

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Steve Benner will be preaching on the most important word in the Bible.

The sermon *Amen* will reference scriptures Psalm 139:1-18 and Isaiah 55:1-13.

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

Those who are serving March 20:

South Greeters: Barry and Marge Weaver

West Greeter: Ardys Serpette

Welcome Table: Darrel Miller

Ushers: The King Family

Worship Leader: Leah Roeschley

Children's Story: Shelly King

Scripture Reader: Jaron Zehr

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompanist: Dorothy Loepp

Important Dates:

This Sunday:

Please Join us for worship in-person or live stream on YouTube!

After Worship:

You are invited to stay awhile and Reacquaint & Reconnect

- R&R -

with our fellow church members. More details will follow after worship.

Children & Youth CE



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Please click [here](#) for instructions for joining MCN's livestream. The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

This Week at MCN

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

Wednesday, March 16

7:00 pm Pastoral Team Search Committee (Zoom)

7:00 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, March 17

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)

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

6:00 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Friday, March 18

7am - 2pm North Danvers Church Bake Sale

Sunday, March 20

12pm - 5pm Relief Sale Auction Pick-Up

Tuesday, March 22

7:00pm Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)

7:00pm Cantus Novus

Wednesday, March 23

9:30 pm Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

After Worship Option

You are invited to stay after church Sunday and Reacquaint & Reconnect - R&R - with our fellow church members. These conversations with some questions to guide will be held in small groups during the Sunday School hour. Some of the questions will be lighthearted while others will help us know how to support one another in spiritual growth. You're invited to submit questions that would support these goals and that you would like to discuss. Send your ideas for questions to Holly Zehr at hmzehr@hotmail.com.

Save the Dates

- Memorial Services for John & Evelyn Bertsche will be April 16.
- Menno Haven Spring Work Day is April 23.
- Memorial Service for Wilma Dyck will be May 21.

Celebrating Lent

During this season of Lent, our services will be rich with new things, more singing, and opportunities for you to participate even more meaningfully. For the next 4 Sundays, the following scripture passage will be read by the congregation.

O God, you are our God, we seek you,
our soul thirsts for you, our flesh faints for you
as in a dry and weary land.

Yet we have seen your glory,
your steadfast love has poured over our lives,
our lips sing your praise.

We will bless you as long as we live.

Through the breath you have given,
the words that we utter,

the work of our minds and hands,
and the gifts of our inheritance,

we give back to you

so that all may sit in the shadow of your wings

and share the joy of your abundance. Amen. adapted from Psalm 63 [1]

If you are so led, you are invited to commit the passage to memory to engage this rich message more fully. Blessings to all as we celebrate the season of Lent.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

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 in person 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

Women's History Month

In honor of Women's History Month, the MC USA Archives has compiled a [Mennonite Women's History timeline](#). Explore the rich history with this new resource available now.

Pastoral Team Search Committee Update

Rumor. On Sunday morning someone approached a member of the pastoral team search committee saying they "heard a rumor" about the person who gave the sermon a couple of weeks ago. Let's turn that rumor into a question!

How does the PTSC introduce a pastoral candidate to the congregation?

In the Midweek and on Sunday mornings we will announce that a candidate is coming to town. Well in advance of the prospective pastor preaching a guest sermon from the pulpit and meeting the congregation, you will be informed. The visit will be planned according to Central District Conference recommendations. We are NOT even close to inviting a candidate in to preach. Your prayers are appreciated. We appreciate your questions, too.

Within the rumor lies a second question that the PTSC cannot answer. We are asking the pastoral team. **Who is Alison Brookins and how did she come to preach a couple of weeks ago?** "I'll pick it up from here" says Lauren Satchwell, member of the Interim Pastoral Team (IPT). Alison came highly recommended by Doug Luginbill, the Central District Conference Minister. Doug has worked with the IPT to provide suggestions for guest preachers during this interim time. Alison is the former pastor of Chicago Community Mennonite and someone that also came highly recommended by First Mennonite in Champaign. IPT is excited to have guests sharing with MCN!

Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale News

Theme of 2022 Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale: **People Helping People Worldwide in the Name of Christ**

Online Auction:

The Online Auction began March 12. Sullivan Auctioneers are hosting the auction. New items are online now with pictures in the catalog and can be viewed. Go to ilreliefsale.org. Then click on Sullivan Auctioneers site. You can then create an account which will enable you to bid on items. Bidding continues through March 19. Items purchased can be paid for and picked up on Sunday, March 20 from 1:00pm-5:00pm at MCN. Any questions about getting on the site check with Ben Roeschley.

Bake Sale Reminder:

North Danvers is hosting a Bake Sale again this year. Get together with friends and families to bake something for the Bake Sale. Baked items will be picked up Thursday March 17 at the church. Have your baked items at church by noon. Pans and bags are available in church kitchen. The Bake Sale will be Friday March 18 from 7:00am-2:00pm at North Danvers Fellowship Hall. A café will also be held at the same time where coffee and baked goods will be available. If you prefer to order online, please use this [link](#) and plan to pick up Friday from 7:00am-2:00pm.

Please let Gerry, Marcia, or Louise know if you are baking something. Thank you all for helping in this small way to assist MCC in their relief efforts!

Mennonite Relief Sale Dutch Market at North Danvers Mennonite Church

Shop in person Friday March 18th from 7:00-2:00 at North Danvers fellowship Hall.

We will offer a coffee café with coffee, tea, baked goods and fellowship at the west end of the fellowship hall

If you prefer online ordering the store will open
March 14th 7:00 am-March 17th at noon

<https://north-danvers-mennonite-church.square.site>

All online orders may be picked up at the church Friday 7:00am-2:00pm. If you need to pick up later than 2:00 please text Kathy and she will make arrangements.

Thank you 309-242-0789



Hope to see you!!



The Cookie Crew at Normal Mennonite
Spent the afternoon baking sixty bags of cookies!

Worship Commission Notes

We had a productive meeting discussing several questions raised by members of the congregation. These included encouraging preachers & other worship leaders to be unmasked unless they have a personal preference to stay masked; returning soon to receiving the offering during worship, offering the Memorial gift Hymnals for worship use; affirmation of changes in the liturgy for Lent; logistics for how communion is served; & accessibility strategies related to those with visual & hearing impairment. We began Maundy Thursday Tenebrae worship planning & reviewed plans for Palm Sunday & Easter. We looked ahead to some initiatives to pursue after Easter. If you have worship questions or comments to enhance meaningful worship for our whole congregation, please let us know.

Vision Team Update

The Vision Team met on Wednesday, March 9. Following the meeting, Vision Team has the following items to share with the congregation:

1. Vision Team received regular reports on the current activities of the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT), Pastoral Team Search Committee (PTSC), the Interim Pastoral Team (IPT), and the Commissions and discussed where support is needed.
2. Vision Team discussed potential names to fill the vacant role of SGDT Chair.
3. Vision Team discussed the ownership and development of personnel policies and practices that would be used for the long-term Pastoral Team.

Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the [Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#).

Live Stream Hosts Wanted!

Worship Commission would like to have a cadre of hosts for the YouTube live stream of our worship on Sundays. This would involve using the chat room to introduce yourself as host, welcome folk, invite them to greet each other in the chat, share Joys & Concerns during that time which is not broadcast live, give a farewell to each other after the Benediction, & other possible chat participation that does not interfere with worship. You may set up in the back of the sanctuary with your laptop, possibly use your cell phone, or even host from home. If you would be willing to be on a schedule to hosting, or if you have questions, please contact Joe Culpepper who can explain the process more fully.

World Conference - Indonesia 2022

The Executive Committee has opted for limited on-site attendees and many options for online attendees at the hybrid Assembly 17. MWC Assembly is hosted by the three Indonesian Anabaptist-Mennonite synods in Central Java, Indonesia, 5-10 July 2022.

MWC Assembly 17 in Indonesia will welcome 700 on-site participants with the option of additional Indonesian guests for opening night and closing service. Due to COVID-19 regulations, 700 is the number currently possible.

Registration for online participation opened in December 2021. Registration for on-site Assembly opened yesterday. More information [here](#).

