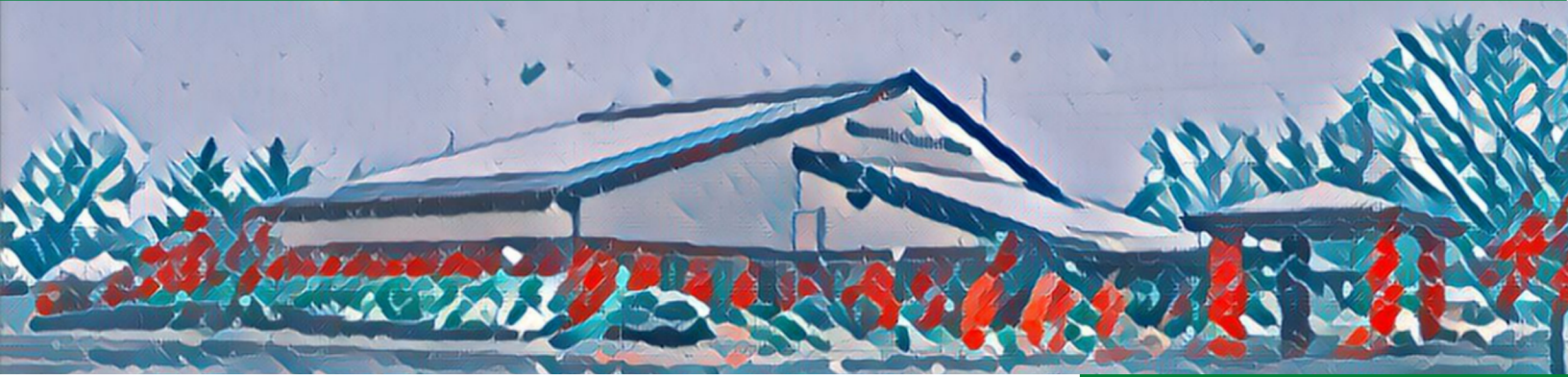


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Understatement* using the scripture Matthew 4:1-17.

As we follow Jesus into the wilderness, we see him embody a stunning clarity of purpose in the face of temptation. How does he find that kind of lucidity in the midst of exhaustion and hunger?



View of Ein Avdat in the Zin Valley of the Negev desert.

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

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

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

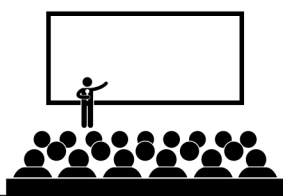
Narrative Lectionary

Folio with illuminated margins from a Greek Lectionary. Greek minuscule script. Greece (possibly), c. 1500. Chester Beatty Library



This Sunday we are beginning a journey with the Narrative Lectionary. This is a four-year cycle of readings that is focused on walking through the story of the Bible as a whole. Different stories and a different Gospel are highlighted each time through, with a lot of flexibility to include other types of sermon series during the Summer. We are excited to try this together, and encourage you to follow this link to learn more [here](#).

Shared by the Pastoral Team



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22nd at 1:00pm

The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on January 22nd at 1:00 PM. This will be a **hybrid meeting**, allowing participation in person or via Zoom. A congregational meal hosted by the Fellowship Committee will precede the meeting!

If you plan to attend the congregational meal preceding the meeting, please sign up [here](#).

Members will be able to vote on whether to accept the proposed 2023 Spending Plan following the meeting. We strongly encourage everyone to attend in person or online. However, absentee ballots will also be available in the church office for those who cannot attend.

View the 2022 Annual Report [here](#). A Zoom link will be included in the January 18 Midweek and sent out the day-of.

From the Vision Team



Vision Team Update

The Vision Team hosted an information and feedback session on December 4 that provided a recap of the church structure and invited feedback from congregants. Please find a Summary Report of the feedback collected from that session and the survey that followed [here](#). Additional questions or comments can be directed to a member of the Vision Team.

From the Vision Team

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



The Spiritual Gift Discernment Team submits Mark as a candidate to serve on Administration Commission. Please send any feedback to Kristen by January 20. Thank you!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Community Life Commission Update for January 2023

Community Life Commission (CLC) met for a four-hour long retreat in November. A review of the past 15 months was presented, and discussion focused on establishing three main goals for 2023. These goals will assist the Mennonite Church of Normal in reaching Vision Goal number two specifically. The commission submitted the annual report for 2022 and a proposed 2023 budget for the Commission which included the Fellowship Committee and Congregational Care Committee. Other commission business centers around welcoming and showing hospitality to all individuals attending MCN. A welcome brochure is being developed by the commission to be available to new attendees.

