

# THE MIDWEEK



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

This week begins a sermon series on I Peter.

Joe Culpepper will preach a sermon titled *Salvation into a Living Hope!* using the scripture I Peter 1:1-12.

About his sermon, he says, "Peter begins his letters on a strong note of hope. What signs of hope do you see in the world today? What sets our Christian hope apart from other kinds of hope? How do you live with hope in your life?"



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

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

## After Worship

### Adult CE

#### Journey Groups:

Group A (20's-30's)  
Head Start Wing

Group B (40's-50's)  
Conference Room

Group C (60's and above)  
Room 4

### Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-1st Grade  
Room 11

2nd-5th Grade  
Room 12 & 9

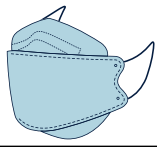
Junior High  
Room 8

High School  
Room 7 & 5



Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA



# McLean County Covid-19 Update



The McLean County rolling positivity rate was at **9.7%** on September 15, 2022 and **decreasing**. Community level spread is **low**. **Administration Commission encourages attenders at in-person church events to continue to be masked.**

## Salary Transparency Survey

TAKE SURVEY



As Administration Commission prepares the 2023 Spending Plan, we've been asked about salary transparency for our staff. The questions are: In the proposed spending plan, should we list each staff member by name and their salary? Or should we just list wages by staff and pastoral team? We've not come to a decision on this issue, so we thought we'd ask the congregation. Might you complete this survey during the next few days? We'd appreciate your feedback. Complete the survey [here](#) or stop in the office to fill out a paper version.



## Update from the Fellowships Committee

**One week left!** Thanks to all who have participated in the Fellowship Survey. We value your input and will be making plans for the 2023 calendar of events with the survey results in mind. Please take the time to complete a survey form following [this link](#) or the paper survey found at the coffee counter on Sunday Mornings.



## *Goshen College Parables*

Goshen College's Worship Team "Parables" (of which Jonah King is a member!) is going on tour this Fall and is performing here at MCN on **Next week - Friday, October 14th at 7pm!** Through music, hymns, drama, and parables they will share a special presentation encouraging us to spread love in our world.

## *Save the Date - Spending Plan Hearing*

The Administration Commission will hold the annual Spending Plan Hearing on **Sunday, November 13th at 1:00pm**. This will be a hybrid event, so we hope you are able to join whether in the sanctuary in person or on Zoom. You are invited to bring your lunch and fellowship together after church. Drinks will be provided. More details to come!

## *Now Hiring - Assistant Custodian*



Administration Commission is looking to hire an Assistant Custodian to clean the Head Start wing Monday through Thursday evenings. The position reports to Rita Ngongo. Typically, this person would work 2 hours per day for no more than 32 hours per month. The Assistant Custodian will provide additional coverage as needed. Apply using an application form in the church office or [linked here](#). For questions, email [Mary Dyck](#).



## *Alternative Gift Guides*



If you would like to participate in MCC's Gifts of Comfort and Joy this Christmas, you can explore the MCC Christmas giving guide at [mcc.org/christmas](http://mcc.org/christmas) or pick up a guide on the library table.



# Give supplies so we can fill buckets full of *hope.*

This Thanksgiving, show your gratitude and provide hope to those in need by collecting relief supplies. The supplies you donate will fill a *Bucket of Thanks* for people affected by conflict or disaster around the world.

Learn more at:  
[mccbuckets.org](http://mccbuckets.org)



*MCC partner Uman Help Center, distributes relief buckets, hygiene kits and blankets in Uman.\* (Photo courtesy of Uman Help Center) \*Names withheld for security.*

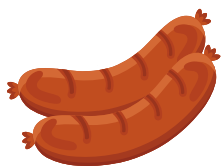
This October and November, show your gratitude and provide hope to those in need by collecting relief supplies for Mennonite Central Committee. The supplies you donate will fill a Bucket of Thanks for people affected by conflict or disaster around the world. **Place supplies in the bucket at the back of the sanctuary.** [Supply List](#). [More Information](#).

## Carle Mobile Health Clinic



The Mennonite Church of Normal has been asked to partner with the Carle Mobile Health Clinic by sharing our parking lot on a bi-monthly basis beginning next March. This self-contained clinic-on-a-bus fits MCN's Vision to transform our communities and world into places of peace, healing, and hope. The Administration Commission welcomes input on the use of our parking lot for this Mobile Health Clinic as they anticipate this partnership.

