

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Eric Kurtz will provide the sermon this Sunday based on Matthew 25: 31-46 titled ***Matthew 25: Listening to the overlooked and ignored.*** The Matthew 25 passage about the sheep and the goats is a favorite among Mennonites and those who support MCC. But how do we remain faithful to Jesus' message in this passage? I think it's less about worrying if we're sheep or goats, and more about seeing the face of God in the "overlooked and ignored" (Eugene Peterson's translation).

Eric Kurtz is executive director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes. MCC is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches that shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ. MCC works with local partners in 47 countries in relief, development, and peacebuilding. Eric lives in Goshen, Indiana, with his wife, Carmen Horst, and daughters Elisa and Nayli. His family attends Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, where Carmen is co-pastor. Before joining MCC, Eric used his environmental studies background with the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District and with rural indigenous communities in Northern Argentina.

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

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

"Those Serving this Week" has moved. It can now be found later in the Midweek!

This Sunday:

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



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

After Worship:

Talk Back with Eric Kurtz

Adult CE

Salt & Light Bible Study

Children & Youth CE

Pastoral Candidate Weekend At A Glance

Sunday, July 24

The Vision Team and the Pastoral Team Search Committee will announce the name of the candidate and explain why they recommended this candidate to the congregation.

Saturday, August 6

10:30am–11:45am Informal time for the “Founders and Those Who Found Us” to welcome and meet the candidate. Here we hope many of the original founders and those who have joined us through the years come to meet the candidate. All are invited, but intended for those ages 50 and above.

2:30pm–4:15pm The candidate meets with all members of the following teams and commissions: Spiritual Gift Discernment, Interim Pastoral, Administration, Community Life, Discipling, Outreach, Worship.

4:15pm–4:30pm The candidate meets with the tech team and others as needed to finalize plans for the worship service.

6:30pm–8:30pm Lawn games at Marge and Barry Weaver’s home. Guests are encouraged to bring games and snacks. No meal will be served. All are invited, but intended for those under age 50, including families with children.

Sunday, August 7

9:30am The candidate will preach the sermon.

10:45am–11:15am Fellowship Time immediately after the service will be extended for an informal time with the candidate. There will be no Christian Education.

11:30am–12:30pm Formal Question & Answer. (This event will be streamed through Zoom to allow more than those in person to participate.) **To make sure all voices are heard, and all questions are asked we request that questions be submitted in writing and signed via the following ways:**

- email church@normalmennonite.org
- mail to the Mennonite Church of Normal, 805 S. Cottage Ave. Normal, IL 61761
- call 309-452-6622 and speak with Lydia
- drop your questions off at the office during the hours the office is open

A moderator will read the questions and the name of the person(s) asking the question. As time allows, there will be open ended question and answer at the end. **Questions must be received by the church before Thursday, August 4th.**

Due to the schedule changes, there will be no picnic.

Based on the Pastoral Team Search Committee and the Vision Team's recommendation of the candidate, a vote is planned to begin on August 7th.

Voting details will outlined in the July 27 Midweek.

McLean County Covid-19 Update

The McLean County rolling positivity rate was at **24.9%** on July 14, 2022 and decreasing. Community level spread is medium with potential for strain on the health care system. **Administration Commission encourages attenders at in-person church events to continue to be masked.**



MENNO HAVEN SUNDAY

Escape to the Woods!

Menno Haven Sunday

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Escape to Camp Menno Haven

Worship: 10:00 am

Lunch: served by camp staff at noon. Cost of the meal is: adults \$12, children ages 4-10 years \$6 and ages 3 and under free. **Registration is required by next Wednesday, July 27.** *Payment is accepted electronically through PayPal as well as by cash/check to the Church Office. More details can be found in the sign up form.*

Afternoon activities at the camp include: use of canoes and paddleboats, swimming in the pool, lawn games, hiking trails, and use of the activity center.

