

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

God, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, is at work restoring people and restoring the Earth. God invites us, as followers of Jesus, to join in God's restorative work for people and planet.

Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler will be preaching the sermon, *Do not fear, O soil!* using scriptures Joel 1:1-4, 10-12, 2:12-13, 21-26(a).

Karla serves as Executive Director of Hungry World Farm. She loves engaging her whole mind, body, and spirit in tending communities of soil microbes, chickens, gardens, and people! One of her favorite things on the farm is compost. "Compost convinces me that GRACE is inevitable. Grace guides the whole of creation, from emergence to blossoming to decay, to emergence and growth again." Karla has undergraduate degrees in agriculture and biology from Eastern Mennonite University and a Masters of Divinity from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. As an ordained minister in Mennonite Church USA, she served twelve years in congregational ministry prior to coming to Hungry World Farm in June 2020. She has also worked as a seasonal farmhand on five different farms, raised and sold cut flowers at farmer's markets, and served as a Community Garden Coordinator. She is thrilled to offer her gifts to the ministry of Hungry World Farm!

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

### Those who are serving April 24:

**South Greeters:** Paul and Mary Ann Watkins

**West Greeter:** Gail Fisher

**Welcome Table:** Bernice Valverde

**Ushers:** The Neely Family

**Worship Leader:** Steve Benner

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Lynette Miller

**Children's Story:** Darrel Miller

**Scripture Reader:** Shannon Neely

**Song Leader:** Barry Weaver

**Accompanist:** Elsa Raab

**Preschool Nursery:** Carrie Stalter

**Gather Round:** Holly and Randy Zehr

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

## Important Dates:

**This Sunday:**  
Please Join us for  
worship in-person or  
live stream on  
YouTube!

**After Worship:**  
**Adult CE Options:**  
Peaceful Practices  
Everything Happens  
for a Reason  
Salt & Light Bible Study  
Children & Youth CE



**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)

### **Thursday, April 21**

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

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

**6:30 pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, April 26**

**5:00 pm** Midwest Food Bank

**7:00 pm** Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, April 27**

**9:30 am** Wed Morn Book Group (Zoom)

**7:00 pm** Pastoral Team Search Committee (Zoom)

## *Presenting our Offerings*

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The offering plates will continue to be available in the back of the worship space before the service. Please place your offerings in the plate as you enter church; one will now be taken forward during the Hymn of Community and affirmed in the Stewardship Affirmation. If you forget, no problem: one of the plates will remain in back to receive any further offerings. Since so many have switched to online or postal giving, this seems an appropriate update to the older tradition of passing the plate while still acknowledging your generosity with thankfulness.

## *The Prayer that Jesus Taught*

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Throughout Lent, we have been praying the prayer that Jesus taught in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4, commonly known as "The Lord's Prayer" or the "Our Father." This prayer has been used in Christian worship since ancient times and is the one prayer that is shared across all Christian traditions. It is considered by many to be the perfect lesson in how to pray. As Jesus said, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way." Thousands of writers have written commentaries on this core prayer and you could probably spend your life mining its depths.

Voices Together provides six versions of the prayer at #989, including three in English. Starting April 24, one version of the prayer in English plus the French version will be projected on Sunday mornings. It may vary from week to week, as decided by the worship planner. If the version on the screen is unfamiliar, use this as an opportunity to reflect on the different emphases in the translation. May praying using Jesus' words be an enriching experience for all of us.



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 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

## Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

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Please join us for a fun evening of service with your church family at Midwest Food Bank 5-7pm on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. Anyone 5 yrs and older is welcome! Please sign up [here](#). You are invited to stick around and play basketball from 7-8pm using Midwest's basketball court! We hope you can join!

## Free Showing of Janet Wilson's Staged Reading

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You are invited to a FREE Staged Reading of Dear Mr. C by Thai playwright and Winner of the 2022 Diverse Voices Playwriting Initiative Tidtaya Sinutoke. The staged reading is Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for the Visual Arts (CVA) 110 on the campus of Illinois State University. This is a memory play with music "about love, family, grief, immigration, and cancer" and is directed by Janet Wilson. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Camp Menno Haven Update

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Join us Saturday, April 23 from 8-4 for Menno Haven's Spring Work Day! Come volunteer, meet others that love camp and enjoy a meal. For more information, go to [mennohaven.com/work-day](http://mennohaven.com/work-day) where you can also sign up to attend. We'd love to see you here!

Find your people at Menno Haven's Women's Retreat May 13-14. Come by yourself, bring a friend or a whole group of friends and get away from everyday life for an overnight retreat alongside other women who want to find connection with the Word and with other women. Check out [mennohaven.com/womensretreat](http://mennohaven.com/womensretreat) for more information.

# Community Garage Sale

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Wesley United Methodist Church in Bloomington is hosting a large garage sale on Saturday, April 23 at the Interstate Center, located just west of the Walmart on West Market Street. There is no admission cost.

- Donations can be dropped off at the Interstate Center from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily through Thursday, April 21.
- Garage sale is 8 a.m. to Noon Saturday (regular, but reasonably priced items)
- "All you can put in a bag for \$2" from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday

## Pastoral Team Search Committee

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"Where have all the pastors gone?" That's a clever title for a recent Hesston College conference, but a sadly, a true question. Lauren Satchwell and Lynette Miller attended online. Last week Lauren briefed the search committee. Before you read a summary of her comments to us, think of the Mary Poppins song, "Just a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down," and take a spoonful of sugar. What follows is a bitter pill. Across the country and across denominations there is a shortage of pastors.

