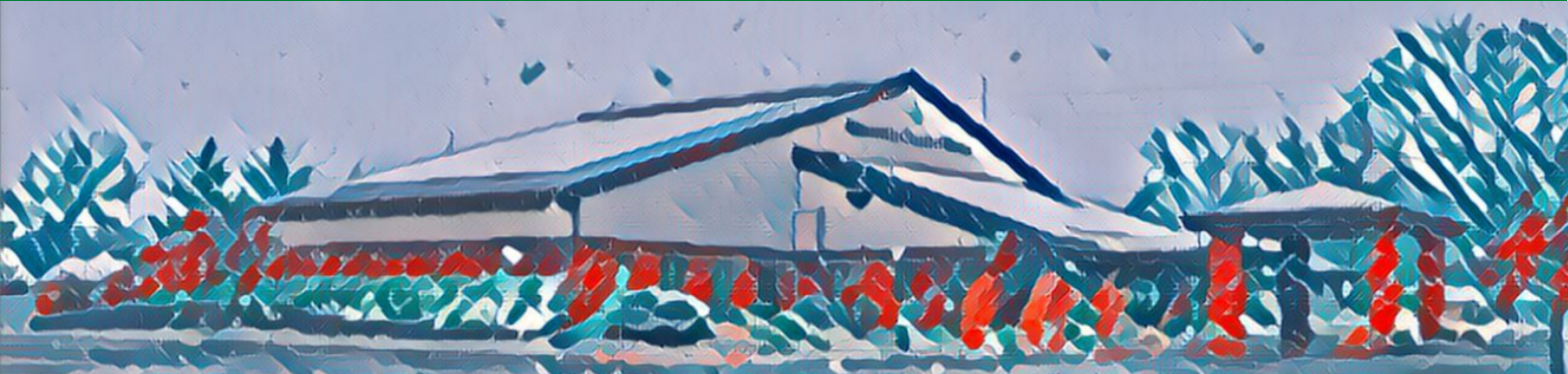


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

This is the second Sunday of Advent.

Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Who by Fire* using the scripture Matthew 3: 1-12.

What might this wild, name-calling prophet named John have to do with Jesus? In Matthew 3, we wonder about what it means to be a faithful prophet and where the line is between bravery and bravado.

Following the service, there will be a hybrid **Structure Evaluation Meeting** in-person and on Zoom. (More details below.) There will be no Adult Christian Education.

After Worship

Structure Evaluation Meeting

Adult CE

No Adult CE

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-1st Grade
Room 11

2nd-5th Grade
Room 12 & 9

Junior High
Room 8

High School
Room 7 & 5

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

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



Mennonite
Church
of Normal

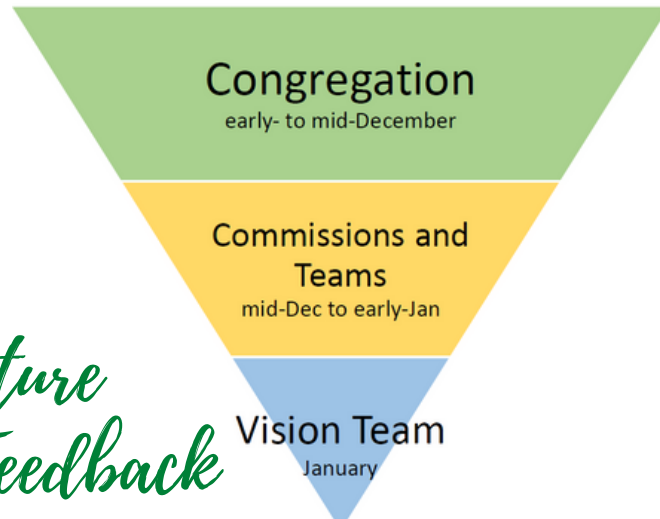
A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Covid Update



As of November 14, The McLean County Health Department indicated that the rate was **11.9% and rising**. Administration Commission encourages the use of masks in large groups, especially for those with multiple chronic illnesses.

