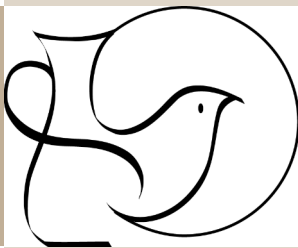


The All-In Elective class

participants pose for a photo. Read more about this class on page 2.



October 4, 2026



The Waterford Buzz

This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Worship
10:30 a.m. - Classes for all ages
10:30 a.m. - Stephen Ministry
interest meeting / Rm 34/35
12:00 p.m. - Fellowship Meal
hosted by Bridgebuilders class

Welcome Team

Greeters: Jerry & Joyce Troyer
Ushers: Dennis Myers, Ken Otto,
Len Harms
Audiovisuals: Glen Kauffmann,
Jeff Claassen
Nursery: Diane Bodiker, Gretchen
Bateman; Joyce Troyer, Poppy
Habecker

This Week at Waterford

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - Mentor/Mentee mtg
7:00 p.m. - FFMT / Rm 11

Thursday

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

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

Karen's Retirement

Cindy Voth, Pastoral Team Leader

For the past nine years we have had the joy and gift of having Karen Hostetler serve as our church secretary. In this role, Karen has been a great addition on our administrative team, handling details in the church office with her creative and professional presence.

Karen has announced her plan to retire from her secretary role at the end of October. We pray for God's blessings and joy to be poured out on Karen as she transitions to a new chapter of her life. Thank you, Karen, for your years of dedicated service and ministry among us at Waterford Mennonite Church!!

We invite you to join us in celebrating Karen by sending her cards or letters of appreciation and gratitude. We will also plan on having a prayer of blessing for Karen in our worship service on October 25.



Office Position Open

Waterford Mennonite Church is looking to hire an Administrative Assistant. The person in this role will provide support for our Family Life Ministries and the Coordinator of Administrative Ministries, maintain church records, and serve as editor for our weekly newsletter. This is a .4 FTE position.

Copies of the job description are located on the table outside the office. If interested, please submit a resumé and cover letter to Janet Shoemaker in the church office.

Life at Waterford

Last Sunday Attendance

Worship - 218

Nurture Hour - 219

Finances – September 27, 2026

Operating Fund	\$5,916.00
Mennonite Ed	\$175.00
Either Fund	\$1,965.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$8,056.00</i>
Children's Offering	\$18.00
Reparations Fund	\$857.00
Total	\$8,931.00

Looking Ahead

October 11: Sermon: Cindy Voth;
Fruit of the Spirit: Peace
(Mark 4:35-41; Matt. 14:22-33)
October 18: Sermon: Deron
Bergstresser; Fruit of the Spirit:
Patience
(Mark 4:26-29; Matt. 13:24-30)

Pastoral Team

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

Out of Office

Cindy Voth - October 4
Pastoral Team - October 6

Office hours this week

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9-12, 1-3
Friday 9-12
CLOSED Tuesday

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

New Elective

All-In Elective Gets Off to a Great Start

Two Sundays ago, the All-In Sunday School class met for the first time. Ten adults of varying cognitive and physical abilities read the story of creation from Genesis 1-2 and repeated a litany. Participants noticed the oft-repeated phrases, "God Created Everything!" and "God saw that it was good," and determined that the writer wanted us to remember that God created us very good.

Following an active discussion about the story, the group sang a few hymns. We ended with a bubble blessing, a visual representation of our prayers as they drifted over each of us.

We invite others to join our class in the sanctuary at 10:45 each Sunday this fall.

Bring your crochet, your fidget spinners, or your wittling: whatever you need to show up as your full self, with no expectation to be anyone else.



Fall 2026 Endowment Fund Requests

The Endowment Committee is now accepting requests for this Fall's distribution. Funds may be requested for local missions and outreach, mission agencies beyond the congregation, as startup costs for new programs, for training of future church leaders, and for other special projects.

The complete guidelines and request forms are available on the WMC website. Questions may be directed to Doug Yoder, Phil Habecker, or Susan Gingerich and applications can be mailed to Doug Yoder or placed in his church mailbox.

Ecuador Four Way Mission Update

You are invited to hear updates on the work of the Ecuador Four Way Mission next Sunday evening, October 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Waterford Mennonite Church.

Since our launch as a new nonprofit organization one year ago, we have been focusing on educational scholarships and pastoral training from an

Anabaptist perspective in the country of Ecuador. You will discover how your generous donations have helped fund a recent leader's workshop led by Ecuadorian partners Julián Guaman and Silvia Guaman.



Sewing School Bags

School kits are packed for this year, so it is time to sew more bags for next year's kits. This is a project you can do at home. It is all straight stitching. Karen is willing to pre-cut material and keep a supply on hand under the church mailboxes. You can also see a sample bag and/or pick up instructions. Last winter 350 bags were sewn. Can we do 400 bags next winter? If you don't sew, you are invited to make a monetary donation that we can use to purchase more fabric or cording as needed. Completed bags can be returned in the second box under the mailboxes. Cords will be added each month at our Mennonite Women gathering.

Waterford Announcements

This Sunday

- We will share in **communion**. We invite you to prepare your hearts for this sign of God's peace by making peace with God and with your brothers and sisters. And, as did the early church (Acts 2:43-47), we will also collect offerings for the Sharing Fund. This fund benefits people in need within the congregation.
- All are invited to our **October fellowship meal**, hosted by the Bridgebuilders class, following the nurture hour.
- **College Student Care Packages:** The mentor/mentee group will be packaging up the boxes this coming Wednesday for 26 students. Bring your contribution this Sunday—baked goods, healthy snacks, candy, Cup Noodles, popcorn, dried fruit, and other shelf-stable foods. No fresh fruit, please! When you drop off your items at the table near the library, grab some cards from the basket to write notes to our young adults receiving the care packages.
- **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** forms are due. There's a box on the participation station to drop your completed form and extra copies if you need one.
- The **Stephen Ministry Interest class** will be meeting during Nurture Hour in the Nurture Wing rooms 34/35. If you are wondering if being a Stephen Minister is right for you, come to learn more.