Here are a few reasons. The demands of the job often don't leave enough time for family and life beyond the church. Churches expect pastors to have all the answers to all their problems. In some congregations there is a multi-generational clash about expectations for a pastor and what the church is supposed to be. Churches can chew up a pastor. People exit the ministry or decide to serve in other capacities.

What solution have some churches adopted to the pastoral shortage? **Discipleship.** Look within the congregation for pastoral leadership. Lauren asked us to look at what Jesus' model teaches us. MCN is embracing that model. Weekly, we read about discipleship in the Midweek, hear about discipleship on Sunday morning and see examples of hard-working disciples all around us.

How do we attract pastors and others to our church? People come through our **Front Door!** What does that mean? The new front door is our online presence. The committee is taking that suggestion seriously. In the coming weeks we will report about one idea we have to invite others online to enter through our new Front Door.

Finally, not from Lauren's report, but in answer to the question why some CDC churches have just hired new pastors and we have not. Those newly hired pastors made choices based on location and family! They never were in our candidate pool. Before you read further, take another spoonful of sugar. One of those churches that just hired a new pastor waited for two years.

We keep searching and give thanks for those among us who keep discipling.

# Church Library

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We are now taking responsibility for our church library. We want to thank Lynette Miller and others for all that they have done to maintain and improve this resource in recent years!

One way that MCN has grown the library is through contributions of books. Please contact one of us if you are considering making a donation. Thank you!

We have noticed that quite a few borrowed books have not made their way back to the library. Please check your shelves to see if you might have any of those! We will send out reminders to people in the next couple of weeks.

Barry Weaver and Amy Reiman

## Administration Commission Updates

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**Save the date!** The Central District Conference (CDC) annual meeting will be June 23 to 25 in Goshen, Indiana, at Goshen College, College Mennonite Church. The theme of Tending Transformation will be the focus for the discussions. Administration Commission is looking for volunteers to be our delegates. Please let Lauren Satchwell know if you're interested in representing MCN.

**Work Orders!** Building issues from set up to maintenance will be tracked beginning immediately. There are printed forms in the office to write any requests in lieu of telling someone on Administration Commission or the Custodian. We hope to have a form available online on the church website soon. So, if you forget to complete it at the church, you can do it at home. This change in process will help AC monitor ongoing building needs. Thanks for your help in changing the process!

## A Call to Prayer and Fasting for MCUSA's Special Session

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A Call to Prayer and Fasting Just as Paul prayed for the churches of his time, let us also pray for ours. Join Mennonite Church USA on May 2 at 7 p.m. ET/4 P.M. PT on Zoom for a webinar on ways that we can support the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly and our participating church leaders through individual and communal prayer and fasting. Register [here](#).

## AMBS Free Webinar

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Political Idolatry: Countering Christian Nationalism

Wednesday, May 4 • 2-3 p.m. EDT

Learn practical tools for tough conversations.

Join Drew Strait, PhD, Assistant Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at AMBS, as he provides an overview of the destructive force of White Christian nationalism.

- ▶ Explore the political metaphor of idolatry in conversation with texts from the Old and New Testaments.
- ▶ Learn how Christian nationalism distorts our knowledge of God and neighbor.
- ▶ Use these practical tools to help with today's tough conversations to bear witness to the gospel of peace.

All registrants will receive access to a recording of the webinar. Register [here](#)!

# Voices Together Worship Leaders' Workshop

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Voices Together Worship Leaders' Workshop | May 14, 9 a.m.-noon (on Zoom) | sponsored by Benton Mennonite Church

Anneli Loepp Thiessen and Katie Graber will provide background on worship resources in Voices Together, and the Voices Together Worship Leaders' ed., highlighting uses in worship as well as the styles, cultures, and eras they represent. They will discuss tools for understanding your community's worship culture in order to make intentional, theologically grounded, and spiritually inspired choices about worship practices that respond to your local contexts and dismantle oppression in your communities. No cost required. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

## Free Concert: Breathing Deeply

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First United Methodist Church in Normal is hosting a concert "Breathing Deeply: Immersion in Art, Music and Poetry" at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 22 in the church at 211 N. School Street. See the [linked postcard](#) for more details.

## Sign Up Now for the MDS Family Program

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Enjoy a week at Camp Amigo while also volunteering with Mennonite Disaster Service. This July, MDS offers the Family Program, a 4 or 5 day summertime experience for the whole family. During your stay for the Family Program, your family will enjoy the beauty, and serenity of the Amigo Centre and participate in age-appropriate maintenance and building projects on the property in response to a storm that hit in August 2021. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## AMBS Retreat: Spiritual Practices: Trees of Life

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This retreat will weave together study of biblical texts about trees; understanding of trees as organisms and within ecosystems; ecological issues; and spiritual practices. Participants will also consider how to engage trees within their faith communities.

Janeen Bertsche Johnson, MDiv, Core Adjunct Faculty, will lead the retreat, which will be held over two days:

Friday, June 3, 2022, 1-8:30 p.m. EDT on the AMBS campus in Elkhart; and

Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m. - 6:15 p.m. EDT at Camp Friedenswald near Union, Michigan

Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

# 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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