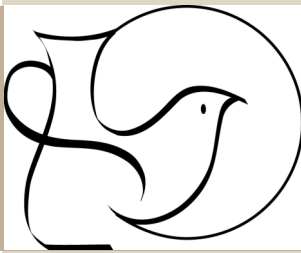




October 18, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Nurture classes for all ages
5:30 p.m. - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Welcome Team

Greeters: Velma Swartz, Karen Sommers
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto, LaVon Short
Audiovisuals: Colin Berkey, Jordan Kauffman
Nursery: Dee Birkey, Bervalie Lehman; Susan Gingerich, Gwen Habecker

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Haystacks & Games

7:00 p.m. - MYF

7:00 p.m. - BBI Planning

Thursday

7:00 p.m. - Reparative Justice Group / Rm 22

Zoom prayers

Waterford Mennonite Church

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

Thank You and Invitation from Pastor Deron

Thank you, Waterford Mennonite Church! I am deeply grateful for the sacred pause of Sabbatical. You gave me the gift of time to rest and run, to read slowly and deeply, to write music and perform with friends. Time to travel with my family, and to be available for spontaneous bike rides, meaningful conversations with Annette and our daughters, and evenings digging into old family stories, videos and photos. These three months gave me time for meaningful reflection on my pastoral work and relationships. Time enough to be challenged, humbled, energized and deeply thankful to be part of this community of faith. I look forward to opportunities to share more in the days ahead.

My Sabbatical was grounded in regular and extended times of silence and prayer—including contemplative retreats in Wisconsin and Michigan—as well as journaling, running and hiking meditation, study and meeting with my spiritual director. All these regular practice—in Sabbatical and regular time—point me and all my spinning energies back into the rhythm of God's love. As I hold these gifts, I am looking for ways to share them with you.

Invitation: One way is to offer a taste of the practice of Spiritual Direction. I am inviting you to schedule one, or up to six, spiritual direction sessions with me. Each session will be 60-minutes. And if you find spiritual direction is something you would like to continue more regularly, I will make referrals.

Spiritual Direction is a safe space to reflect honestly and to ask questions about your spiritual life: How do you experience God? How would you long to experience God? What are your questions or wonderings about your faith, about what it means to follow Jesus,

continued

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 215

Nurture Hour - 236

Finances – October 11, 2026

Operating Fund	\$19,415.00
Mennonite Ed	\$3,647.00
Either Fund	\$3,615.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$26,677.00</i>
Least Coin	\$50.40
Reparations Fund	\$250.00
The Window	\$1,000.00
Four Way Mission	\$2,500.00
Children's Offering	\$1.00
Total	\$30,478.40

Looking Ahead

October 25: Sermon: Cindy

Voth; Fruit of the Spirit:

Kindness

(Matthew 13:33; 14:13-21)

November 1: Sermon: Deron

Bergstresser; Fruit of the Spirit:

Goodness; All Saints Day

(Matthew 7:15-20; 18:21-35)

Pastoral Team

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team
Leader

Monday - Thursday

Deron Bergstresser, pastor

Tuesday - Friday

Katie Misz, pastor

Monday - Thursday

Ursula Hess - Sr. Adult Chaplain

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

about the unique spiritual path that is shaped by your prayer, your history, your relationships? A Spiritual Director listens with prayerful attention and is present to accompany you as you seek wholeness and deeper connection with God.

I was trained as a Spiritual Director in Seminary and have offered this ministry to seminary students, pastors and community members through the years. If you are curious about spiritual direction, please text, call or email me and we can schedule a time. And if not, that is fine. I'm glad to be back and look forward to connecting with you as we learn together to follow Jesus, love our neighbor and give thanks to God.

Knollbrook Farm



More than 80 Waterford attendees enjoyed an evening of corn mazes, hayrides, a bonfire and other fun activities at Knollbrook Farm on Wednesday, October 14.



Update

Prykhodko Family Update

The Prykhodko family, sponsored by Dave and Marge Gingerich and the Pathfinders Sunday school class, continues to live in Goshen: Pavlo still works at Wieland Design; Anastasiia now operates the family's cleaning business (Furnisoft), Artem has begun his sophomore year at Goshen College; Tymofii is an 8th grader at Goshen Junior High; and Yuniia is in preschool at Chandler. They have submitted their reapplication documents, along with corresponding fees, which were partially paid for by a grant from Waterford's endowment fund—thank you. Please pray for them as they wait for government processing to be completed. They are very grateful for the many ways that people at Waterford continue to support them.

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Minister Applications of Interest Deadline Nearing

The WMC Stephen Leader Team

Waterford Mennonite Church's Stephen Leaders are recruiting persons to train January-April 2027 to serve as Stephen Ministers. If you have taken an Application of Interest, the Stephen Leaders welcome receiving completed applications (in-person or in Bill Minter's mailbox) **by Sunday, October 25**. If you were unable to attend the October 4 SM Information Session, and/or have interest in exploring being a Stephen Minister at some point in the future, please contact Stephen Leaders Karl Birky, Mel or Lorna Claassen, Anne Lehman or Bill Minter and they can provide documents that were distributed during the earlier information session. If you are still uncertain of your intent, or have not yet been provided an application, please talk to any one of them.

