Here's Who Came to Dinner

Last Sunday night, eight households hosted guests for a meal and fellowship. At right, Firman and Susan Gingerich hosted one unruly bunch. Other photos were from hosts Steve and Debbie Fath (below) and Herb and Fancheon Resler (page 3).

October 25, 2026

The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:
9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Classes for all ages

Welcome Team
Greeters: Sheldon & Velma Swartz
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Carla Miller, Wade Ramer
Audiovisuals: Shawn Stutzman, Colin Berkey
Nursery: Mary Ann Weiand, Lacy Stoltzfus; Lorna Claassen, Lena Claassen

This Week at Waterford
Monday
6:30 p.m. - MSMT / Rm 37
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Venture Club
7:00 p.m. - JYF, MYF
Thursday
6:30 p.m. - Eat Listen Learn / FH
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

Listen and Learn 2.0: October 29, 6:30 pm

JD Smucker, Ministry Leadership Council Chair

Sometimes I just don't understand. My partner, Beth, can explain something to me three or four times, and still I don't understand. Other times we each hold half the truth relating to an issue, and need to share our perspectives openly to find a whole truth solution. Getting to an answer where we both share in the solution can be a journey of patience. It can also be the glue that holds us together as we live out our decisions together.

On Thursday October 29 at 6:30 p.m. we will have another opportunity to share perspectives and learn from each other before our vote on the Mennonite Education Fund Bethany funding options at our November congregational meeting. I look forward to hearing from those interested in talking further as we continue to practice our fourth fruit of the Spirit, patience, in our journey together.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance
Worship - 188
Nurture Hour - 201

Finances – October 18, 2026

Operating Fund	$7,261.00
Mennonite Ed	$495.00
Either Fund	$4,890.00
Subtotal	*$12,646.00*
Four Way Mission	$50.00
Reparations Fund	$1,100.00
Children's Offering	$3.31
Total	**$13,799.31**

Looking Ahead
November 1: Sermon: Deron Bergstresser; Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness; All Saints Day *(Matthew 7:15-20; 18:21-35)*
November 8: Sermon: Drew Strait; Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness *(Matthew 15:21-28)*

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

MEF Plan Voting

Majority Rule Voting with Three Choices

Jerrell Ross Richer, Ministry Leadership Council

On November 15 our congregation will be asked to choose one of three options developed by the Mennonite Education Fund Task Force to support Waterford youth attending Bethany Christian Schools. The question we will consider is how much support to offer each family to help offset the cost of net tuition (the tuition that remains after each family's discounts and vouchers have been applied). Here are the choices:

- Maintain the current level of support, 65% of net tuition
- Increase the level of support to 80% of net tuition
- Increase the level of support to 100% of net tuition

Since there are three choices, we will use an instant run off election to ensure that one of these choices earns a clear majority (50% or more of the votes).

You will be presented with the following ballot:

Question 1: What is your first choice? (Choose one option)

___ Option A (65%) ___ Option B (80%) ___ Option C (100%)

Question 2: What is your second choice? (Choose another option)

___ Option A (65%) ___ Option B (80%) ___ Option C (100%)

We will tally the votes for Question 1 and if one of the options receives a majority of the votes, the outcome is clear and that option is approved by the congregation.

If none of the options receives a majority, we will use an instant runoff process where the option receiving the fewest votes is eliminated. We will tally the votes from Question 2 for all who voted for the option that was eliminated and add these to the counts for the two highest options. The option that receives the majority of votes will be the one approved by the congregation.

For example, say we are each asked to select our preferred fruit from three options: apples, bananas, oranges. Everyone selects their first choice but after counting ballots there is not a clear majority with the most votes. The two options with the highest number of votes are apples and oranges, so the option of bananas is eliminated. Then we would look at only the ballots who chose bananas as their first option and look at their second choice fruit. We would add their second choice preference to the ballot count for apples or oranges. Whichever has received more votes, apples or oranges, would be announced as the chosen preferred fruit of the group.

SOS Breakfast

Special Treat for Prairie View Elementary School Staff

Luke & Cindy Voth, SOS Coordinators

For over the past 11 years WMC has had a special relationship with Prairie View Elementary School. 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. **Our next opportunity to bless and support PVES is providing a special breakfast treat for the 80 staff members on Monday, November 16.** This special treat is just to offer a gesture of gratitude and encouragement to all involved in the care, nurture, and education of the 300 students who attend PVES.

