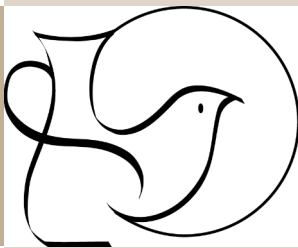




September 6, 2026



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 hosted by Gelassenheit class

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jerry & Joyce Troyer
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, Mark King
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann, Jeff Claassen
Nursery: Joyce Troyer, Gretchen Bateman; Mary Ann Wieand, Neer Goswami

This Week at Waterford

Tuesday
5:30 p.m. - Children's Cluster
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Venture Club, JYF
7:00 p.m. - MYF
Thursday
8:30 a.m. - Mennonite Women MYF Room
7:00 p.m. - Ecuador Prayers
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

New Attenders Don & Shirley Kempf

Don was born in Geneva, Nebraska and spent his time in the Shickley area until leaving for college. He attended Shickley Public School and the Salem Mennonite Church near Shickley, Nebraska. He was baptized there at the age of 11. His father and grandfather farmed together, raising turkeys, hogs, sheep, cattle, and chickens along with corn, soybeans, alfalfa, grain sorghum, and wheat. After graduation from high school, he attended Hesston College in Hesston, Kansas. He met Shirley there during his sophomore year where they were both members of the Chamber Choir.



Shirley was born in LaPlata, Puerto Rico while her parents were part of the MCC unit there. They returned to Illinois while she was still an infant and she grew up on a farm near Dewey, Illinois. She went to her first two years of school in a one room school house. When it closed, she attended school in Rantoul. Her family attended the East Bend Mennonite Church near Fisher, Illinois, where she was baptized at the age of 9 (almost 10). After graduation from high school, she also attended Hesston College.

Don transferred to the University of Nebraska for his junior year of college and graduated with a degree in agronomy. After Shirley's sophomore year at Hesston, they married and lived in Lincoln, Neb., both taking classes at the university. After Don's graduation, they went to Brazil for two years serving with MCC. Don worked there in agricultural extension, sanitation, and in the local Presbyterian church, teaching the youth Sunday school class. Shirley presented health classes in the school system, started community classes for women and girls in nutrition,

See **Kempf** on page 2

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 187 (+ 19 - Bridge-
Builders camping trip)
Nurture Hour - 163

Finances – August 30, 2026

Operating Fund	\$5,505.00
Mennonite Ed	\$1,685.48
Either Fund	\$1,800.00
Subtotal	\$8,990.48
Four Way Mission	\$25.00
Children's Offering	\$17.00
Total	\$9,032.48

Looking Ahead

September 13: Baptism Sunday;
SS begins at 9:00; Service at
10:15
September 20: Singing and
Scripture: Water in Scripture

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

Elvina Schmidt - September 6-7
Cindy Voth - September 9

Office hours this week

CLOSED 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

Attention Women

Waterford Women's Retreat

Judy Snyder and Ursula Hess

On October 3, 2026, women from Waterford Mennonite Church and their friends are invited to a half day retreat at the church with Sylvie Gudin Koehn, a spiritual director and an artist.

Sylvie has a Master of Arts degree in Christian Formation from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, and holds a Spiritual Direction Certificate from Spiritual Directors International. She has studied art with professional artists and is an associate of Pathways Retreat Center in Goshen.

Please come prepared to have a time of fellowship, learning, sharing, and experimenting with Visio Divina and Zentangle art.

When: October 3, 2026, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Coffee will be available before 9 a.m. and lunch will be shared at 12 p.m.

Theme: How to build resilience and hope when life is falling apart

Input: Visio Divina, which combines meditative reading of scripture with the visual arts

Zentangle art, a form of free drawing and coloring at a contemplative pace with space for centering, creating and sharing. No experience is necessary for this form of art.

Participation: Listening, sharing and singing

Bring a dish to share for our meal together

Please sign up at the Participation Station.

Kempf, cont. from page 1

prenatal care, sewing, and cake decorating, as well as working with music and visual aides in the church. Following their return to the states, they settled on the family farm in Nebraska.

Don farmed for 52 years there, first with his dad, and then with one of his brothers, and a brother-in-law. They raised hogs (farrow to finish), beef cattle, corn, alfalfa, and soybeans. During the last ten years, they no longer raised livestock. Shirley had a variety of jobs including farm hand, waitressing, home health aid, school cafeteria cook, and 22 years in the US Postal Service. After retirement, Don and Shirley relocated to Greencroft Goshen.

Through the years, they taught Sunday School, led congregational singing, sponsored a youth worship team, traveled many times to Ecuador while Don was coordinator for Central Plains Mennonite Conference's Ecuador-Venezuela partnership, and served on various other church and community committees.

They raised three sons. Joel and Jenny live in Perkasio, Pa., with two children. Jeremy and Erin live in Phoenix, Ariz., with three children. And Jonathan also relocated to Goshen from his home near Don and Shirley in Nebraska.

Don's special interests include reading, music, history, and bicycling.

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday is our **monthly fellowship meal**, hosted by the Gelassenheit class. Please bring a dish or two to share (hot food in slow cookers). You are also welcome to bring your own tableware—just remember to take it home with you!

This Sunday is the last week ...