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday is Guess Who's Coming to Dinner at 5:30 p.m. If you signed up to participate, don't forget to go! Contact Pastor Cindy if you have any questions. Please also remember to take a photo of your supper group and send it to office@waterfordchurch.org.

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.

Bethany is having its biannual **Fish Fry** on October 30. You can buy tickets online at bethanycs.net/student-life/fish-fry or from Gio, Judah and Lucas at church on Sunday. Any donations are welcome. Checks should be made payable to Bethany Christian Schools. This Fish Fry will feature Amish Kuntry Fried Pies.

Upcoming Events

Mennonite Public Educators Zoom Gathering: Topic: **AI in classrooms**. Oct. 19, 2026, 7 p.m. ET. Do you identify as Mennonite and currently teach or work in a public school setting? Join other Mennonite public educators for a virtual gathering as we connect, share ideas and explore how we are engaging with AI in our classrooms. [Register here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

Mennonite Action prayers will take place in the College Mennonite Church sanctuary on Tuesday, October 20, 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 join with many who are protesting the war in Iran, especially on October 20. We will remember many places where war and other violence interferes with the wellbeing of countless people. Let us not grow weary in the work for peace and justice! This is **open to anyone** to come for a short time or to stay for the hour.

MCUSA

Walking with hope on the Camino de Santiago. In his Menno Snapshots blog, Marco Güete, MC USA's director of Hispanic Ministries, reflects on walking the Camino de Santiago with his wife, Sandra, and the hope he sees in God's work through Hispanic Ministries, theological education and a new generation of Hispanic pastors and church leaders. Read "Walking with hope: Seeing God at work along the way" here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/walking-with-hope/>

MMN

Apply now for Mennonite Voluntary Service and Service Adventure!

Secure your place early for the 2027-28 service term. Whether you are finishing high school, leaving college, or anywhere in between, these two programs offer young adults a meaningful way to serve, learn new skills, and grow. Visit MennoniteMission.net/Serve to learn more.

AMBS

AMBS Pastors & Leaders 2027: "Courage Within the Dissonance": Feb. 22–27 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Pastors and leaders often feel the weight of dissonance as they seek balance in their congregations amid differences and competing interests. Join us to dig deeply into the biblical narratives of courageous leaders who can inform and shape our leadership today. Speakers: Gilha Lee, PhD; Drew Strait, PhD; and Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD. Join the event in person or watch via livestream! Workshop proposals are due Nov. 1. ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders

AMBS Alumni Recognition Reception: Monday, Oct. 26, 8–9 p.m. ET. Join us for a Zoom reception to honor the recipients of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's 2026 Alumni Ministry and Service Recognition: Ron Claassen, DMin (MDiv 1981), and Ingrid Schultz (MDiv 1992). Registration is required to receive the link: ambs.edu/alumni

MCC Peace Meal: MCC and Everence invite you to an international fundraising dinner for MCC's peacebuilding work on Sunday, November 1 at 5:30 p.m. at Everence Financial (1110 N Main St. in Goshen). The event will feature Dr. Mulanda Jimmy Juma, MCC Regional Advocacy and Peace Coordinator for Southern, Central Africa and Nigeria. Juma is a lifelong peacebuilder from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with extensive experience in conflict mediation and peacebuilding across Africa. He will share first-hand stories from MCC's partners about the impact of peace work and ongoing efforts to support reconciliation. Tickets for the dinner are \$50 per person. Buy tickets online by Oct. 26 at mcc.org/peace-meal.

Note: Dr. Juma will also present the **Beechy Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Lecture**, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m., in the Goshen College Music Center, Rieth Recital Hall and [Livestreamed](https://www.goshen.edu/livestreamed).

Fall Choral Concert, Saturday, Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m., Music Center, Sauder Concert Hall. The Goshen College Choirs performing will be the Goshen College Chamber Choir and Vox Profundi, directed by Scott Hochstetler, and Voices of the Earth, directed by H. Roz Woll. Cost: \$10; \$8 for seniors/youth; and free for GC students/faculty/staff.

Northern Indiana MCC Comforter Bash: People of all ages are invited to knit comforters at Pleasant View Church (58529 County Road 23) on Friday, November 6 (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.); Saturday, November 7 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). For more information about the event visit mcc.org/northern-in-comforter-bash or contact LaVera Schlabach (574-538-9629) or Donna Stoltzfus (tdstoltz48@gmail.com). A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. *Volunteers are especially needed on Saturday! Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day on Saturday. Must be present to win.*

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

Mennonite Mission Network is hiring. MMN is looking for a **creative and collaborative writer and editor** to help shape how we share our stories and connect with our audiences. In this role, you'll coordinate editorial projects and the writing team's workflow while creating engaging content for our website, social media, email campaigns, fundraising efforts, newsletters and public relations. You'll also help develop content strategies, build media relationships and coordinate freelance writers. Apply at <https://www.mennonitemission.net/Employment/>

Chief Communications and Marketing Officer – Mennonite Church USA is entering a season that calls for clear storytelling, stronger digital engagement and a more strategic communications model. The Chief Marketing and Communications Officer will help MC USA communicate who we are, where we are going and how our shared Anabaptist witness connects congregations, leaders and communities across the church. Applicants must be a member of MC USA. Deadline for applications is October 30, 2026. See full job description here. To apply click here. For questions reach out to HR@MennoniteUSA.org.