Church Structure Evaluation and Feedback



THIS SUNDAY, December 4th during the CE hour

Isn't it hard to believe that our congregation has been operating under its "new" structure for over a year now? Many of people currently serving on the Commissions and Teams were called to their roles in late summer or early fall 2021. One thing Pastor Gary Martin encouraged us to do was to evaluate how the new church structure functions approximately one year in. So with that in mind, Vision Team will be launching a church-wide evaluation beginning December 4. This evaluation will allow the congregation to consider areas working well or identify areas of needed improvement. For more details on the plan for this process, [review this document](#).

A congregational feedback session will be held during the CE hour on December 4. There will be no adult CE that Sunday, and all are invited to attend. This will be a hybrid event. Find the Zoom link in an email on Sunday morning. (A recording will be available afterwards as well.) Knowing congregants have had differing levels of interaction with the church structure, this session will start with brief review of the structure design and how we got here. We'll also hear how communication and decision-making occur in the current structure. Finally, time will be left open for question and answer time. Vision Team will lead this session and will capture notes from the verbal feedback received. A survey will be sent out following the informational session to solicit written feedback from the congregation.

If at any point in the last 18 months you've had questions about the church structure, or if you've had positive or negative experiences from it, we encourage you to attend this session and provide your feedback to Vision Team through this process.

Alternative Gifts Fair



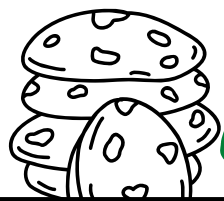
THIS SUNDAY, December 4th

before the Service and after the Structure Evaluation

A hearty thank you again to all those who enthusiastically offered to put up a booth for our one-day-only Alternative Gifts Fair, this coming Sunday, December 4. Shoppers are welcome to browse the booths before the Service, between the Service and the Structure Evaluation, and after the Structure Evaluation. Our two cashiers will be happy to take your orders and checks at any of those times.

If you wish your contribution to be part of your church giving account for tax purposes, please write the check to the Mennonite Church of Normal. Since both shopping lists are on one sheet of paper this year, one check with Alternative Gifts Fair in the memo line will cover both groups. If you are giving to only one organization, you are welcome to write that name on the memo line.

We will have both Mennonite Central Committee and Alternative Gifts International cards for you to choose from. Please indicate on your shopping list how many cards you would like for each project. Cards and inserts will be in the church mailboxes by Sunday, December 11. Thank you for reaching out in this way to help bring the joy of Christmas to grateful souls all around the world!



Christmas Baking with Ruth and Friends

Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30pm

All are invited to come to church to enjoy baking of Christmas cookies with Ruth Haney and friends on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 6:30pm.

The Cookies that are made will be boxed and given out by our carolers on the night of Dec. 9 when the Christmas Caroling event is held.

Bring your aprons and join in the fellowship. You might even learn why certain cookies are special to Ruth and her friends. 😊 **Please sign up [here!](#)**

Christmas Caroling



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 FROM 6-8PM

You are invited to join your voices together on December 9 as we carol to our members in Nursing Homes (dependent on current Covid restrictions) and MRC. Many voices are needed, young and old, to be able to spread the Christmas spirit. Bring a flashlight, and dress warm. Music books, cookie boxes, and locations will be assigned and provided to the caroling groups at the church at 6pm, Dec. 9. We will meet back at the church for hot chocolate and treats following our caroling. **Please sign up [here!](#)**

If you are a resident of the MRC and wish for carolers to stop and sing, please leave your porch light on. 😊

-This event is sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.

TAKE SURVEY



Spending Plan Update & Survey

On Sunday, November 13, we met as a congregation to discuss the proposed 2023 Spending Plan. Last Thursday evening Administration Commission met and had further discussion. We discussed several comments from the hearing including the affordability of a second pastor, stretch giving, that even without a second pastor we will need to increase giving by 1/3. We wondered about revising the formula for non-local giving from 5% to 3-4%.

We decided to use a multi-prong approach to gather further data from the congregation for decision making on the 2023 Spending Plan.

First, we are asking for prayers of discernment to determine where we need to be on our 2023 Spending Plan.

