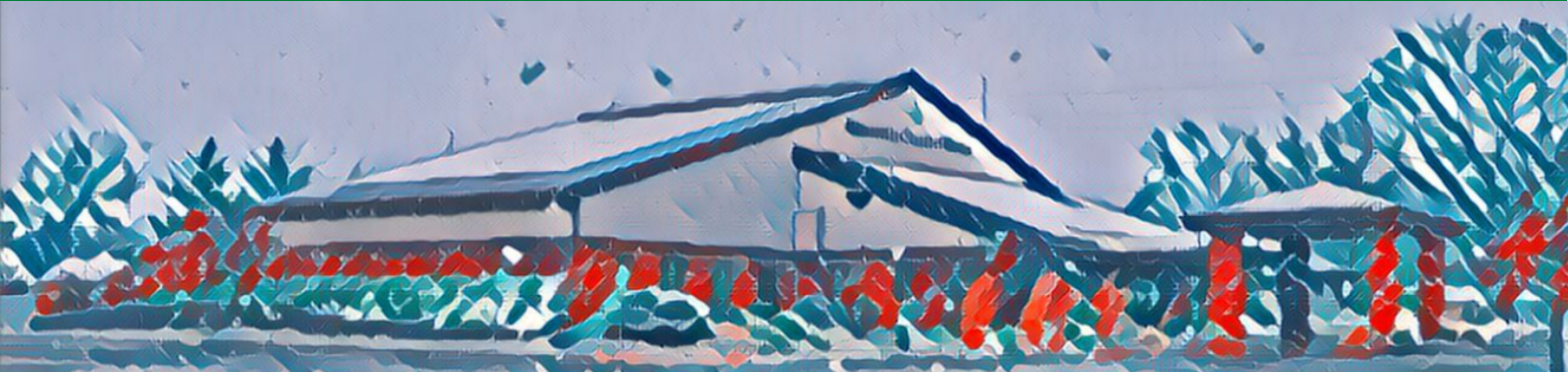


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

This is the fourth Sunday of Advent.

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled "*What's in a Name?*" using the scripture Matthew 1:18-25.

Before Jesus could even speak, his names told stories about the expectations and hopes that were placed on him from birth. What are our expectations for Jesus? What do we call him?



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



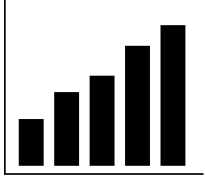
Mennonite
Church
of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Covid Update



As of December 5, The McLean County Health Department indicated that the rate was **16.2% and rising**. McLean County is at **Medium** COVID-19 Community Level. Administration Commission **encourages the use of masks in large groups**, especially for those with multiple chronic illnesses.



Spending Plan Survey Results

Administration Commission really appreciates your input into the 2023 Spending Plan discussion. Thanks so much for responding. Find an anonymized report of the Spending Plan Survey Results [here](#).
Provided by the Administration Commission


Merry Christmas *Office Closed*



The Church Office will be closed for the holidays on these dates: **December 19th, 26th, 27th, and January 1st**. Thank you for your understanding. Merry Christmas! *--Lydia*

Homebound Communion



If you are someone who is homebound or otherwise unable to make it to church in person and would like to receive communion, please email Holly Zehr. Communion was last served on December 4th.

Sponsored by the Worship Commission



Camp Friedenswald Retreat

January 27-29, 2023

EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at camp, January 27-29! Friedenswald is a beautiful retreat in southern Michigan with comfortable, warm lodges to accommodate us. Whether you're looking for social time or solitude, there's something for everyone! Activities for the weekend include (some weather permitting) sledding, tubing, hiking, relaxing, eating, cross country skiing, reading, games, worship, fellowship, and more! If you have questions, please contact Shelly and Darvis King Hope to see you there!

Sign up [here](#).

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission



Thank You



Fellowship wishes to thank Ruth Haney, Geri Schrock, Stephe Company and Wayne and Lois Hochstetler for the planning and providing cookie ingredients. Fun was had by over 20 participants and cookie boxes were assembled to be distributed.

During the Christmas caroling on Dec, 9. Thanks also to Leah Roeschley who assisted with caroling.

From the Fellowship Committee



View more photos from the Baking Event [here](#) and photos from Caroling [here](#).

From the Fellowship Committee



SMAP Update

We are getting closer and closer to our goal of raising \$72,400 for the 22-23 school year. At this point, we are \$1500 short of that goal. Thank you for your continued support of this amazing program! Please contact Darvis with questions.

