

# THE MIDWEEK



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

This is the fourth week in our sermon series on I Peter.

This week we welcome Reverend Mollie Ward, who will preach a sermon on the difference between pain and suffering using the text 1 Peter 1:3-9.

Rev. Mollie Ward is director of Spiritual Care and co-chair of the Ethics Committee at Carle BroMenn Medical Center and Carle Eureka Hospital. A priest in The Episcopal Church, she is a certified pastoral educator and board-certified chaplain. She is also the Bloomington Council Member for Ward 7.



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)

First Office

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



## Exploring Membership at MCN

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Thinking about exploring membership at Mennonite Church of Normal? Wayne Hochstetler will be leading a class that will be offered this November and December. Please contact Lynette Miller or Shannon Unzicker if you would like more information or if you are interested in participating.

### Pastor Kevin's Note



When I was four years old, my family moved from Michigan to Indiana, and I vividly remember that my entire contribution was placing a little plastic suitcase of toy cars on my closet shelf before going outside to get a Bugs Bunny ice cream from the ice cream truck. Our recent move from Idaho to Illinois was a much different story! Besides moving all our stuff, we are learning a new community, and church. My sabbath day has migrated from Mondays to Fridays, and it didn't take long to realize that the shift from terms like "board," "deacon," and "council" to terms like "commission" and "Vision Team" is more than just semantic. I have been feeling my way around this church structure through formal and informal meetings, and I'm starting to see a fuller picture.

And as you likely know, I am not preaching yet. Coming from a solo pastorate where I preached every week, that is a bit disorienting! But I plan to take full advantage of this special time. I'll be meeting with all the commissions, doing some study, preparing for Advent and communion, and working on other projects, but I mostly hope to use this time to meet people. I will be connecting with local pastors, community leaders, and Interfaith groups, and seeking a spiritual director. But really, I want to meet all of you. Please feel free to stop by my office at the church or set up a time to get acquainted. I am glad for an excuse to grab coffee or attend your kid's sports game (Junia would love that too!).

Whatever this season is like for you, however rooted or unsettled, I invite you into this petition from Common Prayer that resonates with me today: "Root us in a place, Lord: that we might find our home in you."



**Midwest**  
FOOD BANK®

*Midwest Food Bank Volunteering*

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Join us **Thursday, November 10th from 5-7pm (next week)** to volunteer at the Midwest Food Bank! If interested, please sign-up [here](#). (Midwest Food Bank greatly appreciates early sign-up.)

## Worship Commission Plans for Advent



We met last week to plan for Advent. Holly Zehr will be the overall Planner using the Mennonite Leader materials. We also planned the Training for Greeters, Welcome Table, & Ushers, continued working on finding an accompanist for our choirs & acknowledged the possibility of not having adult choir during Advent if we cannot find an accompanist. We discussed some technical problems with the live stream which our tech team is working to resolve; began research to acquire an area rug for Children's Time seating to be more hospitable for our children; & discussed the best place for Song Leaders to stand to be visible to our accompanists while allowing most of the congregation to see the bottom of the screen. We responded to a request from several of our children for a Children's Time song & always welcome your suggestions or questions. We look forward to a meaningful Advent/Christmas season as we worship God together!

--Joe Culpepper on behalf of Worship Commission

## Administration Commission Update



The Administration Commission received an update from Heartland Head Start. They continue to work on licensing and recruiting staff.

Thank you to those who responded to the salary transparency survey. A summary of responses can be found [here](#). The Spending Plan Hearing is scheduled for **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. Desserts and coffee will be provided. The Zoom link and spending plan draft will be in next week's Midweek.

## Save the Date - Family Fun Night

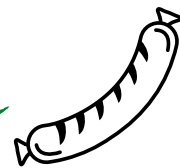


**Friday, November 18th from 5:30-8pm**

Save the Date! The Christian Education sub-committee, Discipling Commission and Fellowship Commission invite you to join us for "Lord of the Harvest" Family Fun Night on Friday, November 18th. From 5:30-6:15 we will enjoy a pizza party, including salads, fresh fruit and dessert. Then from 6:15-8, we'll have a bible story, sing-a-long, and a variety of activities/games. All are welcome and a sign-up genius will be available soon!