From the Discipling Commission

Beginning on April 3rd, there will be two new options for Adult Christian Education following Worship.

Peaceful Practices, Adult CE Class for April and May facilitated by Phil Dick: This class includes 9 sessions organized by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). To help people learn to work through divisive issues, MCC U.S. has produced a new curriculum, *Peaceful Practices: A Guide to Healthy Communication in Conflict*. It invites churchgoers to follow Jesus' call to peacemaking through dialogue with each other. More information can be found [here](#). A paper copy of the curriculum will be in the MCN library along with a sign-up sheet for the class on Sunday, March 20th.

Everything Happens for a Reason Adult CE Class for April & May led by Jane Roeschley. "There's a reason for everything" is sometimes said for reassurance that God must be in control of all that happens. Kate Bowler shares from her life journey about how she's come to see that as the opposite of a faith-filled response. This class will read and discuss her book, [Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved](#). We hope this will grow our faith as we wrestle with some of life's most stubborn mysteries – and find they may be a way to more of God. Meeting each Sunday in April and May except Easter. **Assignment for April 3: Read the Preface and Chapter 1.** Purchase the book [here](#).

From Clara Uzicker, serving with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Bogota, Colombia

I continue to be really busy at work, which I'm thankful for. We have a group of four social work interns and four teaching interns who help us throughout the week—I really don't know what we would do without their help.

We have many Venezuelan kids who have joined our program this year—almost 60 (out of 230ish total). It seems like overall the Colombian children can connect and share spaces with Venezuelan children better than the adults can.

I continue to develop relationships with my host family and enjoy spending time with them. We went out for pizza last Tuesday to celebrate International Women's Day. I find it interesting that International Women's Day is such a huge event here compared to the US.

I enjoyed a visit from one of my close friends from Goshen College last week, and it was nice to have a week off from work and stay somewhere else for a week. Having a bit of space from work and my host family helped to re-energize me a bit.

I am currently in conversation with MCC about some of the last details, but I am going to be extending my MCC term here until the end of the year (instead of leaving in July). I have felt really connected to the work that I have been doing at Creciendo Juntos and felt that I should explore opportunities to continue this longer than the original time, so I am really glad that I will be able to stay a little longer.

Everence Estate & Charitable Planning Workshop

Everence will host an estate and charitable planning workshop at Grace Church in Morton on Tuesday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. Specifics will include:

- Estate planning: Creating a smooth transition -- Creating an estate plan to ensure your wishes about health, children and assets are carried out.
- Charitable planning: Growing in generosity -- Charitable planning tools to help you support the people and organizations closest to your heart.

Information will be presented by consultants from Everence Financial. There is no charge and registration is not required. For more information: contact Megan Hallden at 866-390-1417, 217-897-1417 or megan.hallden@everence.com. View the flyer [here](#).

MCC's Anabaptists Who Welcome Refugees

Would you like to join MCC in building a network of Anabaptists who welcome refugees and asylum seekers through community sponsorship?

You may be asking, what is community sponsorship?

Community sponsorship is when churches help newcomers adjust to life in the United States. This group of welcomers offers help with housing, transportation, connections to community services, and most importantly, friendship, understanding and quality time.

Through welcoming, congregations gain a greater sense of community, extend and receive hospitality, and develop a deeper understanding of God's love for all people. MCC provides tools and connections to help your church follow Christ's call to welcome the stranger.

Are you already welcoming newcomers?

OR

Are you interested in learning more about community sponsorship?

If so, click here to take a quick survey so we can determine how best to connect with you in this important work. If you have questions, contact me, MCC's Newcomer Connections Coordinator at welcome@mcc.org.

After We're Gone: Disabilities and Estate Planning

"After We're Gone: Disabilities and Estate Planning" webinar: Caring for someone who is dependent due to a significant disability is a major responsibility. Making provisions for that person's physical, emotional and financial well-being after the death of a parent or caregiver can be complex and confusing. Anabaptist Disabilities Network is partnering with Everence to host a webinar about estate planning for families with a dependent disabled family member. "After We're Gone: Disabilities and Estate Planning" will take place Thursday, March 31 at 1 and 7 p.m. Central Time. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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