From the SMAP Committee

Alternative Gifts Fair



The final total for the 2022 Alternative Gifts Fair was \$6210. So many people's lives will be brightened--and some even transformed!--by your generosity. Totals were MCC \$4129 and AGI \$2081. Projects which garnered the most support were as follows:

AGI 3: Relief for Ukrainian Refugees in Hungary \$1049

MCC N1: Where Needed Most \$920

MCC F5: Buy the Farmyard--Global \$500

MCC E1: Keeping Girls in School--Syrian refugee girls in Lebanon \$425

MCI F11: Buy the Hive: Global \$305

MCC W2: Wells--Global \$300

AGI 10: Mobility Matters (Leg braces--Congo) \$267

AGI 17: Pedaling out of Poverty--Africa \$258

MCC F2: Chickens--Global \$255

MCC W1: Clean Water at Home--Global \$250

Full totals for all projects will be posted at the back of the Fellowship Area on Sunday, December 18. THANK YOU ALL!

--Meredith Schroeer

Structure Evaluation Meeting Recording & Survey

Vision Team would like to thank all of those that attended and participated in the congregational feedback session on December 4th. We heard affirmation and concerns from members of the congregation and how they have seen or experienced the church structure functioning over the past year. [A recording of the meeting can be viewed here.](#)

In an interest to hear and capture feedback from all, **[please consider responding to the brief survey found here](#)** on the functioning of the church structure.

If you have any questions or would like to provide additional verbal feedback, please reach out to a member of the Vision Team.

Sponsored by the Vision Team

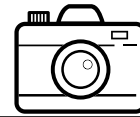


For Your Consideration

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is asking for your prayerful thoughts and consideration on where you may be called or able to help. Below is a list of commission and team members' end of term status. As there will be many vacancies in the upcoming year, we encourage people to think about how they could serve. As interest arises, please share with a team member to let this be known! Please contact Nancy Fisher, Kristen Hartwig, Shelly Nester King, Holly Zehr, or Kevin Chupp. Thank you!

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team
p. 4 of 12

Sharing Our Gifts



Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team would like to begin highlighting the many ways that MCNers are sharing their gifts inside and outside of our congregation. Please send pictures of yourself in the many ministry settings you find yourself-whether here at the church, in your place of work, or with other organizations you minister with. Perhaps you meet with others to pray or you have a regular commission meeting, maybe you're part of a book club or regularly volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. You can email these pictures along with a short description to Lydia at church@normalmennonite.org. These pictures will be shown on preservice slides and WILL NOT be shown on YouTube. Don't consider your submission as bragging. Rather consider Jesus' words that we should "let our light shine before people; that they may see our good deeds and praise God in Heaven."

Organized by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

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](#).

Shared by the Worship Commission



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](#).



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 the custodian. 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](#).

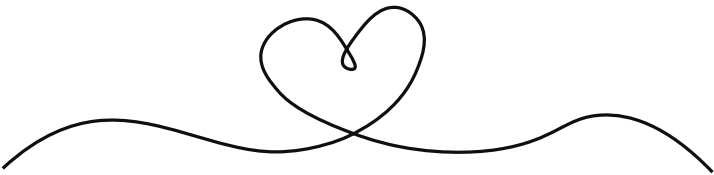
Requested by the Administration Commission

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](#).

Requested by the Administration Commission

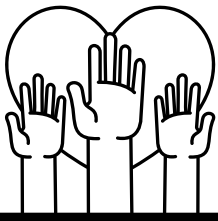


Birthdays & Anniversaries

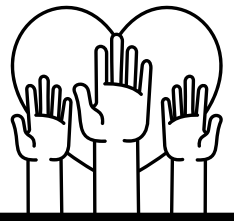
CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Anniversaries

Birthdays



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Louise & Larry Reeser
West Greeter: Mark Roeschley
Welcome Table: Bernice Valverde
Ushers: Chellie & Eric Miller
Worship Planner: Holly Zehr
Worship Leader: Gail Fisher & Emari Stalter
Sharing Prayer Leader: Holly Zehr
Children's Story: Janet Wilson & Joe Culpepper
Scripture Reader: Deb Stenger
Technology: Ryan Miller & Adam Augspurger
Song Leader: Cindy Ropp
Accompaniment & Postlude: Elsa Raab
Infant Nursery – during worship: Beth Reeser
Infant Nursery – during CE: Nancy Fisher
Preschool Nursery: Robin Gundy
Gather Round: Holly & Randy Zehr

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.