# Mennonite Relief Sale Sausage Pick-Up



Saturday, November 5, 7-12 at First Mennonite Church, on 205 S. Baltimore St, Morton. **If you ordered sausage and are driving to Morton to pick it up this Saturday, let Ben Roeschley or Darvis King know.** Time for pickup is 7-12 on Saturday morning at First Mennonite Church. **Otherwise, Ben and Darvis will pick up all orders and bring them to our church late morning.** (NOV 5) for pickup. You will pay them when you get your sausage. They will notify you of the time they will be at the MCN. If you missed the signup, there is some extra sausage to be purchased, so you get one more chance. Contact Ben or Darvis with your order. We have sold over 2,000 lbs. of sausage, and it is possible to have some of the meat and processing donated to make it a good fundraiser for the sale. Thanks to all who participated.

## Watch for your Gratitude-Gram



Check your church mailbox for a Gratitude-Gram. What is a Gratitude-Gram? It's an opportunity to share with someone how grateful or thankful you are for them!! You could send it to a relative, friend, co-worker, or whomever the Spirit moves you to reach out to. The Fellowship Committee has provided a card and a stamped envelope, so all you need to do is craft that message and send it!! The Fellowship Committee is grateful for all our church family and is excited to provide this opportunity. Enjoy and spread the gratitude!!

**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.



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

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



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.](#)



## *Winter Retreat at Friedenswald is Back!*

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**SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 27, 28, 29.** LAST WEEKEND OF JANUARY. MORE DETAILS WILL BE COMING AS WE GET CLOSER. THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT RETREAT TO ATTEND AS WE EVALUATE THE INTEREST FROM THE CONGREGATION. THIS IS AN AWESOME WEEKEND OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP. WE ALWAYS HOPE FOR SOME SNOW. COSTS ARE REASONABLE. MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND.



## *Fall Back*

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Don't forget to set your clocks back by an hour this Sunday!



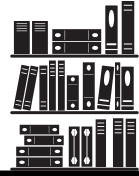
## *Pins in the Library*

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



# Church Library

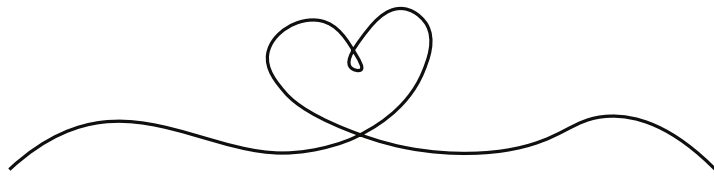


In order to resupply MCN's library with some books that have gone wandering and update a few titles we are asking congregation members to consider donating the books listed on these registries. This first registry at [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) supports our local bookstore, Bobzbay. This [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

## Now Hiring - Assistant Custodian

**NOW  
HIRING**

Administration Commission is looking to hire an Assistant Custodian to clean the Head Start wing Monday through Thursday evenings. The position reports to the custodian. 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](mailto:Mary.Dyck).





## *This Week at MCN*

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

**Thursday, November 3**

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

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

**Monday, November 7**

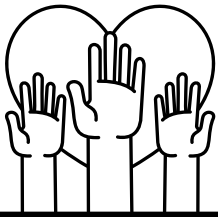
**7:00pm** Spiritual Gifts Discernment (Zoom)

**Tuesday, November 8**

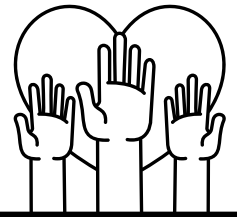
**7:30pm** Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)

**Thursday, November 10**

**5:00pm** Midwest Food Bank Volunteering ([Sign up here!](#))



## *Those Serving This Week*



**South Greeters:** Caleb Augspurger & David Voegtlin

**West Greeter:** Gail Fisher

**Welcome Table:** Nancy Fisher

**Ushers:** Randy & Jaron Zehr

**Worship Planner & Leader:** Steve Benner

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Holly Zehr

**Children's Story:** Steve Benner

**Scripture Reader:** Jaylen Raab

**Technology:** Ryan Miller & Adam Augspurger

**Song Leader:** Cindy Ropp

**Accompaniment & Postlude:** Elsa Raab

**Prelude:** Tania Kimbembe & Elsa Raab

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

**Infant Nursery – during CE:** Miriam Kennell

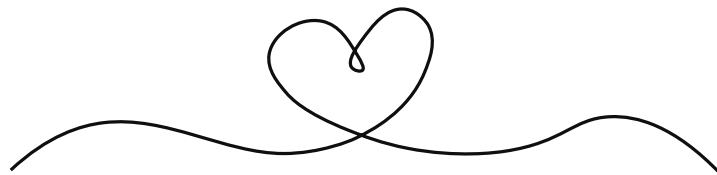
**Preschool Nursery:** Carrie Stalter

**Gather Round:** Shelly King

## *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.



## *Queer Theology Sunday School*

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**November 13, 2022 at 5:30pm CST**