The fellowship Committee welcomed Pam and Meredith to the committee late in the fall of 2022. In October the Committee represented by Mary Ann assisted in hosting a welcome meal for Pastor Chupp and family following his ordination. Monthly activities in December included a cookie bake, Christmas Caroling, and serving coffee and cookies on Christmas morning following worship service. Coffee service throughout the year continues with Marianne coordinating. January activities include planning and serving the Annual Meeting meal, a meal for Sue family and friends, and the Friedenswald retreat. The retreat is being planned by Darvis and Shelly. Looking ahead to February, planning is under way for a cupcake decorating event on February 8 for all. Also, on that same night information/a discussion focused on the future of Mennonite Women at MCN will be held.

Congregational Care Committee (CCC) will start the new year with a retreat on January 14th at the church. Steve and Keith have ended their term and Becky will step into the Chairperson role for the committee starting this month. The committee is welcoming Pastor Chupp who will now be joining the committee for monthly meetings. Ron brings the committee up to date with news from the Visitation team each month.

As you can see, we are a busy group in our attempt to support MCNs mission, vision, and anabaptist theology by nurturing relationships and demonstrating the love of Christ.

Submitted by Deb Stenger, co-chair Community Life Commission

Covid Update



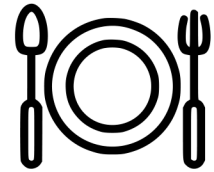
As of December 26, The McLean County Health Department indicated that the rate was **10.8%**. McLean County is at **Medium** COVID-19 Community Level. Administration Commission **encourages the use of masks in large groups**, especially for those with multiple chronic illnesses.

Sign Rita's Frame!



Everyone is invited to sign Rita's citizenship commemorative gift provided by the Community Life Commission! It will be on a table in the atrium this Sunday.

Luncheon This Sunday



This Sunday, January 15th, 2023

Sue and her children, Jay, Jennifer and Janine, former longtime members at MCN, will be in Normal to see friends this coming weekend, January 13-15. To facilitate this, friends of Sue will host a luncheon for Sue and her family at the church after Sunday School on Sunday, January 15. **If you would like to join us, please sign up [here](#), so that we will know how many to prepare for.** Instead of food contributions, a basket for monetary contributions will be available at the meal. We hope to see many old friends of Sue and her family for this special time.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission



Midwest
FOOD BANK

Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

Thursday, January 19th from 6:00-8:00pm

We invite you to serve alongside us as we join the good work of Midwest Food Bank. The mission of Midwest Food Bank is, "to share the love of Christ by alleviating hunger and malnutrition locally and throughout the world and providing disaster relief; all without discrimination." Our next volunteer opportunity is January 19th from 6:00-8:00pm. There are usually a variety of tasks that are a part of each project and no previous experience is needed. Last time we packaged a couple thousand bags of fruit loops for kids in schools to eat. We hope you will join us for this next opportunity. **Please sign up ASAP!** Sign up [here](#).

Sponsored by the Outreach Commission



Camp Friedenswald Retreat

January 27-29, 2023

EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at camp, January 27-29! **Please sign up soon if you can so we can get a count (though you are still welcome to sign up the week of if you decide last minute!)** 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!

We are committed to the goal that cost not be a deterrent to attending! We will offer a suggested amount based on attendance (often around \$70 a person, less for young children) but ask everyone to "pay what you can." It is better to have more attending and paying whatever amount they are comfortable with than for people to not come at all.

If you have questions, please contact Shelly and Darvis King. Hope to see you there! [Sign up here](#).

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission



Comforter Blitz at Hopedale Mennonite Church

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

Do you like to socialize? Do service? Prepare a meal or eat a meal? Do you like to quilt or want to know how to quilt? There is something for everyone on Saturday Jan 21 and February 4 from 9-4 at Hopedale Mennonite Church. You are welcome to come for all or part of each day! Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Hopedale Mennonite Church at 309-449-6600 or by email at office@hopedalemennonitechurch.com (so they can plan for lunch). Gerry is also happy to answer any questions, and if you need a ride, she has some room in her car. View a flyer with more details that explains the event [here](#).

Shared by the Outreach Commission



2023 Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale

Saturday, March 18, 2023

The 2023 Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale will take place on March 18, (Saturday only) at the Interstate Center. It will be a live auction of quilts and other donated items. There will be no online auction this year. There will be the usual booths to look forward too. There will be a Dutch Market, and Meat Sales. Please begin thinking what you could do to contribute to the Sale. They need lots of donations. More details will come as they are available. Contact board members, Ben, Louise or church rep. Gerry for more info. Thanks for your support of MCC.



Office Closed for MLK Day

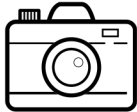
The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, January 16 2023** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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](#).