- to bring in your complete **school kits**, extra supplies, or money donations. Mennonite Women will complete the kits this Thursday.
- to Bring your **clothing donations** for the nurse's office at Prairie View Elementary School: new underwear sizes 4-8 for boys and girls; pants with elasticized waist, new or gently used, sizes 4-10 for boys and girls. Donations may be placed in the bin outside of the church office or under the Participation Station table.
- to turn in your **Rejoice subscription** forms and payment for the Winter quarter.

Next Sunday, September 13, we will have a **service of baptism**. In order to provide time for classes to meet for their full hour, **the nurture hour will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the worship service at 10:15 a.m.** Please plan accordingly.

Fall is in the air and ladies are still sharing their life stories during our **Mennonite Women** meetings. Plan to join us for any amount of time you can **this coming Thursday** to help put school kits together, knot, quilt, knit or work on puzzles for The Depot. A BIG THANKS to the women who gathered to finish quilting Waterford's quilt for the MCC sale and to Karen for getting the binding done before the deadline.

Please consider adding your name to the greeter list. There are openings and we would love to have you be part of the welcoming face of Waterford Mennonite Church. Signing up is easy. Just click on this link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fRLd0Ydw_QxRiQUvRhUscNV-k0HV-oTcPnu61NyBcjM/edit?gid=0#gid=0 for Greeter Sign Up. In the future you can find this link in the left hand column of the BUZZ.

Check out the **Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale table by the library** to see how you can volunteer for Waterford's booths at the sale. Besides the popcorn and soft ice cream booth, there are guidelines, pans, and other supplies for baking cookies, pies, cakes, bread, rolls, etc. to be sold.

Collect your coins and encourage your children to save their coins for the MyCoinsCount project at the relief sale. You may drop them in the jug outside the main sanctuary doors on Sunday morning. These coins go directly to programs that provide food to people suffering from war and climate upheaval. We have already received a very generous match of \$1500. Let's see if we can get enough coins in the next three Sundays to match that match! If you would like to match all or part of the money dropped into the coin jar, you can give your donation to Janet Shoemaker to be taken to the sale on September 26.

MEN! This is a reminder to make sure the **fall men's retreat** on Saturday October 17 from 8:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at WMC is on your calendar. Our theme will be **Empowered and Empowering: Promise and Invitation**. The full description is in the July 26th Buzz. This is open to men of all ages. In a couple of weeks there will be a full description and signup sheet at the participation station. Hope to see you there! —Sheldon Swartz

New MYFers Night

The last Wednesday of August was the official welcoming of a new class of youth joining the MYF. In a tradition begun when the room was built, each freshman student painted the bottom of their foot and placed their footprint on the wall. In the photos below, Brynn Replogle and Thomas Voth get on ladders to leave their mark.



Marco Güete walks the Camino to support Hispanic Ministries

On Sept. 6, Marco Güete, director of MC USA's Hispanic Ministries, and his wife, Sandra, will begin an 18-day, 143-mile pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago from Portugal to Spain. This is Güete's fourth pilgrimage to raise funds for theological education and leadership development for Hispanic Mennonite pastors and leaders. His goal this year is to raise \$25,000.

- Read the news release here: <https://bit.ly/4c9Qrtk>

- Follow MC USA on Facebook for updates on their journey: <https://www.facebook.com/MennonitesUSA>

To support Hispanic Ministries, give online here: <https://bit.ly/4qAQiVO>

Upcoming Events

Race, Wealth, & Power: How White People Accumulated Wealth and Power. A four part series rooted in deep conversation with Arden Shank, September 8, 10, 15, 17 at 6 p.m. at the Tolson Center in Elkhart. The series is free and open to the public. Please register: at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XNSNY9>. See the flier on the bulletin board for details.

An Evening of Hope, Resilience & Moving Forward, Friday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m. Join us for an evening with **Jerrell Ross Richer**, Co-Director of Global Engagement and Carl Kreider Chair at Goshen College, as he explores how we can continue moving forward even in times of adversity. Under the theme “**Staying Grounded, Moving Forward**,” Jerrell will share thoughts on navigating challenging times without losing our identity or hope, and on making a difference in our spheres of influence. The evening will include dinner, Jerrell's presentation, and an opportunity to learn more about MEDA's impact through stories and updates from Adam Graber Roth and Bethany Nussbaum, major gifts officers with MEDA. Register here: [MEDA Network RSVP](#).

Peace Talks, an inaugural speech contest hosted by Goshen College, will invite students representing five Mennonite/Anabaptist colleges to compete on the same stage for the first time. As a project of [More Than Just Stories](#), Peace Talks is a new annual public speaking event for young people to cultivate leadership through faith-based speaking and storytelling about peace and justice. The contest, which is open to the public and also available through livestreaming, will highlight peacebuilding and courageous communication on the part of college students. Peace Talks will take place at 7 p.m. in the Umble Center on Saturday, Sept. 19.

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.](#)

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.

MCC Plants: It is a good time to start deciding which plants you might donate to the Relief Sale to make room for the new plants you're going to buy at the Relief Sale. Clean watered plants can be dropped off at the back door of the community building (follow the signage), hopefully Thursday evening or by 4:00 Friday so we can be ready for the sale at 5:00.