

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Lois and Wayne Hochstetler will speak about their experiences this summer with Mennonite Disaster Service in Paradise, CA. They will use Isaiah 25: 1-10a and Luke 15:8-10, Jesus' parable of the woman who lost a coin, as an example of losing something that is part of our identity, and discovering the joy of recovering our very selves.



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:

Adult CE
Salt & Light Bible Study
Children & Youth CE

Pastoral Candidate Weekend At A Glance

Saturday, August 6

10:30am-11:45am Informal time for the “Founders and Those Who Found Us” to welcome and meet the candidate. 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 and 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 & Barry Weaver’s. 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. This will include dedicated time for the Junior and Senior High Students. There will be no Christian Education. There will be child care provided during the Fellowship Time and Q & A for children who do not wish to attend.

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, submit your questions in writing and sign your name. Send your questions via one of these 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.

About Kevin Chupp

About the Candidate & Summary of the Interviews with Pastoral Team Search Committee and Vision Team:

Kevin Chupp is currently the pastor of First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen, Idaho, in the southeast corner of Idaho. Kevin is the solo pastor and the position is full-time. He has served in that role since August 2016. Kevin is involved in Mennonite Church USA, serving as the Moderator for the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference.

He and his wife, Jess, have one daughter, Junia, who is almost two. Kevin grew up in Indiana, in a fellow Anabaptist denomination, the Missionary Church.

Kevin's formal education is as follows; his undergraduate work was completed at Bethel University, in Mishawaka, IN. He completed one year of seminary at the Quaker Seminary, Portland Seminary in Portland, OR. Then he transferred to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN and graduated with a Masters of Divinity in 2020. He is currently working on a certificate in LGBTQ Leadership from the University of Redlands, in Redlands, CA. As one his references summarized, "Kevin gained a broad theological background... out of that background he has very knowledgeably chosen to be a part of an Anabaptist peace tradition and very purposefully chosen to serve God within the Mennonite Church."

The thoughtful responses we read in his Ministerial Leadership Information form were consistent with who we found Kevin to be during the four hours (over two separate sessions) of interviewing over Zoom. All references provided written statements. We spoke with each reference at length. All comments were highly favorable. As one reference said, "He's a wonderful pastor and a great human being."

With this, the Pastoral Team Search Committee unanimously agreed to recommend Kevin Chupp to the Vision Team as a pastoral candidate for Mennonite Church of Normal. Kevin flew to Normal at the end of June, for a two-day fast-paced in-person visit with members of the PTSC and VT. *continued on p. 3*

In the words of members of the PTSC, this is what we have to say about Kevin:

"I've found him to be a well-rounded individual who would make an excellent pastor. His commitment to Anabaptism and the Mennonite Church is clear. He has a good understanding of his own strengths as well as when he needs to seek help from others or simply give space to let God do His work. His theological beliefs and leadership style appear to be well-aligned with the Mennonite Church of Normal. I've found Kevin to be easy to relate to and someone who will walk along with us as we continue on our faith journey. I see a number of strengths in Kevin, and I am confident that these strengths would allow him to be successful as part of a team of pastors here at the Mennonite Church of Normal."

"Kevin appears to have a heart for pastoral care and would bring well-rounded experience to our congregation."

"I was so strongly encouraged when his reference said 'I want him to be my pastor.'"

"Words that kept coming up or appearing when speaking with Kevin or his references were: non-anxious, solid character, collaborator, nurturer, life-long learner. Additionally, it became clear to me that not only would Kevin be a great fit for Mennonite Church of Normal, but our church community could be a great place for Kevin, Jess, and Junia."

We are very excited to introduce Kevin and his family to you on August 6th and 7th. May we all continue to pray and discern.

Formal education:

Bethel University, Mishwaka, IN

2007 - 2011

Bachelor of Arts

International Studies: Ministry

Portland Seminary, Portland OR

2011-2012

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN

2012 - 2020

Masters of Divinity

Theological Studies: History, Theology, Ethics

University of Redlands, Redlands, CA

2022

Certificate LGBTQ Leadership

In the past ten years Kevin has participated in a variety of continuing education.

History of the Search Process

Find an overview of the Pastoral Team Search Committee's history and process [here](#).

Pastoral Candidate Voting

Based on the Pastoral Team Search Committee and the Vision Team's recommendation of pastoral candidate Kevin Chupp, the Mennonite Church of Normal (MCN) is encouraged to vote regarding an invitation for Kevin Chupp to join MCN's Pastoral Team full time. **The vote is planned to begin on August 7 at 12:30 PM**, after the Q&A Session.

A link to online voting will be sent by email when voting opens and will also be in the 8/3 Midweek. **Votes will be accepted until 12:00 noon on Friday, August 12**. Paper ballots will be available at the church. If you need a paper ballot mailed to your home, please submit a request to the office no later than **Friday, August 5**. Completed ballots *mailed* to the church must be postmarked by **August 9**. All are eligible to vote. Members and associate members will be filed as a voting quorum. Non-members are invited to vote as both voting totals will be captured and reported in tandem. Any questions can be directed to the Vision Team.

--Barry Weaver (chair), Shelly King, Shannon Neely, Ben Roeschley, Lauren Satchwell (IPT)

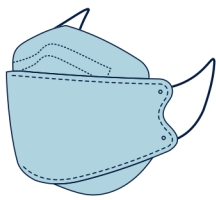
Journey Groups

The Discipling Commission has been working prayerfully to discern a new focus and structure for adult Christian Education at MCN. Our desire is that relationships will be fostered and strengthened as we learn together what it means to follow Jesus from an Anabaptist perspective.

