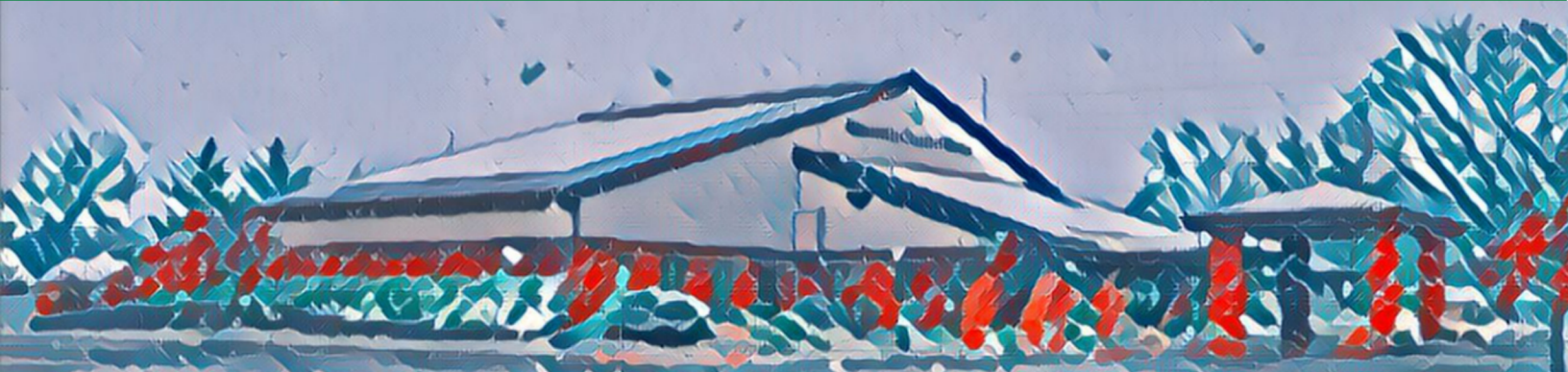


THE MIDWEEK

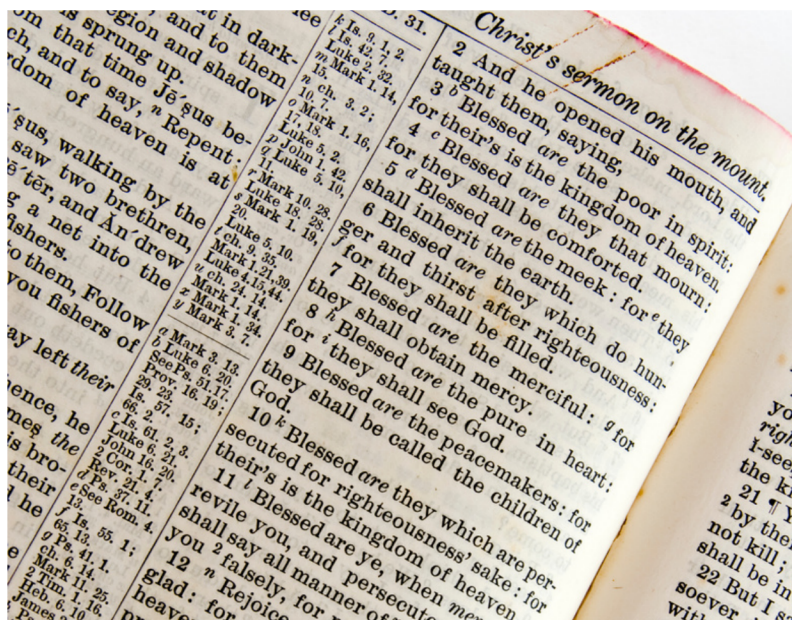


WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Blessed?* using the scripture Matthew 5:1-20.

Being “poor in spirit,” mourning, and being persecuted certainly do not sound like blessings and yet Jesus includes these in his list of what we call beatitudes, and he says that people in the midst of these things are “blessed.” Our thesauruses don’t help us clarify what he might mean by this, so what does Jesus mean? How do we carry that list as followers of Jesus?