Tour of Hungry World Farm: Hungry World Farm is a Sustainable Agriculture Project that seeks the well-being of all, by inspiring and educating about healthy fields, food, and bodies caring for the earth. They focus on the following activities: educating people about food production, distribution, and consumption; addressing spiritual hunger in people's lives: and fostering connections between people, soil, and creation. **Registration for this tour is required by next Wednesday, July 27.** **Only one week left to register!** We will carpool from the camp and the tour will start at approximately 1:30 pm.

[SIGN UP for the worship service, lunch, and/or tour HERE](#)

or call the Church Office at (309) 452-6622

After Worship This Sunday!

Join Eric Kurtz after the service for a short update on Mennonite Central Committee's work during the Sunday School hour. There will also be time for questions and conversation about Mennonite Central Committee.

Update from the Vision Team

The Vision Team met on Monday, July 11. 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 is planning for the weekend of August 6-7 when a pastoral candidate will be visiting. Vision Team is also drafting a plan (and working with the IPT) for how to best assign and transition commission assignments to long-term pastoral team members once onboarded.
3. Vision Team is reviewing and contributing to applicable portions of the draft Employment Manual prepared by the Administration Commission.
4. Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the Vision Team folder on Google Drive.

Spending Plan Status

Spending Plan Status:

June Income: \$21,725

June Expenses: \$35,045

June Income - Expenses: -\$13,320

Year-to-Date Income: \$143,125

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$142,867

Year-to-Date Income - Expenses: \$258

The annual insurance bill was paid in June, resulting in significantly more expenses than income.

Family Fun Night Thank You!

THANKS to everyone that helped out with Family Fun Night last month!!! It was a great time for the kids and families. We appreciate everyone's willingness to provide food, help with games and activities and clean up. We couldn't have done it without you all!!!

Update from Clara Unzicker

In June, we started the biggest event of the year at my service placement, called the Mundialito por la Paz (Soccer Tournament for Peace). This year marks the soccer tournament's fourth year, which includes 80-100 children ages 6-17. Children participating in the tournament are active in soccer practice and workshops that focus on nonviolence, teamwork, and conflict resolution. After several weeks of soccer practice and workshops, Creciendo Juntos held the inauguration to celebrate the beginning of the tournament. The week before, we spent several days sweeping and cleaning the soccer field and repainting the lines. It was a great team effort! All of the children changed into their uniforms, all generously donated by my host family, and were so thrilled to have brand new uniforms that matched their team. We spent the whole day at the soccer field watching the games between the different age groups. Many children play soccer all the time and are extremely talented. I actually ended up joining in two of the games to sub for someone who couldn't be there...and I was given a run for my money by several of the kids. We have continued with games the past week and will be finishing up with the tournament at the end of next week. Luckily, we've only hit one major setback, which happened last week, when the field completely flooded with water. It rained pretty hard one night and the drainage pipe to the ditch surrounding the soccer field was covered up by a piece of wood. We couldn't believe how high the water rose in a short time. The next day, thanks to the hard work of a group of kids, parents, and community members, it was unblocked and was left to dry for a few days. It was wonderful to see the community work together to help drain the field so that the children's games could continue.

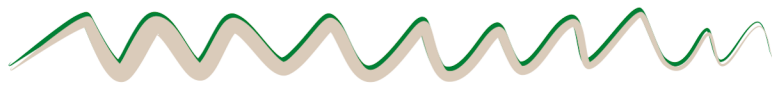
Although I have been busy at my service placement, I have found time for some other activities...hiking, sightseeing, and a small trip outside of the city with some friends from church. Over the weekend, I wrapped up my time with my host family. Although it wasn't always easy to live with a host family, I am thankful for their hospitality and all of the things that they taught me about Colombia. Since it's now the time I would have been finishing up my time in SALT if I hadn't been able to extend my time with MCC, I have transitioned to live with another volunteer here. I'm looking forward to this new change.