Second, we are asking each commission to identify where they might be able to cut their spending plan. Lydia shared information about items that are included in each budget line to assist with their discernment.

Third, we are asking for congregational feedback using several scenarios to identify our ability to stretch our giving over the next year. [Find an anonymous survey here](#). If you're unable to connect to the survey, feel free to email [Mary Dyck](#) with comments and/or responses. We appreciate your support.

-Administration Commission

Service Project in January

Steve Dennis from the North Danvers Mennonite Church called Louise Reeser about a possible service project in January. They have contact with folks in the flooded town of Hindman, Kentucky. They have a home with 4 bedrooms available to stay in. MDS is in the area, and he is making contact with them also. The time frame he is considering is January 6 - 12. It is about a 8 hour drive from here. If you are at all interested, call Steve Dennis. He can give you many more detail and would love to talk with you. Thanks for considering this way to serve.

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



MCC partner Uman Help Center, distributes relief buckets, hygiene kits and blankets in Uman. (Photo courtesy of Uman)

LAST WEEK TO DONATE

Through the month of 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](#).

Will You Do Something on the Children's Time Rug?

That's an old joke about awkward wording in church newsletters! (Please laugh!) Seriously, your Worship Commission plans to purchase an educational rug for children to sit on during Children's Time. This will be more hospitable for our children, allowing them to sit comfortably on the floor & gather closer around the story teller while still maintaining their privacy off camera. Rugs are used for story time in our elementary schools, & we believe this will enhance a loving & effective experience for all. We are asking for donations to help purchase the rug, which will cost several hundred dollars. A church member has offered to make a matching gift of up to \$400 to match gifts from others. If you would like to give, mark your donation "Children's Time Rug. Thank you!

-Joe Culpepper, on behalf of the Worship Commission

Advent Daily Family Devotions



Your Worship Commission is providing a daily Advent devotion/activity resource for individuals or families. There are seven sheets with four days to each which can be cut into individual days, then optionally you can place them into envelopes to be opened each day, color the graphic each day, & light a candle. We hope this might be a meaningful adult & children activity as we prepare spiritually for Christmas. **Copies will be available this Sunday**, or if you wish you can print your own [here](#).



Advent at Home

"Restoration is Near!" is the theme of the Advent at Home 2022 worship guide, now available from Mennonite Church USA (MC USA). Using the theme developed for Leader magazine, the guide offers weekly and daily Scriptures from the lectionary texts, worship rituals, prayers, activities, and background information to help individuals and households of all ages prepare for Advent through Epiphany. Download it [here](#). Read the whole press release [here](#).

Offering Counters Needed



Administration Commission is recruiting volunteers to assist the Assistant Treasurer in counting the offering on Sunday mornings. We would like five to ten volunteers so we can rotate these volunteers just like we rotate greeters and ushers. The role of an offering counter includes counting cash and coins, counting checks, recording cash and checks on offering worksheets, signing offering worksheets, and placing money in a locking bank bag. The Offering Counter does NOT handle cash/coins/checks alone nor enter data into computer system. If you have questions, please email [Mary Dyck](#).

**NOW
HIRING**

Now Hiring - Assistant Custodian

Administration Commission is hoping to hire an Assistant Custodian to clean the Head Start wing Monday through Friday evenings. The position reports to Rita Munkakosi. Typically, this person will work 2 hours per day for no more than 40 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](#).



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Thursday, December 1

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, December 4

11:00am Structure Evaluation Meeting

6:00pm Junior Choir

6:45pm Youth Choir

7:30pm Adult Advent Choir

Monday, December 5

7:00pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment

Wednesday, December 7

7:00am Wednesday Morning Book Group

5:00pm Christmas Baking with Ruth and Friends Sign-Up (Sign-up [here!](#))

Friday, December 9

6:00pm Christmas Caroling (Sign-up [here!](#))

Prayer Requests and Announcements

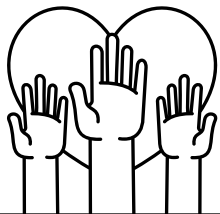
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please continue to send announcements to Lynette Miller so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true whether in person or livestreaming on YouTube.