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



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

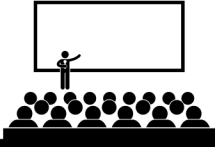


Congregational Meal Sign-Up

Sign Up

THIS Sunday, January 22nd at 1:00pm

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



Annual Meeting

THIS 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!

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. **Child care will be provided during the meeting.**

A vote will be held at the end of the meeting using an electronic form found [here](#). Absentee ballots can be submitted through the electronic form or by requesting a paper ballot and mailing it to the church office (postmarked January 24th). **Voting will close on Wednesday, January 25th at 5pm.**

View the 2022 Annual Report [here](#). Join the meeting remotely through Zoom [here](#). View a revised agenda [here](#).

From the Vision Team

Call for Delegates

January 28, 2023

The Administration Commission is looking for volunteers to be delegates for the Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) meeting in Lombard on January 28th. Please contact Mary if you are interested. Thank you to all who have participated in the November 14 gathering at Roanoke, and in the ongoing discussions around Illinois Mennonite Conference policy related to sexuality and credentialing. The Church Life Team and Missional Leadership Team have been reviewing the discussion at the November 14 meeting, and are planning another meeting January 28, 2023 from 10 AM to 3 PM at Lombard Mennonite Church. Pastors and congregational leaders are invited to attend in person or by Zoom (link to be sent the week before the meeting.) Lunch will be provided.

From the Administration Commission



Midwest
FOOD BANK

Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

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

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission



Comforter Blitz at Hopedale Mennonite Church

THIS 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

Love - Combining Key Ingredients

Love

Friendship

Service

Peace

Kindness

February 8th at 6:30pm

Come join us to see what it is about...

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

Covid Update



As of December 26, The McLean County Health Department indicated that the rate was **11.9%** and **increasing**. McLean County is at **low** COVID-19 Community Level. Administration Commission **encourages the use of masks in large groups**, especially for those with multiple chronic illnesses.



Note from Vision Team

Your Vision Team met on January 11. Following this meeting, we have the following items to share with the congregation:

- We continued preparation for Phase 2 of the Congregational Structure Evaluation. This will focus on receiving input about the Teams and Commissions from the people who serve on them.
- The planning for annual self-evaluations of the Teams, Commissions and Committees is progressing.
- Processes needed for transitioning to a (not Interim) Pastoral Team are moving forward.
- Individuals are being called to serve on Teams, Commission and Committees.
- We finalized plans for the congregation's January 22 Annual Meeting
- We received reports on the activities of the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, Pastoral Team Search Committee, the Pastoral Team, and the Commissions and identified ways we can support them.

Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the [Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#).

From the Vision Team

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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 at by **January 20 (this Friday)**. Thank you!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



Anabaptism at Five Hundred

Anabaptism at Five Hundred is a project aspiring to create an Anabaptist Community Bible. It is seeking to assemble 500 Bible study groups to give commentary on Scripture passages through an Anabaptist lens. Each group will meet for four sessions and look at three different passages from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Psalms/Proverbs. Comments will be recorded and submitted to the Anabaptism 500 website. You can read more on the Menno Media website [here](#). Groups must be registered to participate by April 1, 2023 and completed by June 1, 2023. **If you would be interested in being included in the formation and participation in such a group at MCN, please contact Lynette or 309-261-7485 or in person within the next week or two.**

From the Discipling Commission

A Note from Holly

Dear friends at MCN, Thank you so much for the many kind words you shared with me as I was released from the pastoral team. I also want to thank you for the beautiful gift. It is a pair of bookends handcrafted by none other than our own Sam. Sam has a business in Madison, WI called Rooted Woodcrafts. (Find him online [here](#) and visit his shop on Etsy.) The bookends are made from local sustainably harvested urban black cherry wood. You can see them here supporting one of my favorite icons at home. What a meaningful remembrance of my time in pastoral ministry. Thank you so very much!

From Holly Zehr

Jacket switch-up!



If you grabbed a black **women's** North Face Jacket instead of your own black **men's** North Face Jacket, Louise has yours! She said there was a pair of black carhart gloves in the pocket. Please contact the office or bring it to church this Sunday to unwind this switch-up and get your jacket back.