The Carle Mobile Health Clinic brings affordable, non-urgent medical services to our local community. Their 40-foot, wheelchair-friendly mobile medical clinic offers infants, children and adults full-service medical care to make sure families stay healthy. Practitioners have experience in pediatrics, family medicine, and women's health and pregnancy. Find more information [here](#).



## Mennonite Relief Sale Sausage!

Have you been missing Mennonite Relief Sale Sausage? Lucky for you it is being offered right now and all you have to do is **pre-order by October 16th!** Sausage will be offered in 1lb bulk or whole link packages! Price is \$4.75/lb, and payment is due at time of pick up. (Cash, credit card, and checks will be accepted.)

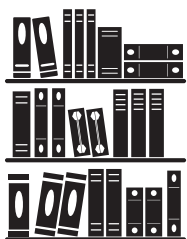
Pick up will be November 5th, 2022 from 7am-12:30pm at First Mennonite Church, Morton!

To order, please fill out the sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the atrium or use [this link](#). See a flyer [here](#). Reach out to Louise Reeser with any questions.

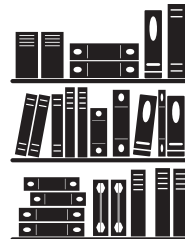
## Pins in the Library



The Mennonite Mission Network invites you to celebrate peace! View a poster and take a pin from the basket in the library.



## Church Library

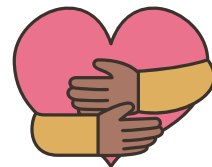


In order to resupply MCN's library with some books that have gone wandering and update a few titles we are asking congregation members to consider donating the books listed on these registries. This first registry at [Bookshop.org](http://Bookshop.org) supports our local bookstore, Bobzbay. This [second registry](#) contains only books that were unavailable through Bookshop.org and supports Amazon.com. If you would like to order the book from a different website, such as MennoMedia or Herald Press, please contact Amy Reiman immediately and she will remove the title from the registries above to avoid duplicates. Books ordered from these registries will be delivered to the church at 805 S Cottage Ave. Your librarians and church family thank you for your generosity and support! -Amy Reiman and Barry Weaver

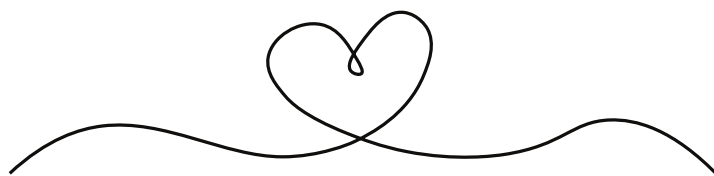


**Thank you** everyone for helping us support Home Sweet Home Missions and the Midwest Food Bank with their Big Give campaign! With your help, we gave them 25 cans of pumpkin pie, 30 boxes of mac and cheese, 6 cans of corn, 1 box of stuffing, 2 cans of green beans, 2 cans of cream of mushroom soup, and 1 container of fried onions. Thank you!

## Prayer Focus for September



You are invited to continue your prayers this month for the COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION, and particularly for the members of the commission : Connie Satchwell, Joanna Oyer, Lynette Miller (IPT representative), and co-chairs Deb Stenger and Mary Ann Watkins, as they focus on relationships within the congregation. **Prayers are particularly needed for the Fellowship Committee** (maybe with a new creative name in the future!) within this commission that plans "gathering" events for the congregation. Pam Hodel, Mary Ann Israel, and Leroy Loepp presently make up this committee but are hoping to have others join the group. Thank you for your prayers for these committed folks!





## *This Week at MCN*

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### **Thursday, October 6**

**7:00 am** Next Man Bible Study

### **Saturday, October 8**

**9:00 am** Worship Commission (Zoom)

### **Sunday, October 9**

**6:00 pm** Junior Choir

**6:45 pm** Youth Choir

### **Wednesday, October 12**

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

**6:30 pm** Spiritual Gifts Discernment (Zoom)



*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*

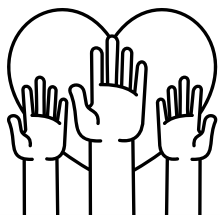


MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE CARDIOVASCULAR CARE  
UNIT OF CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2022

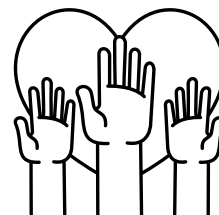
# Prayer Requests and Announcements

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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.



