

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

This Sunday Jesus is cautioning his disciples about the many Prophets of the day with the parable of the tree that produces gold fruit.

Ron Ropp will be preaching the sermon, *Good Trees and Good Fruit* referencing scriptures Matthew 7:15-20, 12:33-37, and Luke 6:43-45.

We are continuing to Worship on Zoom this week. There will be no services in the building. Please join us on Zoom Sunday at 9:30am with this [link](#). The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

Important Dates:

**This Sunday:
Please Join us for
worship via Zoom**

**After Worship:
Stay on the
Zoom link to join
Adult Christian
Education Class, Salt
and Light**



This Week at MCN

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

Wednesday, February 9

7:00 pm Pastoral Team Search Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, February 10

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)

2:00 pm Women's Book Group (Zoom)

6:00 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

7:00 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Friday, February 11

2:00 pm Visitation Team (Zoom)

Saturday, February 12

9:00 am Worship Commission (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 15

7:00 pm Mama Bears (Zoom)

7:00 pm Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 16

9:30 pm Wednesday Morning Book Group

Worship Zoom Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85960872125?pwd=Sk1icENWNVhETjJFdDU1ZzVRMis2UT09>

Meeting ID: 859 6087 2125

Passcode: 546265

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85960872125#,,,,*546265# US
(Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Copies Available

There are three copies of the Winter Bible Study Salt and Light on the bench at the entrance of the church in a plastic container for those who still need one.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Membership Class Coming Soon!

As we move through the process of calling a new pastor, a congregational vote will eventually be taken on the selected candidate. As a reminder, the constitution of MCN states that voting is a duty reserved for members of the congregation only. For those who have interest in becoming a member of MCN, either by baptism or transfer, please contact a member of the Interim Pastoral Team. We anticipate planning a series of membership classes to be offered in the coming months.

Prayer Requests and Announcements

Sharing of Joys and Concerns will return to open mic sharing during the services. Please continue to send announcements to Lynette Miller at lynette.miller.k@gmail.com so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true whether we are on Zoom or livestreaming on YouTube.

Sharing Joys & Concerns

MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE CARDIOVASCULAR CARE UNIT OF CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2022

Mini Bazaar at the Mennonite Church of Normal

The mini bazaar is open in the fellowship area at MCN until February 28. Some of the items available are crochet items, kitchen items, fun baskets, items donated by Lois Jett, kids games, and other handmade items. The church is open weekdays from 3-6pm or you can contact Gerry Schrock to arrange another time that she could let you in the church. Donations will be accepted and proceeds will go to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Questions can be directed to Gerry Schrock or Louise Reeser.

Meals for Melika and Ross

Melika Hershberger has completed her first semester of her studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS). She will continue her first year of study January-May 2022. Would you like to be supportive by fixing a freezer meal for them? If so, please sign up [here](#). When the meal is ready, place clearly marked "For Hershbergers" non-returnable containers in the church freezer. Ross will collect to take with him to Indiana. Please text Ross when you have left something in the church freezer for them. Many thanks!

Administration Commission Update

Administration Commission has revised and approved several policies in collaboration with the Community Life Commission. They are:

- Facility Use Policy,
- Meal Policy, and
- Wedding Policy.

An updated Facility Use Request Form will be approved shortly. The update includes both custodial and technology service fees, which will be paid directly to the church and distributed to the individuals assisting with the additional services.

The CDC identifies McLean County as high community transmission for COVID-19. Our hospitals continue to be full. Our children aren't yet vaccinated. AC continues to monitor metrics weekly.

We have received a few applicants for the Office Administrator position. If you're aware of someone with progressive administrative experience and a college degree, please have them submit a cover letter and resume to church@normalmennonite.org.



Did You Know?

That the CDC, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Surgeon General have all indicated that there is currently NO significant scientific evidence that Covid -19 and the current variant circulating out there is being spread through the mail! The good news is that for the price of a stamp or sending an email you could brighten someone's day by sending a heartfelt message. You do not need to be a Shakespeare, Hemingway, or Picasso to brighten up someone's day and let us be honest we all could use a little lift these days! So, find that church directory link in this Midweek and send an uplifting note, card, email, or text to someone you have missed. Let us reach out. Please remember those church members in the Nursing Home or Homebound as well.

Thank you

Happy Valentine's Day

Deb Stenger (co-chair Community Life Commission)

Pastoral Team Search Committee Update

The committee is reviewing Ministerial Leadership Information forms, MLI's. If we find a candidate that we deem to be a good fit, we notify Doug Luginbill. If the candidate is still interested in MCN, we schedule an initial interview using Zoom. We are not there yet.

While you may be curious about the candidates, we are bound by confidentiality. Thank you for your understanding.

MUSA Special Delegate Assembly

The Assembly of Delegates of Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) will be meeting May 27-30, 2022 in Kansas City. Four resolutions will be considered. Full resolution statements are found [here](#).

