

THE MIDWEEK



MENNO HAVEN CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.

We gather at Camp Menno Haven, Tiskilwa, IL, this Sunday, to worship outside, celebrate Jaron Zehr's baptism, commission Clara Unzicker for a year of service and learning in Colombia, and enjoy food and fellowship in God's beautiful creation. Jane Roeschley's meditation, "Increasing the Strength of our Souls," is based on Psalm 138.

There will be no service at the church building on August 15!

Looking ahead:

August 22: Lyle Miller, Stewardship Consultant with Everence, and former pastor, will bring the sermon based on Acts 4:31-35, and lead the after-worship session on stewardship. If you are willing to share a brief response to "Why I financially support MCN on a regular basis," please contact Gary Martin. Your response can be in-person or via a video recording, during the Aug. 22 after-worship session, or in writing in Midweek.

Midweek schedule next week only:

Midweek will be published on Thursday, August 19. Deadline: Midnight, Wednesday. Midweek publication will return to Wednesdays on August 25.

Please Click [here](#) for meeting, zoom, and other recordings

Please click [here](#) for upcoming worship materials as they become available

Important Dates:

Worship at
Menno Haven
Sunday, 10:00am

Commission
Feedback due
August 18th

Worship *next* week
back to Normal
Sunday, August
22nd, 9:30am



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:
THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE AT
NORMALMENNONITE.ORG

Wednesday 11th:

7:30pm Vision Team meeting (Zoom)

Thursday 12th:

4:30pm Staff Meeting (Zoom)

5:00pm Outreach Committee (Zoom)

Friday 13th:

9:00am Spiritual Gift Discernment Team (Zoom)

5:00pm Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

Sunday 15th:

10:00am Worship at Menno Haven

Monday 16th:

6:30pm Pastoral Council Meeting

7:00pm Office Staff Hiring Committee (Zoom)

Office Coverage Update

We express appreciation to Charlotte Hedberg, for filling in the last six weeks. Her last day is Aug. 13. Denise Hedberg will cover the same responsibilities remotely, until an Office Administrator is in place. Thank you, Denise! You can contact her at the same e-mail address and phone: church@normalmennonite.org, 309-452-6622. The building is open, Monday-Friday, 2:00-5:00pm

If you know of anyone interested in the full-time Office Administrator position, the job description and application form is available [here](#). Please direct any questions to Mary Dyck, Administration Commission Chair.

Midwest Food Bank

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Friday, August 13, 2021 5:00-7:00pm

Please join us for a fun evening of service with your church family at Midwest Food Bank!

Anyone 5 yrs and older is welcome. Due to the changing COVID-19 situation, masks will most likely be required. You can sign up at the link below!

https://portal.goldenvolunteer.com/opportunities/rMj1CGA92q?_branch_match_id=903251295135960084



Midwest
FOOD BANK®

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Milepost 119

CHANGING OUR MINDS

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

The Apostle Paul instructs us to allow God to change the way we think! Which assumes, there are times when our thinking needs to change.

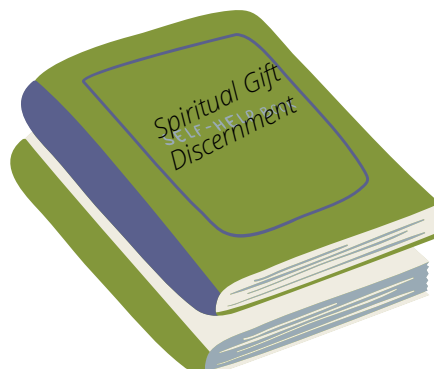
Clint Smith, in How the Word is Passed: A reckoning with the history of slavery across America, observed a pattern throughout our nation's history. When there are significant breakthroughs as a nation, in doing what is right for the poor and oppressed, or correcting an injustice, it follows a prominent leader changing a personal position on the issue. "My past position was wrong. My thinking has changed."

It's easy to see the minds of others which we think need to change. What could happen around me, if I "see the light" and acknowledge it in public?

~Gary Martin

New Small Group

A new small group is forming this week: Please contact Gary Martin by Aug. 15, if you are interested in a group focused on helping each other discern passion, spiritual gifts, personal style, and calling. It will meet on Zoom, with the schedule determined by those who participate. It will likely meet 7-8 times. Your participation helps MCN accomplish its vision.



