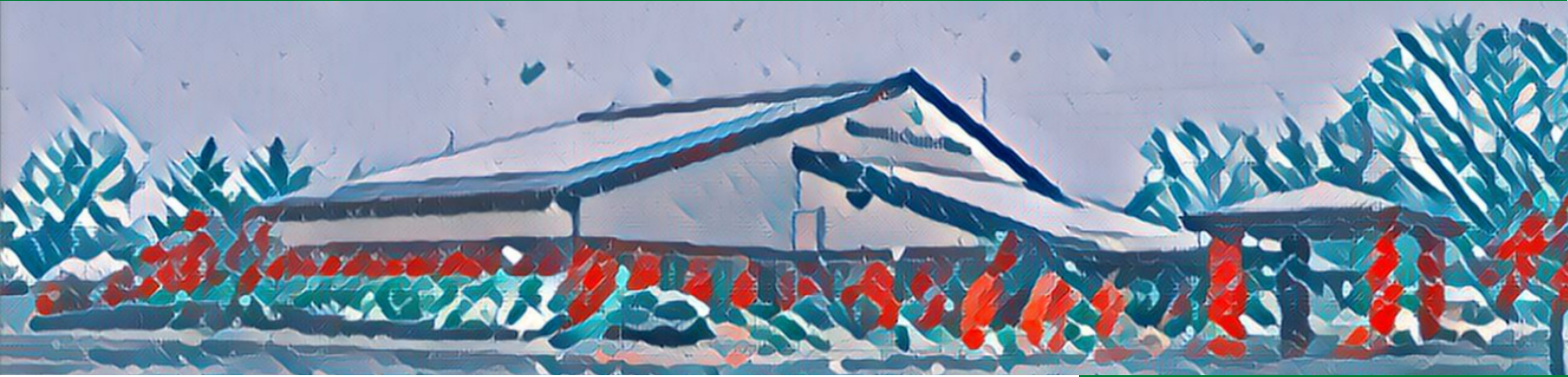


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Fugue* using the scripture Matthew 2:13–23.

When Jesus was a young child, his family found safety by fleeing to Egypt. But this narrative goes deeper than that—it repeats and adds to the story of Israel's hope. How do we see ourselves in this tension between the present hope and the reality of brokenness?



After Worship

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 December 12, The McLean County Health Department indicated that the rate was **14.3%**. 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.

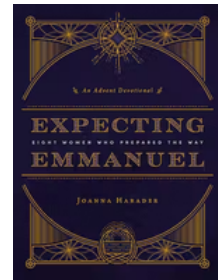
Office Closed



The Church Office will be closed for the holidays on **January 2nd**. Thank you for your understanding. Happy New Year!

--Lydia

Sunday's Benediction



The benediction offered by Holly Zehr at the Christmas Eve service was from Joanna Harader's advent devotional, *Expecting Emmanuel*. The selection was entitled "Christmas Blessing from Mary." Purchase the book from Menno Media [here](#).



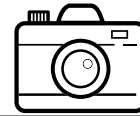
Camp Friedenswald Retreat

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. Hope to see you there! **Sign up [here](#)**.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

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



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 church@normalmennonite.org.

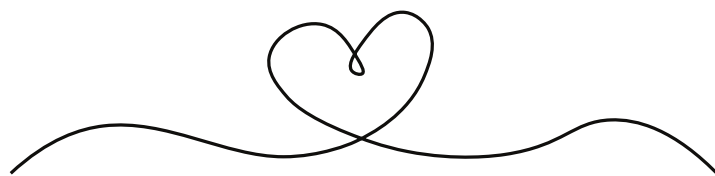
Requested by the Administration Commission

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 church@normalmennonite.org.

Requested by the Administration Commission



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Thursday, December 29

7:30pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 21

7:00am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Monday, January 2

Office Closed



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Steve & Deb Stenger

West Greeter: Connie Satchwell

Welcome Table: Mary Ann King

Ushers: Larry & Louise Reeser

Worship Planner: Holly Zehr

Worship Leader: Holly & Addy Zehr

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story: Janet Wilson & Joe Culpepper

Scripture Reader:

Technology: Wesley and Caleb

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompaniment & Postlude: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery – during worship:

Infant Nursery – during CE:

Preschool Nursery:

Gather Round:

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

Climate action coordinator appointed for MC Canada



Mennonite Church Canada has appointed Sandy Plett as climate action coordinator, effective Nov. 28. The two-year term position coordinates efforts across regional churches to build understanding and action around the climate crisis. Plett, who lives in Morden, Man., co-facilitates Mennonite Church Manitoba's Climate Action Working Group. She was director of camping and youth ministries for MC Manitoba in the early 2000s and organized and led worship services for two alternative models of church between 2010 and 2018: Simple Church in Winnipeg and This Ground at Camp Assiniboia. Most recently Plett has facilitated Faithful Climate Conversations, an initiative started by For the Love of Creation, a national coalition of faith-based organizations working for climate justice. *This is a full article from the Anabaptist World. Read it on their website [here](#).*