Requested by the Administration 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."

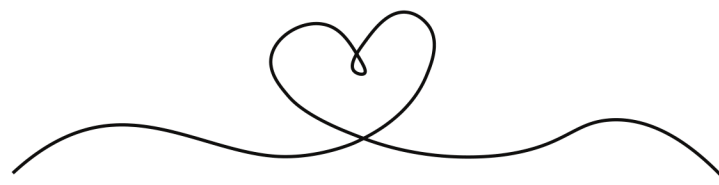
Organized by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Now Hiring - Assistant Custodian

**NOW
HIRING**

Administration Commission is hoping to hire an Assistant Custodian to clean the Head Start wing Monday through Friday evenings. The position reports to Rita. 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](#).

Requested by the Administration Commission



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

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 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



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 11

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

7:30pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Thursday, January 12

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

Friday, January 13

4:00pm Joint Mennonite Residential Community Board and
Administration Commission Meeting

Saturday, January 14

11:00am Community Care Committee Retreat

Sunday, January 15

12:00pm Byler Meal

Tuesday, January 17

1:00pm Central Illinois Mennonite Pastor Peer Gathering

7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)



Looking for MennoCon23 Seminars

Do you have an idea for a topic or presenter? Do you feel called to share your expertise in one of these areas? Mennonite Church USA is looking for ideas for topics and speakers for MennoCon23. The deadline for applications is Jan. 31. Learn more [here](#). Apply [here](#).

An Invitation to be Heard

The CDC Leadership Council met at Camp Friedenswald on October 29. One agenda item included responding to the question, “How shall CDC live into the resolution on Repentance and Transformation?” which was passed by MC USA delegates in May. Many ideas were generated. One thing that was clear is that CDC leadership is called to listen to the stories of those who have experienced harm by the church or whose gifts have not been welcomed in the church because of their sexual identity or the sexual identity of a family member.

The CDC ministerial committee encourages anyone or any congregation who would like to begin a conversation to contact either Koontz, ministerial committee chairperson, or Conference Minister Luginbill (contact information below). The members of the ministerial committee and their responsibilities can be found [here](#). We want to listen well. We want to tend transformation in our conference. We long for healing and hope.

When someone contacts a member of the committee, the following questions will be asked:

- How would you like to share your story? In writing? Meeting in person with someone? Meeting over Zoom? Other?
- With whom would you like to share your story? Conference minister? Member of ministerial committee? With someone else?
- Would you like to invite a support person to be with you when you share your story?
- What would you hope for by telling your story?
- Is there anything else you would like us to know before we hear your story?
- Stories that the ministerial committee hears will not be shared except with permission by the story teller.

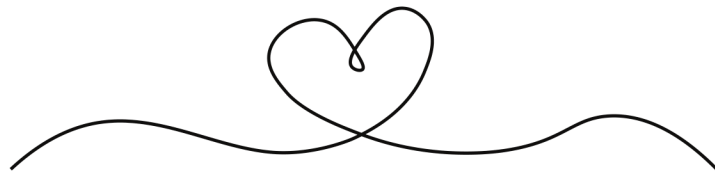
To begin the conversation or to learn more about sharing your story, you may contact: Minister Luginbill, conference minister; confmin@mcusacdc.org
Koontz, ministerial committee chair, ggkoontz@ambs.edu

The soft-spoken preacher



Congregants deliver sermons written by pastor who lost her voice to COVID. Monica Miller found her voice in her first pastorate not behind the pulpit, but in the pews. Believing the worst of a case of long COVID was behind her, Miller was hired in November 2021 as pastor of First Mennonite Church in Indianapolis. The virus had targeted her diaphragm nearly a year earlier in such a way that breathing was difficult and speaking impossible. "Progress before this summer was excruciatingly slow, but it was very steady with few ups and downs," she said via keyboard in an online

messaging conversation. "Then this June, for no reason we've been able to discern, I went a million miles backward in the span of a week. Confined to bed. Unable to talk." The congregation has supported her in a host of ways, perhaps most intriguingly with a group of five women and two men who have been preaching the sermons she writes. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by Tim Huber [here](#).



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open:

Closed: Monday

Tuesday–Friday 9AM–11AM
and Tuesday–Wednesday & Friday 1:30PM–3PM.

Lydia Hedberg:

Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org; 309-452-6622

Rita Munkakusi:

Custodian

Kevin Chupp:

Pastor for Outreach Commission, Worship Commission, Congregational Care Committee, and the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team; kevin@normalmennonite.org

Lynette Miller:

Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions

Ron Ropp:

Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lauren Satchwell:

Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

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](#)

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