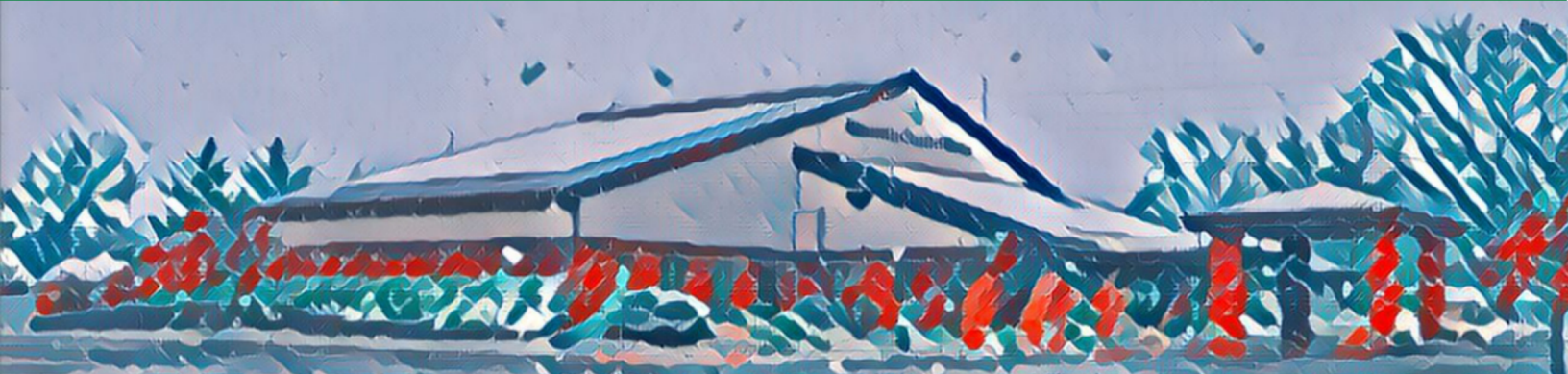


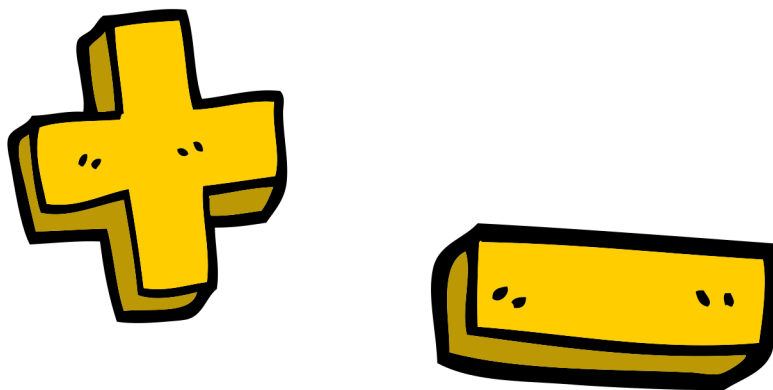
THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Joe Culpepper will preach a sermon titled *Spiritual Treasures: Addition or Subtraction?* using the scripture Matthew 6:7-21.

As Jesus continues his Sermon on the Mount, he teaches about Spiritual Disciplines & invites us to practice them in a way that helps us store up treasures in heaven. Are spiritual practices about addition or subtraction? How do you live out the arithmetic of a Spirit-centered life?



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

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team submits Shelly as a candidate to serve as Vision Team Chair-Elect for 2023, becoming Chair in 2024. Please send any feedback to Kristen by February 8. Thank you!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment 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 Dyck 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



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 by email, phone, or in person within the next week or two.**

From the Discipling Commission

2022 Contribution Statements



The 2022 Contributions Statements were sent out by email on Monday 1/23. If you did not receive yours, there is an error, or you would like a physical copy, please contact the church office at church@normalmennonite.org or 309-452-6622.

From the Office



Lent Orchestra Interest Form

Do you play an instrument? Do you like playing with other people? If so, join the MCN Lent Orchestra! Whether you have been playing for a year, haven't played in years, or play all the time, you are welcome to join us! We welcome all instruments: band, orchestra, harp, recorder, any instrument! There's a part for everyone. If you are interested, please fill out this form ([here](#)) so I can get a sense of everyone's instrument and availability. I look forward to playing with you! --Lydia

If you have any questions about the event or need technical help with the form, please contact me (Lydia) in the church office at church@normalmennonite.org or 309-452-6622.

