

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP

**THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.**

As we embark on this season of Lent, we turn away from our own ways and recommit ourselves to the ways of God as revealed in Jesus. We are being called to greater faithfulness as we seek God's ways.

Alison Brookins, former pastor of Chicago Community Mennonite Church will bring the message for the first Sunday of Lent, using the scriptures Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Romans 10:8b-13.

This Sunday, we will be celebrating communion during our worship service, please prepare your heart and mind.

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

### Those who are serving March 6:

**South Greeters:** Rick and Connie Satchwell

**West Greeter:** Mark Roeschley

**Ushers:** Larry and Louise Reeser

**Welcome Table:** Julie Musselman

**Worship Leader:** Leah Roeschley

**Children's Story:** Joe Culpepper

**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



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



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

## *This Week at MCN*

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A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:  
THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE AT  
[NORMALMENNONITE.ORG](http://NORMALMENNONITE.ORG)

### **Wednesday, March 2**

**7:00 pm** Discipling Commission (Zoom)

### **Thursday, March 3**

**6:30 am** Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)

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

**6:00 pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, March 8**

**6:30 pm** Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, March 9**

**9:30 pm** Wednesday Morning Book Group

**7:30pm** Vision Team (Zoom)

## *Interim Pastoral Team Update*

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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](mailto:hmzehr@hotmail.com).

## *Nursery Availability*

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The Infant nursery is open and available for use, but will not be staffed. The preschool nursery is available immediately following the Children's Time each Sunday, and will continue to be staffed.

## *Pastoral Team Search Committee Update*

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When we question the candidates and listen carefully to their answers we do so with the faces of our church family present, from the youngest to the oldest. When the candidates ask us what it is we like about the Mennonite Church of Normal someone always says "the intergenerational relationships" and we each nod in agreement! We are striving to find a pastoral team for all of us. There is no news this week.

## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

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# *Prayer Requests and Announcements*

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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](mailto: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*

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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

## *Meals for Hershbergers*

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# *Request for Help*

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## *Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale News*

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Here is a quote from Martin Luther King. "Life's most persistent and urgent question is What can I do for others?" As we again prepare for another unique and different Relief Sale I would like to share with you some ways everyone can help with the Sale.

1. First of all the Quilt Auction which will be held online. Sullivan Auctioneers have again volunteered to do the Sale online and will be coming here March 3rd to take pictures of all the quilts and other items which have been donated. We are receiving a good number of beautiful quilts so far. So if you have anything to donate for the auction, please get there here by Thursday, March 3. Louise Reeser is in charge of the quilt auction.
2. We have been having a mini bazaar with many smaller donated items. Be sure you look and see if there is anything you might want or need. These things were almost all made or donated by persons from our congregation. It will continue for another week. Go and shop!!
3. North Danvers Mennonite Church is again planning to have an online bake sale on March 18. They are requesting baked goods from our church. A signup sheet is in the back of the church. Boxes and bags in the kitchen can be used. Get together with your friends or family and have a fun baking day. Baked items can be brought to the church by noon on March 17 where they will be picked up and taken to North Danvers.
4. Pray for the Sale and for the many persons who are working on preparation for the Sale. Pray for ways that each of us can help even though it is not a traditional Sale. Pray that we may each find a way to help those in need.

Any questions: check with Marcia Rossi or Gerry Schrock

## *From Jim Bortell from last Sunday's Service*

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From Reinhold Niebuhr—one of my faith mentors in since my college years:

"Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing that is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone. Therefore we are saved by love."

# *The Little Gate of God*

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In the castle of my soul  
Is a postern gate,  
Whereat, when I enter,  
I am in the presence of God.  
In a moment, in the turning of a thought,  
I am where God is,  
This is a fact...

With God is a great silence.  
But that silence is a melody  
Sweet as the contentment of love,  
Thrilling as a touch of flame...

In this world my days are few  
And full of trouble.  
I strive and have not;  
I seek and find not;  
I ask and learn not...

When I enter into God,  
All life has meaning.  
Without asking, I know;  
My desires are even now fulfilled,  
My fever is gone.

In the great quiet of God  
My troubles are but pebbles on the road,  
My joys are like the everlasting hills...

So it is when I step through the gate of prayer  
From time into eternity.

When I am in the consciousness of God,  
My fellowmen are not far-off and forgotten,  
But close and strangely dear.  
They shine, as if a light were glowing within them.  
Even those who frown on me  
And love me not  
Seem part of the great scheme of God...

So it is when my soul steps through the postern gate  
Into the presence of God.  
Big things become small, and small things become great.  
The near becomes far, and the future is near,  
The lowly and despised are shot through with glory...

God is the substance of all revolutions;  
When I am in him, I am in the Kingdom of God  
And in the Fatherland of my Soul.

