September 29.

MCUSA

Explore a story of conscientious objection

What can we learn from the experiences of Mennonites who have chosen conscientious objection to military service? In his Menno Snapshots blog, "The cost of conscience: My father's peace witness," MC USA Archives Coordinator Devon Miller shares his father's story and reflects on the legacy of conscientious objection. Read the blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/cost-of-conscience/>

MMN

The future's calling... and it's not waiting around!

Registration for the 2027-28 terms of Service Adventure and Mennonite Voluntary Service kicks off in October. Whether you're fresh out of high school, just wrapping up college or somewhere in that exciting in-between, there's a spot with your name on it. Ready to leap into the next chapter? Head to MennoniteMission.net/Serve and start exploring.

AMBS

Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Feb. 3 – March 16. Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. This six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary will be taught by Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 13 to save \$50. ambsedu.org/short-courses

Pathways Retreat

Morning prayers have started up again at Pathways Retreat. Available in-person or on Zoom, these contemplative prayers give space for silence and dwelling in God's presence. Prayers begin at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and at 8:00 a.m. on Fridays. More information can be found on our website: www.pathwaysretreat.org

Community Events

Faithful Witness in Turbulent Times Webinar, September 21, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In this webinar, panelists will share how the communities where Mennonite Central Committee works are affected by **Superpower/Empire domination** and global inequalities, and how we can commit to being faithful peacemakers. [Learn more and register here.](#)

“Holy Disruption: A Faith that Makes Noise” is a fundraiser event for Mennonite Action on Thursday, September 24, from 7 to 8:15 p.m., at AMBS. Dessert will be served and there will be a full program in addition to fellowship with the new Director and staff. RSVP to Holly Harris, at holly@mennoniteaction.org or (336) 803-1589. **Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale, September 25-26: Check out the relief sale website** this week to see the quilts to be auctioned on Saturday, the Online Auction items, register for the Run for Relief, see the schedule and more.

Community Peacemaker Teams is marking its 40th anniversary! To celebrate this milestone, CPT is hosting a special online gathering on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 12 p.m. EDT, that brings together stories spanning four decades of peacemaking, solidarity, and transforming violence and oppression. Judy Da Silva, Anishinaabe elder and land defender from Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows), will be the keynote speaker. Judy will help us reflect on the power of community, resistance, and solidarity in the struggle for justice. Sign up at cpt.org/forty.

Advancing Miami Culture Through Traditional Plants, Food and Crafts: On Sunday, September 27, Dani Tippmann, of the Miami of Oklahoma will present two sessions at Eighth Street Mennonite Church in Goshen on food sovereignty and the multiple uses of plants, one at 11:00 a.m. and one at 12:45 p.m. with lunch in between. Please see the flier on the bulletin board for details about Dani and the lunch.

SAVE THE DATE: Lacasa Donor Celebration, Tuesday, October 13, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at The Spohn Ballroom, 109 East Clinton Street. Join us for an evening celebrating the people whose generosity continues to take root in our community. RSVP to Megan Peel at megan.peel@lacasainc.net

After a period of Israeli restrictions, **money can again be sent to assist Christians remaining in Gaza.** Finding food and other supplies is difficult and expensive, also dangerous. We are in contact with people still surviving in damaged homes and tents and who desperately need help. Please consider a monetary gift to help via a check to Fellowship of Hope, 1614 S. 6th St., Elkhart IN 46516, or through the church's Givelify app, <https://www.givelify.com/donate/fellowship-of-hope-elkhart-in-2j7wy5MTUwNzA2Nw==/donation/amount>. Please enter “Gaza Relief” in the memo line.

Opportunities

MCC Great Lakes seeking Material Resources Director in Goshen: The MCC Great Lakes Material Resources Director oversees material resources programming, budget, volunteers and warehouse operations at the Goshen Material Resources Center at the Depot, while providing leadership to the regional material resources team in Goshen, Ind., and Kidron, Ohio. The role builds relationships with volunteers and donors, provides educational and speaking opportunities, and represents MCC through community engagement, travel and regional events. For more information and to apply online by October 9, visit mcc.org/gl-mr-director