Community of Hope Mennonite Church invites all queer folks and those who love them to an Zoom Sunday School class titled: Queer Theology Sunday School: Trauma, Healing, and the Un/Becoming of God. In it, they will unpack church trauma and healing through the lens of queer theological resilience. It will open in song, followed by a welcome from Annabeth Roeschley (they/she) ([www.bmclgbt.org/staff](http://www.bmclgbt.org/staff)) as the guest presenter/teacher, then break into self-selected groups by discussion question, and lastly close in prayer. Open to other congregations and the wider church! More information can be found [here](#).



# LGBTQ Supportive Church Suspended from Conference

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Jubilee Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba is a welcoming church who affirms "'all people are made in the image of God and are equally loved by God,' and that everyone is welcome to join 'regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, social or economic status or ability.'" As well, "through membership, everyone is welcome to participate in the full life of the church, including communion, baptism and marriage." Due to this welcoming stance, the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba conference has suspended Jubilee Mennonite Church from the conference as the conference holds that marriage is between a man and a woman only. Jubilee Mennonite Church is still part of Mennonite Church Canada. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).



## LGBTQIA+ Support Group

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Living Sanctuary is a support group originally designed for parents and families of lgbtqia+ children but has evolved into a small group of both parents and persons who identify as lgbtqia+. **They currently meet via Zoom on the last Monday of the month @ 7:00pm Eastern.** Most current attendees are from southwest Ohio and connected to Church of the Brethren, however they welcome any new members who might find connection and support from a group like theirs. Contact pastor Irvin Heishman for information.



## Women in Leadership Statement on the reversal of Roe v. Wade

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Last month, Women in Leadership, a ministry of Mennonite Church USA, issued a powerful statement lamenting the reversal of Roe v. Wade and outlining its racist, sexist, ableist, homophobic and classist consequences. Read their statement [here](#).



## Making our way

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Mennonite Mission Network's Mike Sherrill shares an article celebrating Mennonite Mission Network's 20th Anniversary. In it he reflects on its history and origins. Read the article [here](#).

## *Jazz Film/Concert*



**7pm on Thursday, November 10 at the Normal Theater**

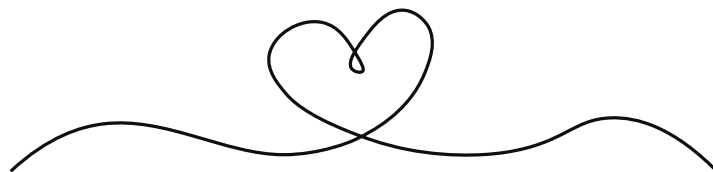
Further Jazz will be producing a jazz film/concert and you are all invited. A brand-new film (released October 28) about Louis Armstrong will be shown at 7pm followed by a live concert of Armstrong's music by The Vine Street Syncopators. View a flyer [here](#).

## *Let Us Pray - Online Prayer Hour*



**November 18, 2022 at 8am CST**

"Thank you for carrying us in your hearts," says Siaka Traore, Mennonite World Conference (MWC) regional representative for Central and West Africa. Mennonite World Conference members are invited to gather together for an Online Prayer Hour which will briefly feature sharing about Burkina Faso from Natacha Wendyam Kyendrebeogo. She is a member of the Église Évangélique Mennonite du Burkina Faso congregation in Ouagadougou, who has recently completed a YAMEN term as a French language specialist with the MWC Assembly registration team. There will be breakout rooms with a prayer leader in several languages. Register [here](#).



# 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>Kevin Chupp:</u>	Pastor for Outreach; <a href="mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org">kevin@normalmennonite.org</a>
<u>Lynette Miller:</u>	Interim Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions
<u>Ron Ropp:</u>	Pastor for Pastoral Care
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Interim Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions
<u>Holly Zehr:</u>	Interim Pastor for Worship & Spiritual Gift Discernment Team

# *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](#)