

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

As we seek God's way, we move from a sense that "we" and "ours" have special standing to the knowledge that all are equally part of God's kingdom. Dr. Sibonokuhle Ncube will be preaching using the scripture Luke 15:11b-32.

Dr. Sibonokuhle Ncube has served as the national coordinator of Compassionate Development Service, the relief and service agency of the Brethren in Christ Church of Zimbabwe and a partner of Mennonite Central Committee. She is currently a student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She has almost 20 years' experience in various development contexts, including climate change management and finance and disaster preparedness. She is a former deaconess of Mount Pleasant Brethren in Christ Church in Harare, Zimbabwe. She lives in Goshen, Indiana.

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

Those who are serving March 27:

South Greeters: Rick and Annette Harnish

West Greeter: Nancy Fisher

Welcome Table: David Voegtlin

Ushers: Adam Augspurger and Lotus

Worship Leader: Marge Weaver

Children's Story: Shelly King

Scripture Reader: Janet Wilson

Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler

Accompanist: Keith Worley

Preschool Nursery: Lexi Neely

Gather Round: Spring Neely

Important Dates:

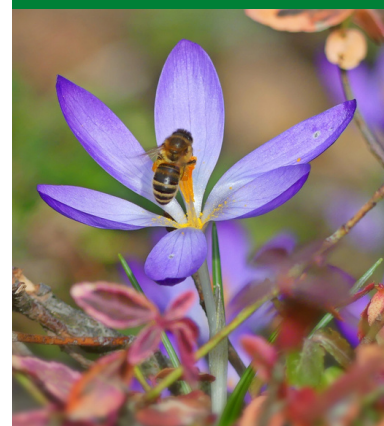
This Sunday:

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



This Week at MCN

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

Wednesday, March 23

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, March 24

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)

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

6:00 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Monday, March 28

7:00 pm Head Start Hearing (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 29

7:00 pm Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 30

9:30 am Wed Morn Book Group (Zoom)

7:30 pm Vision Team (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.

CDC Resources

Two resources were shared with MCN from Central District Conference. A [letter about the conflict in Ukraine](#) from Doug and a [summary of the resolutions](#) that will be processed at the MCUSA Special Delegate Assembly in May. Copies of the summary are also available on the entry table at church.

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

Lydia Hedberg's Cello Recital

Lydia Hedberg will be performing her Senior Recital program in the MCN Sanctuary at 7pm on Wednesday, April 6th as a way to prepare for her graded performance later in the month. Everyone is invited to this free performance!



Lydia Hedberg

Cello Recital

Dress Rehearsal of Senior Recital - Free

Mennonite Church of Normal

April 6 at 7:00pm

Bach • Tchaikovsky • Shostakovich



Administration Commission Updates

The Administration Commission is pleased to announce that we have hired Lydia Hedberg as our new Office Administrator. During the last four years Lydia has had progressive administrative experience in the Admissions Office of the School of Music at Illinois State University where she coordinated prospective student visits and appointments and developed recruitment materials. She is already proficient in most of the software programs that we use. She will be starting in the office on May 9 after graduating from ISU with a Bachelor's of Music degree in music performance with honors.

Several weeks ago, Heartland Head Start asked to meet with us to discuss the possibility of returning to our building. They have a new director and some new staff members. We have been in discussion with them regarding a contract, fees, playground, and communication. Administration Commission will host a congregational hearing on Monday evening, March 28, at 7:00 pm on Zoom, a Zoom link will be sent Monday afternoon.

Illinois Mennonite Conference met for their annual meeting on Saturday, March 12. Judy Hershberger, Connie Satchwell, and Rick Satchwell were our delegates. A report from the session will be in the next Midweek.

Our delegates for the MC USA conference in May will be Shelly King, Jane Roeschley, Cindy Ropp, and Connie Satchwell. Emma King will be the youth delegate.

Other agenda items have included reviewing and revising our Personnel Policies handbook, pavilion construction, outside yard work, and technology updates.

Greeting from the New Office Administrator!

Beginning in May, I will be the new Office Administrator for MCN. I'm excited to be able to serve my church family through this role! I'll be graduating from Illinois State University the first weekend of May, and I'll begin working in the office the following Monday. Some of you have asked me, so I thought I'd share with everyone that I will also be continuing to work as a professional cellist in the area. If you know someone in need of a cellist or a cello teacher, feel free to send them my contact information! (Lydiahedbergcello@gmail.com) I look forward to seeing everyone again!

Sincerely,
Lydia Hedberg

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.

IMC Update

Dear IMC churches,

In January David Miller felt like this June would be a good time to end his tenure as acting IMC conference minister. After MLT and CLT met with David, MLT decided to end David's role as acting conference minister June 15. MLT is asking for names that IMC churches would like to see help with a search for our next conference minister.

There are many models across the denomination for how conference ministers serve their pastors and churches. We ask churches, but especially pastors, to consider what conference minister models make sense for them and IMC.

As we mentioned at the March 12 IMC Zoom Assembly, we are asking for the names of pastors you would like to see serve on a search team for an IMC conference minister. Please send any suggestions to Darrel Miller, or David Miller by email or text.

In faith and hope,

Darrel Miller

dmliller@frontiernet.net

309-261-8668 Darrel

davidbmiller.imc@gmail.com

814-360-0591 David

Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale News

The Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Board extends very special thanks to all our Relief Sale workers for their prayers, donations, and participation in the 2022 Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale online auction. This year's online auction totaled \$35,324.00, which is approximately \$3,000.00 more than last year. We are also happy to report 175 families registered for the virtual auction with people logging in from 22 states. The auction was comprised of approximately 264 items, which included a little over 100 quilts and wall hangings. The board also extends appreciation to a number of churches who have or are planning special projects to benefit this year's sale. We thank God for His bountiful blessings in guiding our Illinois Sale efforts for world relief. Please mark your calendar for our traditional 65th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale on March 17 and 18, 2023. "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." Proverbs 19:17

Bake Sale Update:

North Danvers collected almost \$4,000 from baked goods. Thank you to everyone who baked and bought!

Mini Bazaar Update:

Thank you to everyone that helped with our Mini Bazaar during over the last 5 weeks. Lots of folks helped by donating items, setting things up, and of course shopping! MCN raised \$1,295.00 for MCC from this bazaar. Thank you!

Menno Haven Camp Update

Join us at Menno Haven for our Work Day in April and our Women's Retreat in May and come this summer to our Youth Camps, Family Camp, and/or GrandCamp! For more information, see the summer camp brochures and flyers posted in under the mezzanine or on the entry table or go to mennohaven.com. We'd love to see you here!

Adult Christian Education Classes Starting April 3

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](#).

Everence Webinar

"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](#).

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](#).

Lost and Found

If you are missing a pair of glasses with gold frames or a set of hearing aids, please check the lost and found. Thanks!

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