## Those Serving This Week



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**South Greeters:** Tshiseleka Family

**West Greeter:** Ardys Serpette

**Welcome Table:** Gail Fisher

**Ushers:** Nancy Fisher and Caleb Augspurger

**Worship Planner & Leader:** Meredith Schroeer

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Ron Ropp

**Children's Story:**

**Scripture Reader:** Rita Munkakusi

**Technology:** Glenn Wilson & Rick Harnish

**Song Leader:** Cindy Ropp

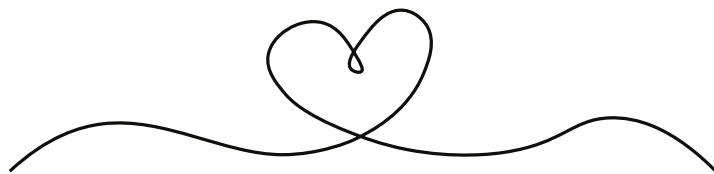
**Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude:** Elsa Raab

**Infant Nursery – during worship:** Holly Zehr

**Infant Nursery – during CE:** Nancy Fisher

**Preschool Nursery:** Beth Reeser

**Gather Round:** Shelly King

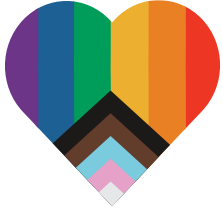




# News from the Virginia Mennonite Conference

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In opposition to the LGBTQ-affirming resolution that Mennonite Church USA delegates approved in May, Virginia Mennonite Conference leaders issued a statement saying the conference upholds the Confession of Faith and maintains a policy of suspending the ministry credential of any pastor who conducts a same-sex marriage ceremony. Read the Virginia Mennonite Conference new release [here](#).



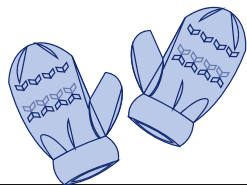
## Mama Bears Statement



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As the Mama Bears group of MCN, it pains us to read of the marginalization and violence done to our dear LGBTQIA Christians by the Virginia Mennonite Conference leaders. We want to bring to light the harm that the opposition causes members of our own congregation as well as within the larger Mennonite community. The Resolution for Repentance and Transformation, which was adopted at the 2022 Special Session of the Delegate Assembly of the Mennonite Church USA, can be read [here](#). Reading the actual resolution is an opportunity for us to listen to those who have been harmed, to acknowledge their God-given gifts, and to heal us as a denomination. Signed, The Mama Bears: Connie Satchwell, Denise Hedberg, Jane Roeschley, and other Mama Bears

The Mama Bears are a group of MCN mothers of LGBTQIA+ children. If you would like to join them at their next meeting, please reach out to the church office (309-452-6622 or [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org)) and Lydia will get you in contact with them!



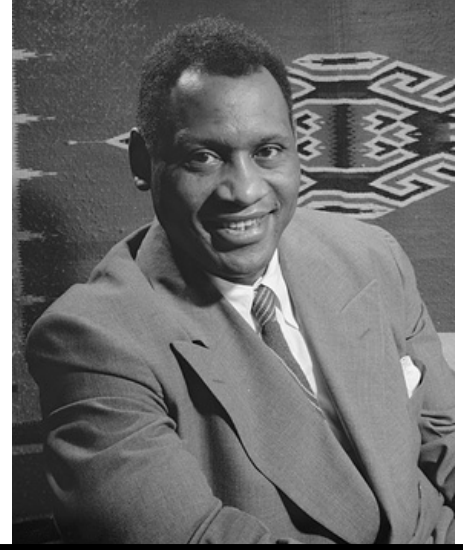
## Project Oz



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Project Oz is a Bloomington charity that helps more than 400 runaway and homeless youth every year. Most usually have little more than the clothes they are wearing. They are requesting survival aid items especially as cold weather is approaching. They accept the items [listed here](#) or [donations of money](#) to purchase new items such as clothing, food, phone cards, sunscreen, blankets and more. Learn more about Project Oz [here](#). **Place items to be donated in the bin in the library.**