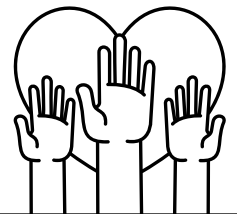
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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: Adam Augspurger & Lotus Hershberger

West Greeter: Judy Hershberger

Welcome Table: Mary Jantze

Ushers: Neely Family

Worship Planner: Holly Zehr

Worship Leader: Shannon Neely

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Janet Wilson & Joe Culpepper

Scripture Reader: Sheila Kuria

Technology: Jaron Zehr & Caleb Augspurger

Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler

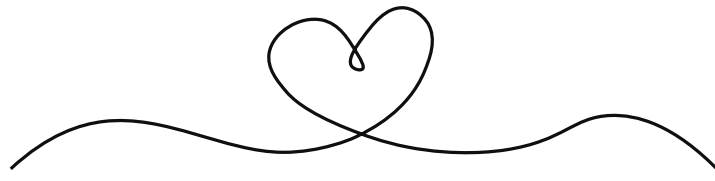
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery – during worship: Spring Neely

Infant Nursery – during CE: David Harnish

Preschool Nursery: Stephanie Nester

Gather Round: Shelly King



Along for the Ride

Join us for the journey of a lifetime across Bolivia to visit some of MCC's most rural partners. If you were unable to attend Keith Unzicker's presentation on his Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) motorcycle trip in Bolivia, you are still able to learn about it! Read an article by MCC's Rachel Watson [here](#).

Surveys chart 50 years of change



Several Anabaptist denominations have done a big survey about every 17 years since 1972. This month, Mennonite Church USA released data from the latest one. It prompts reflection on how we've changed and what the future holds. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).



Raúl O. García

Raúl O. García, Mennonite World Conference president 1990-1997 died 30 October 2022. A long-term pastor, teacher and professor, he was born in Argentina 26 August 1930. Converted as a Mennonite from a Catholic family at age 14, his pastoral gifts were recognized and 10 years later, he was appointed assistant pastor at Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Pehuajó, in a city inland from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Read his obituary [here](#).



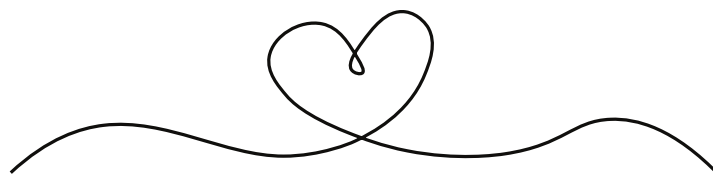
Scoring goals, building peace in Colombia

Read about the work our very own Clara is helping Mennonite Central Committee do! Each summer for the last four years, a community on the outskirts of Soacha, Colombia, has gathered to watch its children play in their own, local version of the World Cup — a soccer tournament for peace. Find the full *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).

Ohio regional pastor cites 'patriarchy and sexism' among reasons for resigning



Sherah-Leigh Gerber, a regional pastor in Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA, has resigned after less than a year in the role, partly due to “patriarchy and sexism” she experienced, the conference announced Nov. 3. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).



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
- Kevin Chupp: Pastor for Outreach; kevin@normalmennonite.org; 574-315-2579
- Lynette Miller: Interim Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions;
lynette.miller.k@gmail.com; 309-261-7485; 309-963-4495
- Ron Ropp: Pastor for Pastoral Care; 309- 452- 8534
- Lauren Satchwell: Interim Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions;
satchwell.lauren@gmail.com; 309-830-6827
- Holly Zehr: Interim Pastor for Worship & Spiritual Gift Discernment Team;
hmzehr@hotmail.com; 309-846-0860

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.

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Commissions and Teams Contact List

[Commissions and Teams Contact List](#)

Directory

THIS [LINK](#) WILL TAKE YOU TO OUR CURRENT DIRECTORY. IT TAKES A BIT TO DOWNLOAD. IT LISTS EVERYONE WHO IS A MEMBER, ACTIVE NON-MEMBER.