Update on Leadership Volunteers

Several additional people have agreed to be candidates for Commissions. We are so grateful that they have found volunteering for a Commission to be a good fit for their spiritual gifts. They are Joanna Oyer for Community Life Commission, Pam Hodel for Outreach, Shannon Unzicker for Discipling, and Denise Hedberg as Chairperson for Worship Commission. To read ministry descriptions, click [here](#).

Thanks be to God for these folks who have agreed to serve:

Vision Team

Barry Weaver-Chair
Shannon Neely
Ben Roeschley
Shelly King

Outreach Commission

Andy Hedberg
Elsa Raab
Emmanuel Kasongo
Pam Hodel

Administration Commission

Mary Dyck--Chair
Rick Harnish
Cindy Ropp

Worship Commission

Denise Hedberg--Chair

Community Life Commission

Joanna Oyer

Discipling Commission

Shannon Unzicker

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team has prayerfully engaged in the process of matching the gifts of individuals and the purposes of the Commissions. Each invited candidate has also prayerfully considered how God would have them respond. The congregation has been provided with opportunities for feedback. That opportunity continues with the candidates Pam, Joanna, Shannon and Denise. Could you please respond with your feedback for those candidates by next **Wednesday, August 18th**? Send it to. And could you please continue in prayer for the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team as we listen to God's voice in filling these leadership roles? Thank you so much.

~Lynn Reha for Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (currently Nancy Fisher and Gary Martin).

Hungry World Farm

Check out stories from Hungry World Farm about MCN and MCN's own Emily Hershberger in this newsletter! [Hungry World Farm Newsletter](#)

Update on Finances

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



Mennonite Church USA

Journey Forward is a churchwide renewal process of engaging in scripture, storytelling, and sharing how God is at work in the lives of people and congregations across MC USA. To inform the direction of MC USA, we have partnered with Springtide Research Institute to conduct a comprehensive membership survey, interviews and focus groups to ensure that your voices are heard in this process. The survey, interviews and focus groups are steps in gathering stories from around the denomination. The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. We truly value all of your voices and need to hear what you have to say in order to Journey Forward together.

[Take the survey.](#)

Carle BroMenn Seminar

Join us in watching a video presentation from the most recent Community Behavioral Health Forum about How to Incorporate Discussion about Emotion into Everyday Life and Emotional Regulation of Kids from 6:30-8 p.m. this Thursday, Aug. 12. A discussion will then follow moderated by Delegate Church Association Chair Terina Carter.

Individuals will be able to: Identify principles of social and emotional learning • Learn how to incorporate social and emotional learning into daily life • Understand what emotional regulation is and the role of self-regulation in children • Understand why emotional regulation can be hard for some children (and adults) • Learn strategies and techniques for helping teach and promote emotional regulation

To join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91748513595>

Meeting ID: 917 4851 3595

Phone: +1 312 626 6799

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open: Monday – Friday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Gary Martin: Transitional Pastor, 574- 238-5475, gmartin5@comcast.net , In Normal: Aug.19-23, 27-30, Sept.10-13,16-20; Sept 28-Oct.3

Ron Ropp: Pastor of Visitation is providing pastoral care for those who are ill or hospitalized.
309- 452- 8534

Denise Hedberg: Interim Admin Assistant; church@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622

Bryan Oyer: custodian

Lauren Satchwell: Youth Ministry Leader; satchwell.lauren@gmail.com

MCC Action Alert

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

August 3, 2021

Dear Mennonite Church of Normal,

July 27 marked the 68th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice. The United States and North Korea have yet to sign a peace treaty to officially end the Korean War, and this is one of the root causes of tension and hostilities on the Korean Peninsula. This “forever war” keeps families separated, fuels arms races and risks military conflict.

Motivated by our work in North Korea and our partners in South Korea and the United States, MCC has advocated for many years to end the Korean War. Last year, more than 50 members of Congress voiced support for formally ending the war — but others remain unconvinced.



[Take Action](#)



Ask your representative to co-sponsor H.R. 3446, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, which calls for serious, urgent diplomacy in pursuit of a binding peace agreement to formally end the Korean War.

Faith reflection: “We cannot see our way forward. / The obstacles are too great, / And the task is too insurmountable. / Yet, you are the LORD of the impossible. / Make the impossible possible, we pray.” —From “A Psalm for Korea” by Joy Yoon.

Thank you,
Kate Parsons
Legislative Associate for International Affairs
MCC U.S. Washington Office