Paul Robeson 1942, Library of Congress



## *I Go On Singing: Paul Robeson's Life in Word and Song*

**This Saturday! Oct. 8, 2022, 7pm**

**Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 South Prospect, Champaign, IL 61820**

Saturday 10/8, the gifted American baritone and international ambassador of peace Anthony Brown will perform "I Go on Singing: Paul Robeson's Life in Word and Song". "I Go On Singing" tells the story of Paul Robeson, an All-American athlete, scholar, international recording artist and star of the stage and screen. In his day, Robeson was the most famous African American entertainer of the world. His life was a courageous example of integrity and discipline in the service of human rights.

Accompanied by a pianist, narrator and archival video, Anthony Brown reveals Robeson as a towering figure in American history and a champion for peace and human rights for much of the 20th century. The story of this American hero who struggled and triumphed comes alive in a rousing 75 minute song filled multimedia presentation. This performance brings music and history alive with equal parts documentary and live concert experience. Musical numbers range from Spirituals to Broadway and includes Robeson's original arrangements of favorites like "Wade the Water", "O'! Man River", "It Ain't Necessarily So", "Water Boy" and many others.

**Featuring** Anthony Brown, Professional American baritone

**Accompanied** by Phillip Martin

**Narrated** by Violet J. Harris, Professor Emerita, College of Education, University of Illinois

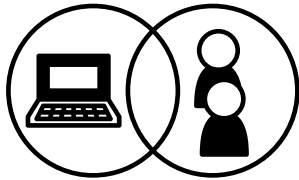
Tickets (\$10) can be purchased at: <https://igoonsinging.eventbrite.com>. Find a flyer [here](#).

Proceeds from this event will be donated to local youth-focused charities.

# Responding to the hunger crisis in South Sudan

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"If I did not get registered for this food, my children would have died of hunger." This is the stark reality that Nyarwot Bim Chan is facing in South Sudan today. A mother of five at 28, Chan's options to provide for her family are devastatingly limited. Near-constant conflict across the country for the last three decades has had a drastic effect on the South Sudanese people: 18% of the population are internally displaced and 63% don't have sufficient and safe access to food. But thanks to the support of MCC donors, in the midst of this crisis, Chan and her family are not entirely without hope. Read the Mennonite Central Committee story [here](#).



## Worship, Technology, and the Shape of the Church

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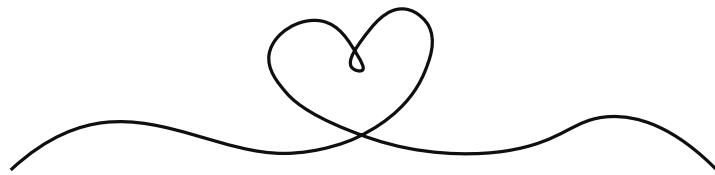
**Online Seminar - Tomorrow! Thursday, October 6 from 7:30-9:00pm Eastern Time**

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Central District Conference board president, James Rissler, and conference minister, Doug Luginbill, are facilitating a conversation for church leaders focusing on the changes in church life brought about by the pandemic, the use of hybrid worship, and other technologies. There is no fee but please register for the event so that we can adequately prepare to host the conversation.

Here's a sampling of the questions to be discussed:

- 1) How do you engage with folks living at a distance but regularly participating in worship online?
- 2) Who operates your technology; volunteers or staff?
- 3) How has hybrid worship changed the way you preach or plan the service?



## Items for the Midweek



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

## *Staff Contact and Building Open Hours*

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<u>Building Open:</u>	Monday – Friday, 9AM-11AM and Monday – Wednesday & Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; <a href="mailto:church@normalmennonite.org">church@normalmennonite.org</a> ; 309.452.6622
<u>Rita Munkakusi:</u>	Custodian
<u>Lynette Miller:</u>	Interim Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Interim Pastor for Vision Team, Administration & Outreach Commissions
<u>Holly Zehr:</u>	Interim Pastor for Worship & Spiritual Gift Discernment Team
<u>Ron Ropp:</u>	Pastor for Pastoral Care

## *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.



# Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

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