It's strange for me to think that I was originally going to be returning to the US this week...I cannot imagine having to say goodbyes to everyone that has impacted me and played such an important role in my life in the past 11 months here in Bogotá. I'm so thankful for the chance that I have to continue my time here in Colombia until December, and I appreciate the continued support and prayers. Thanks so much! --**Clara Unzicker**

Update on the SMAP Funds

Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP) is a program established a long time ago when our church decided it would support the Mennonite Colleges and Universities by not only sending students but by paying for their tuition and fees minus their scholarships. Our account is at approximately \$26,000. We are needing to raise a total of approximately \$69,000 dollars to support the program for the 2022-2023 school year. Last year we had some estate donations to help us meet our goal we do not have that this year. Please consider supporting this program.

Our MCN website also has a way to give directly to this program; go to <https://normalmennonite.org/offering-my-gifts/> and on the drop-down of where to give select SMAP--Note: we (the committee) would still appreciate an email even if you give directly on the website so the committee can better prepare for the upcoming school year. Contact Darvis King by text or phone or email for any questions or communication. Thank You.



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:



Sharing of Joys and 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

Prayer Requests and Announcements

Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please continue to send announcements to Lynette Miller at 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.



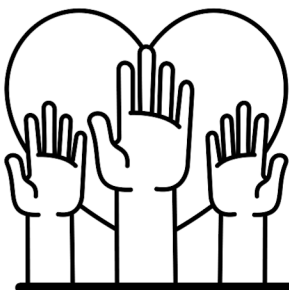
Birthdays & Anniversaries



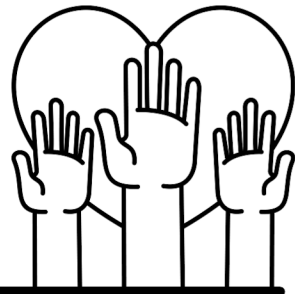
CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Birthdays

Anniversaries



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Annette & Rick Harnish

West Greeter: Gail Fisher

Welcome Table: Nancy Fisher

Ushers: Randy & Jaron Zehr

Worship Planner: Joe Culpepper

Worship Leader: Joe Culpepper

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Shannon Neely

Scripture Reader: Marianne Israel

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment: Dorothy Loepp

Prelude & Postlude: Caleb & Adam Augspurger

Tech: Adam Augspurger & Jaron Zehr

Preschool Nursery: Marcia Rossi

Gather Round: No Gather Round until September



Jazz at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival



Join Glenn Wilson and Friends the next two Saturdays, **July 23 & 30**, at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival at Ewing Manor – 6:30 in the Courtyard. Free and open to anyone – bring your own food and drink or purchase there.



Mennonite Heritage Center Hymn Sing



6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 31

Sutter Barn, Mennonite Heritage Center in Metamora, IL

Hymn Sing hosted by Cazenovia and the Center. All ages welcome.

For more information, contact Michael Yoder at campesinomike@gmail.com.

Centennial Celebration of Maple Lawn Homes

You are invited to join us July 22 & 23, 2022, at Liberty Bible Church (Rt 117 N Eureka) as we mark 100 years and celebrate the hundreds of heroes who made our faith based retirement community possible.

Friday, July 22, 2022 6-8:30 p.m. Enjoy a series of presentations featuring the 100 year history of Maple Lawn. Short videos will highlight different aspects of Maple Lawn's operation. Audience participation will allow you to share memories as we reflect on events and people over the past ten decades. How were you or your family connected with Maple Lawn Homes? We'd love to hear your story. Light refreshments will be served at intermission. All are welcome.

Saturday, July 23, 2022 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Come at your convenience to the Family Life Center and leisurely walk through an extensive display of memorabilia beginning with J.D. Smith in 1922 through the present day CEO, Jeremy LaKosh. For your convenience, the Tin Roof Smokehouse food truck will be present beginning at 11 a.m. if you would like to purchase lunch (cash or check only). At **11:30 a.m.**, Eureka Mayor, Eric Lind, will be present for a ribbon cutting ceremony of Maple Lawn's newly remodeled social center.