— Walter Rauschenbusch, 1918



# Administration Commission Update

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With the change in CDC Covid guidelines, Mennonite Church of Normal has a change in Covid guidelines. Beginning Sunday, March 6, masks are optional. Feel free to continue wearing masks based on your situation. Masks will continue to be required for those individuals working with children ages 5 years and under due to their inability to receive a vaccine at this time. Food and drink will be allowed for all beginning Sunday.

## Personnel Updates

1. Thank you to Ryan Miller, who has accepted the role of Assistant Treasurer. He will be working closely with Adam Augspurger for orientation.
2. We have several candidates for the Office Administrator position that we hope to interview soon.
3. Counting the offering – we'd like several volunteers to assist in counting the offering every Sunday as we need 2 unrelated persons counting every Sunday. If you're interested, please email Mary Dyck with your interest.

After 6 months of working closely together on the Administration Commission, our philosophy of ministry came together quite quickly.

Our ministry is to provide quality administrative support to the congregation and the commissions using sustainable principles, efficient stewardship of resources, and fact-based decisions. We are committed to treating people well by equipping and supporting staff, volunteers, and congregants through kind and transparent communication.

# Lent at Home 2022 Worship Guide

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Mennonite Education Agency of Mennonite Church USA has released its free Lent at Home 2022 worship guide and calendar for download. The annual guide provides options for individuals and households to follow daily or weekly rituals, which include guided Scripture readings, prayers and special activities for the Lenten season. Download it [here](#).

# Menno Haven Camp Update

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Summer Camp Registration is Now Open!!!! Head to the new registration website to sign up your campers to join camp this summer as they dive into the topic of Joy. Where do we find Joy? IN JESUS! The world may offer us a copy-cat version that doesn't hold up against suffering and hard times. When we are in the wilderness of life, we can still find joy in Jesus! With Psalm 16:11 as our memory verse, we will look at the Israelites as they traveled the wilderness and still found joy in God even though their circumstance did not change. We will also look at what Jesus did when He was in the wilderness. AND OF COURSE we'll wander the woods, play gaga ball, take boat rides, play fun games, jump in the pool, make creative crafts, build campfires, and enjoy spending quality time with others as we worship the Lord together. We hope you can join us!! Click [here](#) to register!

# Illinois Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly

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Materials for IMC's March 12 Assembly (zoom) are on the IMC website as well as registration information. [www.illinoismennonite.com](http://www.illinoismennonite.com). The Zoom link will also be posted on this website by this weekend. This assembly is for delegates and any interested persons in our churches.

## Central District Conference Mid-Year Gathering

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CDC will host the second Mid-Year Gathering via Zoom on Mar 5. The focus is on their theme of Tending Transformation as they hear stories from several congregations about how they are paying attention to how God is calling them to be transformed in their communities. Congregations are invited to choose to join a Zoom Video call on March 5, 9:30-11:45a Eastern Time. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3378130650>

## SWAP Coordinators Needed

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MCC is seeking to fill several SWAP positions: SWAP Location Coordinators in Hindman, Kentucky and SWAP Summer Staff in both Kimball, West Virginia and Harlan, Kentucky. MCC Appalachia's SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) program coordinates week-long service opportunities for young people and adults, to provide housing repair for low-income individuals and families. For more information and to apply, visit [mcc.org/swap-summer-staff](http://mcc.org/swap-summer-staff) or contact the MCC Appalachia SWAP office at 606-634-4418 or [AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org](mailto:AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org).

## Camp Friedenswald Update

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[Summer Youth Camps and Summer Family Camps](#) are also now open for registration.

Want to know more? Looking for other COVID protocols? Check out our [website](#). Spaces are limited so register today!

Retreat. Renew. Reconnect.

[Grand Camp](#): April 8-9

What is more delightful than the wisdom of age interwoven with the exuberance of youth? Grand Camp provides a weekend filled with quality time for grandparents (or grand-friends) and grandchildren to make memories together at Friedenswald. This weekend camp will include times of storytelling, guided conversations, art projects and time in nature.

## Mennonite Creation Care Network Lenten Calendars

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Lenten Calendars with a Creation Theme:

Care for our Common Home: [Lent Action or the Earth](#)

Creation Justice Ministries: [Lenten Calendar](#)

Presbyterian Hunger Program: [Tread Lightly for Lent](#)

# Our Members in Care Facilities

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

## Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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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](mailto: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](mailto:satchwell.lauren@gmail.com) 309-830-6827

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

[hmzehr@hotmail.com](mailto:hmzehr@hotmail.com) 309-846-0860

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

Bryan Oyer: Custodian; 309-826-0199

## Structure Documents

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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

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