Mennonite Women will meet this coming Thursday. You can knot comforters, quilt, sew school kit bags, work puzzles or just come and enjoy the fellowship. It is a fun and meaningful group.

Men: Sign up for the **fall men's retreat**, Saturday, October 17, from 8:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at the participation station. Sign up by October 11 if you plan to attend.

Eat Pray Learn: Sunday, October 11, at 5 p.m., we will meet in the fellowship hall to discuss the options for supporting Bethany students in the coming years. Come join the discussion and bring finger foods to share.

Upcoming Events

Shine Curriculum Workshop: Join teachers and formation leaders on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Creekside Church of the Brethren, 60455 County Road 113, Elkhart, IN 46517. Shana Peachey Boshart from Shine Curriculum will present this interactive workshop to explore the new features of the curriculum, discuss challenges and successes, and learn from one another. **RSVP by October 4** at tinyurl.com/Shine1010.

MCUSA

MC USA honors 2026 Bring the Peace award recipients

Mennonite Church USA has named Weldon Nisly and **Fernando Daza-Jabian** as its 2026 Bring the Peace award recipients. The award honors individuals who embody Christ-centered peacemaking in their communities and beyond. Read the news release here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/2026-peacemakers/>

MMN

Just Peace Pilgrimages

Book your Just Peace Pilgrimage for 2027 and step into stories that still shape the world today. Together we'll walk in solidarity, open our eyes to the beauty and struggle of life, and come home changed.

Choose your adventure:

- Civil Rights Pilgrimage
- Christ at the Borders (Arizona)
- Underground Railroad

Embark on one of these life-changing journeys with your congregation, Sunday school class, youth group, or other group.

Visit MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace to learn more about the pilgrimages or start booking your experience today.

AMBS

Docuseries launch: “Mobilizing the Dead”: Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Tolson Center for Community Excellence, 1320 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana. This three-part docuseries produced by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary takes viewers inside **Movimiento Cosecha**, a dynamic, migrant-led movement that works to build community power in the face of ongoing detention and border violence. The series shows how immigrant families draw strength from their history, faith and ancestors to strive for dignity and systemic change. The doors will open at 11 a.m. ET, with the presentation running from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Food trucks will be available after the showing. Hosts: Movimiento Cosecha and AMBS, in partnership with the Tolson Center. ambs.edu/mobilizing-the-dead

Friends of Amigo Banquet, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Pleasant View Church (58529 County Rd 23, Goshen). Join Amigo Centre's staff and board for an evening of delicious food, hear updates and stories from the year, and have an opportunity to give financially to the ministry of Amigo! **RSVP by October 6**

Monthly Taizé-inspired gatherings for prayer: “Keep your lamps trimmed and burning”: Sundays, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13; 7:30–8:30 p.m., at Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, 909 N. Sixth St., Goshen. We will pray together with songs from the Taizé Community, Scripture, candlelight and stillness. Hosts: Walnut Hill and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Faith Formation Collaborative. ambs.edu/taize

You are invited to the 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

Mennonite Action Michiana: Join us for our next Dessert and Solidarity meeting, Thursday, October 15, 7-8:30 pm at Mennonite Mission Network, 3145 Benham Ave, Elkhart. Nathan Toews, Peace Education Coordinator with Mennonite Central Committee, will share his experience leading Peace Camps for youth throughout the United States, encouraging and supporting the next generation of the Church to live out an active faith as peacemakers. There will also be an update on Gaza/West Bank and the ending of TPS for our Haitian neighbors. Bring a dessert to share. Invite a friend!

First Light Mission's 31st annual fundraiser, A Place at the Table, will be 6:00 p.m., October 15, at Bread and Chocolate, 1100 Chicago Ave. This will be an inspiring evening filled with dinner, stories of hope, a silent auction, and a community united to support homeless families. Tickets are \$150/person and can be purchased at firstlightmission.org/events.

Peace Meal: MCC and Everence invite you to an [international fundraising dinner](#) for MCC's peacebuilding work, **Sunday, November 1 at 5:30 p.m. at Everence Financial 1110 N Main St, Goshen**. The program will feature **Dr. Mulanda Jimmy Juma**, MCC Regional Advocacy and Peace Coordinator for Southern, Central Africa and Nigeria, 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:** \$50 per person, including international dinner. **Registration deadline:** October 26

Opportunities

Thrift at Woodland Crossing is looking for a **Bookkeeping & Operations Coordinator** to join our team. This hands-on position combines bookkeeping, administrative work, social media, pricing, day-to-day store operations, and helping in the warehouse as needed. Part-time or full-time: 20–40 hours/week; Saturday availability is a must. Experience is helpful, but we're willing to train the right person! Send your resume to elkhartthrift@gmail.com

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.

Tutors needed: The Tutor-CogSci team from the Institute for Educational Initiatives at the University of Notre Dame is recruiting **literacy tutors for elementary schools in Goshen**. Tutors work one-on-one with elementary students for about 25-30 minutes per session during the school day, between 8:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. They complete approximately four hours of online training in evidence-based reading instruction and receive ongoing coaching and support. Both volunteer and paid positions are available, with paid rates ranging from \$15-\$25/hour based on education level or reading specialist experience. Interested tutors can apply here: <https://tinyurl.com/TutorND> Program questions can be sent to tutornd@nd.edu.