From Lydia in the Office

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."

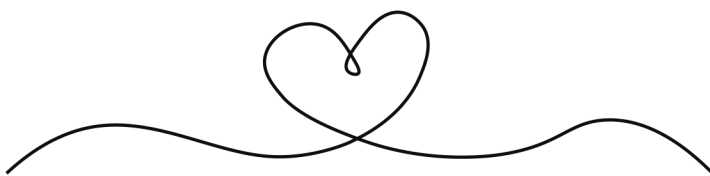
Organized by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

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 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](#).

Requested by the Administration Commission



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:



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

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 at 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.



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters:

West Greeter: Phylis VerSteegh

Welcome Table: Pam Hodel

Ushers: Zehr family

Worship Planner & Leader: Marge Weaver

Sharing Prayer Leader: Ron Ropp

Children's Story: Shelly King

Scripture Reader: Doug Valverde

Technology: Jaron Zehr & Caleb Augspurger

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

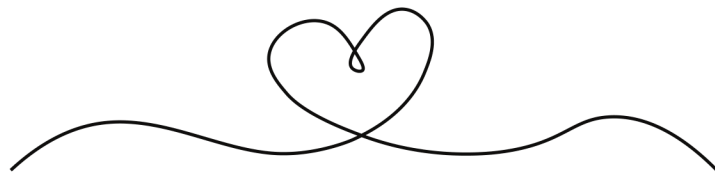
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Dorothy Loepf

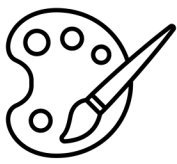
Infant Nursery – during worship: Caroline Roeschley

Infant Nursery – during CE: Janet Wilson

Preschool Nursery: Alexandra Neely

Gather Round: Spring Neely





Mennonite Arts Weekend

February 3-5, 2023 in Cincinnati, Ohio

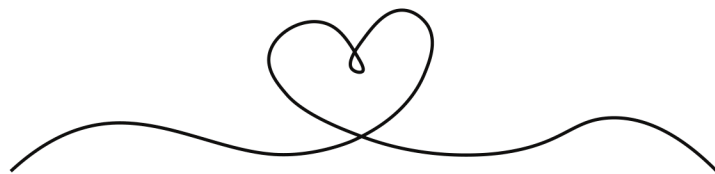
Join the Mennonite Arts Weekend, February 3-5, 2023, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Presentations by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Activities and workshops designed specifically for Pre-K children through high school are planned throughout the weekend, including a jam session with Girl Named Tom. A nursery will be available. Find the list of presenters and registration and location information [here](#). Come enjoy the fun, connect with friends, and hear Girl Named Tom.

Jesus' followers are called to stand in support of Indian Child Welfare Act

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) protects Indigenous families from the impacts of systemic removal of children from their homes and nations and it is being challenged in court. This story is a response to a case awaiting a U.S. Supreme Court decision. Read the full article by Jane Ross Richer on the Mennonite Mission Network website [here](#).

Schrag, who led Mennonite denominational merger, dies at 78

James F. Schrag, 78, a denominational administrator and pastor who led the merger that created Mennonite Church USA, died Jan. 7 in North Newton, Kan. His efforts to unify Mennonites from two historical streams emerged during years as a pastor. A longtime advocate of cooperation and unity among Mennonites of different traditions, Schrag was the first executive director of MC USA, serving from 2001 to 2009. The denominational appointment emerged from Schrag's role as project leader for the team that guided the final two years of the merger process, beginning in 1999. For three years before that, he was general secretary of the General Conference Mennonite Church, which joined with the Mennonite Church to form the new denomination. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by Paul Schrag [here](#).



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<u>Building Open:</u>	Monday–Friday 9AM-11AM and Monday-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 Commission, Worship Commission, Congregational Care Committee, and the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team; kevin@normalmennonite.org
<u>Lynette Miller:</u>	Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions;
<u>Ron Ropp:</u>	Pastor for Pastoral Care
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	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](#)

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.