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Thursday, December 15

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

1:00pm Community Care Committee (Zoom)

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Saturday, December 17

9:00am Worship Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, December 18

7:30pm Adult Advent Choir

Monday, December 19

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 20

7:00pm Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)

7:00pm Mama Bears (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 21

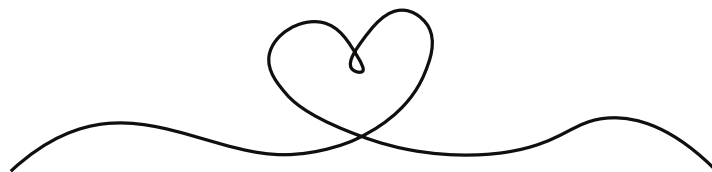
7:00am Wednesday Morning Book Group



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





Submit Ideas for Seminars for MennoCon23

MC USA is inviting ideas for seminars for MennoCon23. You will find explanatory details and the seminar submission form [here](#). The seminar submission deadline is January 31, 2023.



Civil Rights Trip

April 13-21, 2023

Normal 1st United Methodist Church is planning a Civil Rights trip on April 13 – 21, 2023. They will be visiting important Civil Rights sites in Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, Tuskegee, and Memphis. They will be travelling on a 27-passenger bus through Timi's tours. The total cost of the trip is \$1700, of which \$1300 is due by January 15th. Currently, there are 17 people signed up, with a few more still considering the trip, and there is still room for a few more people.

The group has just begun meeting to prepare for the trip. This includes learning about each site that they'll be visiting as well as discussing chapters from the book *The 1619 Project*. The meetings have been very helpful also in terms of getting to know one another. The intent is for this whole experience to not only gain knowledge, but to also increase our understanding of our country's history that continues to impact our society still today. Find more information [here](#) or contact Kathy King-Nobles (kanobles@normalfirst.org), Co-Pastor at First United Methodist Church.

Hesston students protest college's handling of sexual assault reports



About 60 Hesston College students walked out of Formation (chapel) on Dec. 2 to protest what student leaders described as an unsafe campus where college staff minimized or ignored reports of sexual assault. They walked from Hesston Mennonite Church to the "Community Healing Circle," a new monument south of the Administration Building, where four students spoke to a crowd of about 90 people, mostly students. Two students told of being sexually assaulted. Student leaders presented a list of 12 demands, urging college officials to hold perpetrators accountable, support survivors, hire additional staff and train existing staff to listen sympathetically and respond appropriately. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by Paul Schrag [here](#).

LGBTQ+ Affirming Church Joins MCUSA

A California congregation expelled by its Mennonite Brethren conference for affirmation of LGBTQ people is now part of Mennonite Church USA. Willow Avenue Mennonite Church in Fresno is believed to be the first congregation from the U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches to make such a change in affiliation. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by Tim Huber [here](#).

Uniting for Ukraine Webinar

Next Tuesday, December 20th at 1pm CST

Since February, over 14 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes and seek safety in areas within and outside Ukraine. In addition, an ongoing humanitarian crisis has resulted in millions of Venezuelans leaving their home in pursuit of a safer future. In response to these humanitarian disasters, the U.S. government has developed sponsorship programs which enable individuals and communities to sponsor Venezuelans and Ukrainians to come to the United States.

Join Mennonite Central Committee and Church World Service to learn more about these sponsorship programs and how the faith community can walk alongside Ukrainians and Venezuelans as they seek refuge in the United States. Register and learn more [here](#).

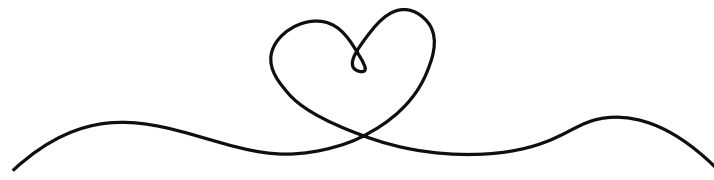
Book Reading and Discussion



Wednesdays at 7:30pm: January 9th through May 24th, 2023

Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship will be offering a book reading and discussion of the book, "The Complete Writings of Menno Simons c. 1496-1561, translated from the Dutch by Leonard Verduin and edited by John Christian Wenger, with a biography of Menno Simons by Harold S. Bender; Published by Herald Press, 1984, Second Printing. Meetings will be weekly via zoom on Wednesdays at 7:30p and will begin on Wednesday, January 9, 2023 and continue through Wednesday, May 24. They will aim to finish in an hour. Some weeks there may not be a lot to discuss, some weeks the discussion may continue.

For syllabus and zoom information, please contact Joel Thierstein.



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!

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<u>Building Open:</u>	Monday 12/19: Closed Tuesday–Friday 9AM-11AM and Tuesday–Wednesday & Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org ; 309-452-6622
<u>Rita Munkakusi:</u>	Custodian
<u>Kevin Chupp:</u>	Pastor for Outreach; kevin@normalmennonite.org
<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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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