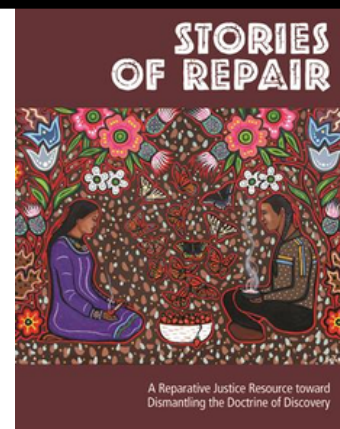
Comforter Blitz at Hopedale Mennonite Church

Saturday, January 21 & Saturday, February 4 from 9am to 4pm

Hopedale Mennonite Church is planning 2 days of work to assemble comforters to send to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). MCC will, in turn, distribute these comforters to global neighbors dealing with conflict and disaster. They are inviting us to join them in this work. They are hoping many of us will be able to join us for one or both days -- you may come and go as you are able. Lunch will be provided both days. RSVP to to Hopedale Mennonite Church at 309-449-6600 or office@hopedalemennonitechurch.com (so they can plan for lunch). View a flyer with more details that explains the event [here](#).

Stories of Repair - A Reparative Justice Resource

Mennonite Mission Network shares a booklet that is a compilation of stories from across the Mennonite church in the US and Canada that offer "next steps" of reparative justice in response to the Doctrine of Discovery, from returning land to Indigenous communities, to including restitution funds in church budgets, to supporting Indigenous struggles to protect lands and waters. "Stories of Repair" also includes theological and biblical reflections with questions for congregational study. Learn more [here](#).



MC USA Hope for the Future in Atlanta in 2023

SAVETHEDATE



FEBRUARY
3-5, 2023
ATLANTA,
GEORGIA



Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) will host the annual Hope for the Future conference in Atlanta, Feb. 3-5, 2023. The Hope for the Future conference offers Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) leaders affiliated with MC USA a place to gather for worship, networking and mutual support. The theme for the 2023 event is “The Book of Esther, ‘Such a Time as This: Collective Trauma and Hope.’” The keynote speakers are Daniela Lázaro-Manalo, racial equity education and advocacy coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee, and Frank

Scofield Sánchez, U.S. partnerships coordinator with the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) and member of Pasadena Mennonite Church. Dr. Wilma A. Bailey, professor emerita of Hebrew and Aramaic Scripture at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, will lead the Bible study. Hendy Mathahalemual, pastor of Indonesian Light Church in Philadelphia, will lead music. The event is sponsored by MC USA and three of its agencies—[Everence](#), [Mennonite Education Agency](#), and [Mennonite Mission Network](#). Read the full MC USA press release [here](#).

A Christmas Blessing from MMN

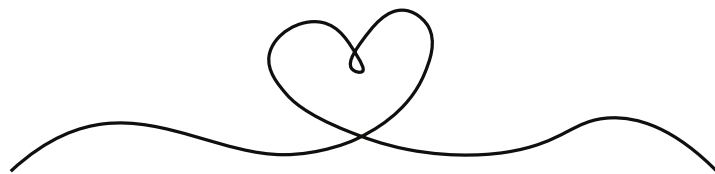
Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) volunteers, mission workers, and partners send their blessings from around the world this Christmas season. If you can not view the video below, click [here](#).





Dear Friend of Menno Haven, Thank you for walking with us the past year. Thank you if you were one who stepped up in significant ways to fill in while we had two to three vacant year round staff positions the past year - volunteering at Work Days, guest hosting, helping with programs, and praying. Thank you also to those who donated financially or purchased things from our wish list to support the ministry. Menno Haven as an organization would not have been able to serve our campers and guests without direct involvement from you and people like you. Because of God's goodness, your strong financial support, a busy summer, and the staff working hard to minimize expenses, we are currently positioned to enter 2023 in a place of health. Praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ! As I look towards the future, my desire is for Menno Haven to continue on this trajectory. But (I don't always like that word) have you felt, like we have, the strain of rising costs in food, supplies, and operating materials? It has been significant for us. We are at the point that we need to raise our fees and/or have you, our donors, give more in order to sustain this level of wellbeing for the Menno Haven ministry. And while maintaining is good, I want this ministry to strengthen and flourish to be viable for years to come. The purpose of Menno Haven is to provide a set aside place for people to experience God's World and Christ's Kingdom in a camp and retreat setting through opportunities for worship, fellowship, recreation, growth, and renewal. This purpose is being fulfilled with your help and God's provision throughout the year for all who attend events through our retreat ministry and with our youth, adult, and family Menno Haven programmed events. Thank you for your part in carrying this purpose out. As we look towards 2023, there are two ways you can support the Menno Haven Ministry: 1. Give to the Annual Fund. It's out of this fund that we carry out the purpose of Menno Haven and cover the yearly operating expenses that come with upholding a high quality of service to our guests and campers. 2. Give to the Patio Renovation. We have a generous friend who has given \$7,000 seed money to pay down the remaining \$26,854 of this last unfunded capital project. Can you join with this friend to help us start 2023 with the Patio Renovation project being fully funded? Indicate "Patio Renovation" in the special instructions of your donation. Find the donation link [here](#). View pictures from 2022 [here](#). Thank you again for your faithful partnering with us in ministry to the thousands of people who come to see God's face in and through this sacred place.

Signed, Doc Johnson, Executive Director



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<u>Building Open:</u>	Monday 1/2: 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

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!

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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