You may stop by the Participation Station to sign up to contribute food items for the breakfast – fruit trays to serve 10, baked goods to serve 12 (sweet rolls, muffins, scones, coffee cake, etc.), containers of mixed nuts, or special paper plates and napkins. Food items may be dropped off at church on Sunday, November 15 OR between 8:30 and 9 a.m. on November 16.

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.

Waterford Announcements

This is the last Sunday of the month and we will be collecting an offering for the **Reparations Fund**. Look for the people holding baskets at the exits to the sanctuary where you can drop your gift at the end of the service.

Endowment fund applications for Fall 2026 will being accepted until November 1. You can find the application forms at waterfordchurch.org, in the literature rack closest to the mailboxes. Please turn in applications to Doug Yoder.

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.

MCUSA

Finding courage on the road less traveled. Caleb Stoltzfus shares his grandfather's story as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War and reflects on the courage it takes to walk a road less traveled — as a conscientious objector or as an LGBTQ+ person finding their place in the church. Stoltzfus will lead a related seminar at MC USA's upcoming Waging Peace Summit. Read the blog here: https://www.mennoniteusa.org/finding-courage/

MMN

Looking for a meaningful way to use your gifts while building new friendships?

Want a truly different kind of family vacation? Mennonite Mission Network's SOOP program is for you! Service Opportunities with Our Partners (SOOP) offers flexible service terms at 60 locations for individuals ages 25+ and families of all ages. Housing and meals are sometimes provided. Discover the joy of working together, growing in faith, and creating lasting memories!

Visit **MennoniteMission.net/SOOP** to learn more.

AMBS

Gain peacebuilding skills at AMBS! Prepare for work and scholarship at the cross-section of theology and transformative peacebuilding through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's 52-credit-hour **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies** program. A concentration in Ecotheology is available. ambs.edu/matps

MCC

MCC's 'Seek Peace' poster contest: MCC invites participants of all ages to design a poster interpreting the theme **"Seek peace"** through one of three scripture verses. The purpose of the contest is to motivate our communities to continue to strive for peace and to have hope in the daily actions each person can take to make their corners of the world more peaceful. MCC will print and distribute the winning poster! Visit **mcc.org/seek-peace** for full contest details.

Upcoming Events

Goshen College **Fall Choral Concert,** Saturday, Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m., Music Center, Sauder Concert Hall. The 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. Buy tickets here or at the door.

MCC Peace Meal: an international fundraising dinner for MCC's peacebuilding work, Sunday, November 1, 5:30 p.m. at Everence Financial (1110 N Main St. in Goshen). Dr. Mulanda Jimmy Juma, MCC Regional Advocacy and Peace Coordinator for Southern, Central Africa and Nigeria,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. Free and open to public.

MEDA Convention 2026: Lead with Light, Nov 5-8, 2026; Tampa, Florida Join MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) as we explore this year's theme, "Lead with Light," and grow as servant leaders in our businesses, churches, and communities. Connect with entrepreneurs, professionals, and others who see business as a calling. Explore how we can create business solutions to poverty around the world. Find more information and register here: **meda.org/meda-convention**

Northern Indiana MCC Comforter Bash: People of all ages are invited to knot comforters at Pleasant View Church (58529 County Road 23) on Friday, November 6 (9 - 5:00); Saturday, November 7 (9 - 4:00). For more info about the event visit mcc.org/northern-in-comforter-bash. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. *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

Center for Healing & Hope is seeking a medical receptionist who is bilingual in English and Spanish. This is a part-time, weekday afternoon position (1pm to 5pm) with occasional staff meetings at other times during the day. We are looking for someone who will fit our culture of trust and respect. Communication, collaboration, cooperation, and collegiality are key to our team's success. Essential hard skills include being bilingual, comfortable communicating with patients on the phone and in person, and able to quickly learn and use electronic health record software. Training will be provided. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please contact Missy Schrock at mkschrock@chhclinics.org or 574-534-4744 ext 206.

Mennonite Men is hiring a director in Canada and a director **in the United States** who will work alongside each other. Each of these positions is 0.3 FTE. Anyone interested in applying for either job should send a résumé and letter of interest to Jeffrey Graber, board chair of Mennonite Men, at jeffreyngraber@gmail.com.