Campus tours will be offered at Maple Lawn Campus beginning at 12:30: Maple Lawn Cottages, Social Center, Trail among the trees, The Loft.

**We look forward to greeting you at our centennial events.
Reservations appreciated to akennell@mtco.com**

MCC Webinar



Webinar: Housing Solutions for Refugees/Asylum Seekers **July 26th at 2:00 pm EDT | [Register for the webinar](#)**

When refugees and asylum seekers arrive in the United States, the first thing they need is a safe place to call home. Unfortunately, the ongoing affordable housing crisis has greatly impacted families' ability to lay down roots.

Join Mennonite Central Committee to learn about ways the faith community has partnered with refugees, asylum seekers, and organizations that serve them, to offer creative housing solutions. We will hear from panelists involved with the Asylum Seekers Housing Network (ASHN), the Asylee Women Enterprise (AWE), Reservoir Hill House of Peace (RHHP) and Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS).

View the previous webinar recordings: [Welcoming asylum seekers](#), [Welcoming refugees in your community](#) and [Addressing the trauma of migration](#).

UMW ATTIC SALE

Friday, July 22, 2022 • 8-3 PM

Clean out the clutter in your attic, basement, closets, etc. & donate your items to the Attic Sale. **New this year:** furniture will **not** be accepted. **Donations accepted beginning 2 pm on Sunday, July 10.**



Use this QR code to view & sign up for volunteer opportunities.

United Methodist Church Attic Sale

I am sure many of you are familiar with the United Methodist Church's Attic Sale next to ISU's Bone Student Center. It is being put on again this year after a break due to Covid. Even though theirs is a large congregation, they are appealing for help this year. [Sign up on SignUpGenius](#) if you are able to volunteer the day-of or leading up to the event. You can also drop off items at the church. For further information you can call Carolyn Yockey at 309-452-3936, or you can call or email me and I can forward you the email from Carolyn to us. Over the years we have donated items and shopped there. It is a lot of fun. Food will also be available.

--Jurgen Schroeer

An Inside Look the Lois Jett Costume Collection



Join the Alumni Association along with Director of the **Lois Jett Historic Costume Collection** (LJHCC) Jennifer Banning, graduate student Ye Fatuki, and graduate student Julie Mooberry from the comfort of your home to get a guided tour of the 2,000+ item teaching collection.

The LJHCC, managed by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, was created in 1962 by **Lois Jett, a professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (and member of MCN!)**. Over the years, the collection has expanded to more than 2,000 items of men's, women's, and children's dress, textiles, and related artifacts from around the world dating from 700 CE to today. Fashion design and merchandising students work each year to plan various exhibits covering film, sports, professions, Broadway, and more to put on display for the community to visit.

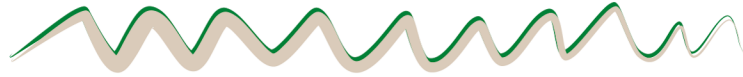
The virtual event is free to attend. Participants can register [online](#) now through 4:30 p.m. on August 31. Questions can be sent to [Juliana Nelson, assistant director for Alumni Engagement](#).

In the following days, once registration is completed, guests will receive an email with links to take the tour at their own leisure.

Learn, Pray, Join: Welcoming EveryBODY

What if we celebrated our wounded bodies — scars, wrinkles, prosthetics and all? Erica Lea-Simka questions if we would look at Jesus, and ourselves, differently if we celebrated his wounds, abilities and disabilities. Her blog is part of Mennonite Church USA's "Learn, Pray, Join: Welcoming EveryBODY" initiative.

Read it here: mennoniteusa.org/bending-stretching



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, 9AM-11AM
and Monday – Wednesday & Friday 1:30PM-3PM.

Lydia Hedberg: Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org; 309.452.6622

Rita Munkakusi: Custodian

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

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

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

Ron Ropp: Pastor for Pastoral Care

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

[Work Order](#) & [Purchase Request](#)

Items for the Midweek



Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than 8am on Wednesday. Thank you!

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