Starting this fall, we will be convening three age-based "Journey Groups" that will meet during the CE hour. Journey Group A will be for those in their 20s and 30s, Journey Group B, for 40s and 50s, and Journey Group C, for those 60 and above. Individuals whose age falls close to the cutoff between groups may choose to participate in the Journey Group above or below their age if they desire (for example, a 38-or 39-year old may choose to join Journey Group B, which begins at 40). Age groupings may be modified as we move through the year and determine what works best.

This coming year, Journey Groups will be discussing books that align with the following topics: Christian Living, Peace and Justice, Scripture/Biblical study, and Hospitality.

Watch for more information in the Midweek as it gets closer to September. We are looking forward to journeying together this fall!



McLean County Covid-19 Update



The McLean County rolling positivity rate was at **23.8%** on July 21, 2022 and decreasing. Community level spread is **high** 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

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Escape to Camp Menno Haven

TODAY!!

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.** 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



Welcome Heartland Head Start!

The Administration Commission announces that Heartland Head Start will be returning to the Mennonite Church of Normal this fall. Head Start's goal is to begin classes sometime in September. Historically, MCN has hosted Heartland Head Start in our building for over 30 years, serving over 1,000 children and families.

Head Start works to "help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet all of their physical and mental needs." In the past several years, Heartland Head Start has expanded their mission to include a comprehensive child and family development program for women receiving prenatal care, children ages birth to 5 years old and their families. MCN's site will host two part-day sessions of 17 preschool age children each, Monday through Thursday. This site in particular allows children with special needs to take part in Unit 5 services.

Heartland Head Start's new Executive Director approached MCN this past spring. The Administration Commission talked with Vision Team, who affirmed that working with Head Start aligns with the church's vision. Before entering discussions with Head Start, the Administration Commission then held a hearing with church members to hear feedback and gain support towards bringing Heartland Head Start back to MCN.

Negotiations with Head Start have taken some time as the Administration Commission wanted to ensure MCN's building and facilities are used and treated well. The Administration Commission then consulted an attorney to prepare a legal 10-month lease agreement that included details reflecting past experiences such as the outdoor play area, transportation, kitchen use, storage, as well as reimbursement for services, ongoing maintenance, and supplies. Heartland Head Start will prepare snacks and meals off site and bring them to the church to have minimal use of MCN's kitchen. Heartland Head Start will keep their storage in the classroom provided for their use.

The existing playground does not meet the Department of Children and Family Services' requirements. Head Start is unable to use the existing playground. Therefore, the Campus Use Plan the church approved in 2013 will be followed that has the play area located outside the northwest corner of the building. Heartland Head Start will install a play area after the Administration Commission approves their specific plans. This will include a short, four-foot, solid, vinyl fence in an almond color to match the siding on the church building. The gates to the playground area will always be locked, but there will be access for church events. Play equipment will not be tall enough to be seen over the short four-foot fence.

The return of Heartland Head Start to the Mennonite Church of Normal supports the congregational Vision. As a start date is identified, more information and further updates will be provided at that time.

-Administration Commission

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 309.212.2538 by text or phone or email for any questions or communication. Thank You.



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Thursday, July 28

- 6:30 am Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)
- 5:30 pm Loss & Grief Group (Off-Site)
- 6:30 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Monday, August 1

- 7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 2

- 7:00 pm Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)
- 7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 3

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Birthdays

Anniversaries

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 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 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



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Randy Zehr
West Greeter: Mary Dyck
Welcome Table: Pam Hodel
Ushers: Jon & Janelle Friesen
Worship Planner: Steve Benner
Worship Leader: Steve Benner
Sharing Prayer Leader: Holly Zehr
Children's Story: Steve Benner
Scripture Reader: Keith Worley
Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab
Tech: Jaron Zehr & Caleb Augspurger
Preschool Nursery: Holly Zehr
Gather Round: No Gather Round until September



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.

Jazz at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival



Join Glenn Wilson and Friends this Saturday, **July 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.



Responding to the War in Ukraine

Some ways individuals and congregations can respond to the war in Ukraine:

- <https://donate.mcc.org/cause/ukraine-emergency-response>
- <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/a-litany-for-ukraine/>
- The video of the global prayer service for Ukraine (Mennonite World Conference was one of the sponsoring bodies) is available <https://vimeo.com/684197351/443978046>



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.

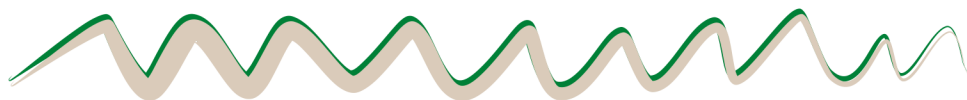
The LJHCC, managed by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, was created in 1962 by **Lois Jett, a professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (and member of MCN!)**. Over the years, the collection has expanded to more than 2,000 items of men's, women's, and children's dress, 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.

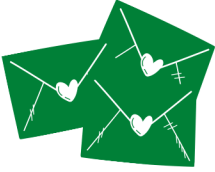
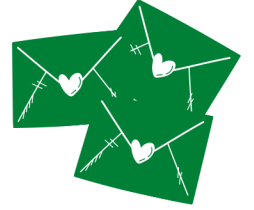
CDC Annual Meeting

The 2022 Central District Conference Annual Meeting is now history. Links to the worship services and delegate sessions, seminars, and storytelling sessions are available at <https://mcusacdc.org/2022-annual-meeting/>



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