1) **Clarification on Mennonite Church USA Polity and the Role of the Membership Guidelines of Mennonite Church USA**

Pastoral accountability is a function of the area conference which holds the credential. It is not the responsibility of the Executive Board. Pastors, congregations, and area conferences discern the appropriateness of performing same-sex marriages in their contexts. Congregations are accountable to area conferences. Conferences have broad latitude in determining membership and credentialing. The original Membership Guidelines for the formation of Mennonite Church USA states that disputes related to section III be resolved by area conferences, not the Executive Board. In that spirit, we commit to the difficult work of being church together amidst our differences working at Biblical justice and reconciliation where there is conflict. **Resolution:** *Therefore, we retire the Membership Guidelines as the active polity in Mennonite Church USA.*

2) **Mennonite Church USA Accessibility Resolution**

Resolution: As members of MC USA, we commit to growing as communities of grace, joy and peace without barriers so that God's healing and hope flow through all of us to the world regardless of ability. This resolution affirms that people with disabilities are included within priorities expressed in MC USA Journey Forward.....At all levels of the church, we commit to calling out and employing the leadership gifts of people with disabilities.

3) **MC USA for Justice Resolution**

This is a study resolution – it will not be voted on at this meeting.

4) **A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation**

MC USA delegates will determine if this resolution will be discussed and voted on at the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly.

MC USA Staff will ensure the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly is structured to:

- 1) allow time for worship;
- 2) focus on our vision and purpose and the Renewed Commitments;
- 3) build community within which discernment can happen
- 4) and provide a setting in which we are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit

MCN is looking for persons interested in serving as delegates for this Assembly. We are entitled to one Young Adult delegate (aged 16-21) and several Adult delegates. MCN will be covering the cost of registration, travel, and hotel.

A significant amount of preparation time will be required. There are several webinars and much documentation to work through prior to the conference.

Please prayerfully discern whether you are being called to represent our congregation as a delegate. Submit your information for consideration to church@normalmennonite.org by Wednesday, February 23. Registration and reservations need to be secured promptly.

Thank you,
Administration Commission

Update from Clara in Columbia

Things have been very busy at work, as the last few weeks we have been busy registering kids for our program. We have almost 200 children registered, which is close to double the amount from last year. We were able to register a large number of Venezuelan migrant children, which is really exciting to be able to reach that population as well. This week the interns will be starting with us and then we will be starting activities for the children on a regular basis.

The month of February, we are doing weekly workshops for a group of about 15 children with an artist, which will culminate in the painting of a mural in two weeks. It has been super exciting to see the children's excitement for learning about drawing and painting, and the artist has a lot to offer. I'll attach a photo from the workshop at the end of the email.

Also, if anyone is interested in seeing more photos, I am running the Facebook page for Creciendo Juntos, where we will be posting photos once or twice a week. You can find it on Facebook at Corporación Cristiana Creciendo Juntos or use this [link](#).

The biggest prayer request that I can think of right now would just be for the children that we work with, that they are able to be enriched by our programs and that we are able to make a positive impact. And for continued safety with COVID. Luckily I have managed to escape it so far.

-Clara



Mennonite Central Committee Event

MCC is hosting "The journey of a comforter: Live from Kansas and Jordan" on February 17 at 12:00 pm EST. In this behind-the-scenes event, you'll follow the journey of how MCC comforters are sewn, shipped and shared with people in need around the world. We'll hear from Kate Mast, Workroom supervisor for the MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton, Kansas and from Alex Azar, MCC Program officer in Jordan. Sign up [here](#) and we'll send you a video recording.

IL Mennonite Relief Sale News

The 64th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale will be held as an online auction March 12-19, 2022. The 2022 sale theme is "People helping people worldwide in the name of Christ." The Sale Board is seeking individual donations for the online auction, valued at \$50 and up to be collected at MCN by mid February. We are also asking for quilts for the online auction. Thank you for your past assistance and your continued support! Questions contact Louise Reeser or Ben Roeschley.

Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS. SEND A CARD IF
THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM-Noon and 1:00PM-4:00PM.

Church Office; church@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622

Lynette Miller: Interim Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions;

lynette.miller.k@gmail.com or 309-261-7485 or 309-963-4495

Lauren Satchwell: Interim Pastor for Vision Team, Administration & Outreach Commissions;

satchwell.lauren@gmail.com 309-830-6827

Holly Zehr: Interim Pastor for Worship & Spiritual Gift Discernment Team;

hmzehr@hotmail.com 309-846-0860

Ron Ropp: Pastor for Pastoral Care; 309- 452- 8534

Bryan Oyer: Custodian; 309-826-0199

Structure Documents

Updated structure documents, including ministry descriptions, vision statement with commission assignments for the goals, structure changes, and a list of individuals called to serve in the new structure, are available at this [link](#).

Please click [here](#) for past meeting and other recordings.

Directory

THIS [LINK](#) WILL TAKE YOU TO OUR CURRENT DIRECTORY. IT TAKES A BIT TO DOWNLOAD. IT LISTS EVERYONE WHO IS A MEMBER, ACTIVE NON-MEMBER. THE DIRECTORY HAS BEEN UPDATED AS OF Feb 11, 2022.