Sponsored by the Worship Commission

Partners in Healing - 2023



Once again, we are participating in the ministry, "Partners in Healing" with our local Carle medical community. For 2023, we are committed to pray for the top administrators and their families from Carle BroMenn Medical Center, Carle Eureka Hospital, and Carle Cancer Institute-Normal. There will be bright yellow signs posted in each of these facilities reminding these administrators that Mennonite Church of Normal is holding them in prayer. We can certainly imagine the kinds of challenges these individuals might encounter, but they have been encouraged to reach out to us if there are specific concerns that we can help them carry. Join us as we pray for those who help facilitate the essential work of healing in our community. Any thoughts, questions, or ideas about this commitment can be sent to Pastor Kevin.

From the Outreach Commission

Sharing Our Gifts

This Sunday before and after the service you will see a slide show on the screen of a few of our MCN folk serving others in our communities. We hope this encourages YOU to send a photo to the office of the ways you serve your community! It can be added to our slide show, which is only shown in the building, not online. We know many of you are working in various ways within and without the church. Please share!!

Shared by Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Covid Update



As of December 26, The McLean County Health Department indicated that the rate was **9.6%** and **decreasing**. 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.



Camp Friedenswald Retreat

THIS WEEK 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

Saturday, February 4 from 9am to 4pm

This is to update you on the comforter blitz for Mennonite Central Committee held this past Saturday, January 21st at Hopedale Mennonite Church. With the help of 52 people, approximately 25 comforters were completely or nearly finished. They hope to complete that many more on Saturday, February 4th. You are welcome to join them for the second day of the comforter blitz. You can find a flyer describing the event [here](#). The comforters will be hung in the sanctuary of Hopedale Mennonite Church after completion and there will be a short time of blessing for the comforters, the participants and the recipients of the comforters on Sunday, February 5th. You are welcome to join them for the service beginning at 9:30 AM. The comforters will then go the Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes office in Goshen, IN and then on to the Mennonite Central Committee Material Resources Center in Ephrata, PA. From there the comforters will be shipped to global partners and neighbors around the world for those in need. If you would like to attend the February 4th day, 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.

Shared by the Outreach Commission

Love - Combining Key Ingredients



February 8th at 6:30pm

Paul offers us a strategy to help us live for God day by day in Colossians 3:12-17. Come join us as we unite to decorate Valentine cupcakes as way to demonstrate the

Key Ingredients of



Some of the cupcakes will be donated to Home Sweet Home Mission. Afterwards, we will join together to enjoy a cup of tea and a cupcake to share our friendship, Please sign up [here](#) ASAP as we will need to know how many cupcakes to prepare.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

2023 Distress Supper

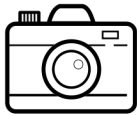
Thursday, February 16th at 6:30pm

In preparation for the 65th Relief Sale, the annual Distress Supper/Organizational Meeting will be held Thursday, February 16th, at 6:30 P.M. in the First Mennonite Church of Morton, IL. It is very important for Mennonite Central Committee promoters, booth chairs, and all those involved in the Illinois Relief Sale to attend this event. All people from our churches and communities are highly encouraged to participate as well.

In order to prepare for the meal for this event, they need to know how many will be attending. Please notify Mrs. Don (Ruthie) Roth regarding the number joining us for this very special meeting.

The 65th Illinois Mennonite Anniversary Relief Sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2023, at Interstate Center, Bloomington. This year it will be a one day sale starting at 6:00 A.M. with pancakes and sausage; the sale will continue throughout the day. Booths will open at 8:00 A.M. and the Grand Auction will begin at 8:30 A.M.

Your prayers and support in reviving our 65th Anniversary Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale will be gratefully appreciated!



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 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](#).

Requested by the Administration Commission



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 25

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)
6:00pm Master Naturalists

Saturday, January 28

9:30am Annie Nkasa Memorial Service

Tuesday, January 31

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Thursday, January 26

7:00am Next Man Bible Study
6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Friday, January 27

5:30pm Annie Nkasa Visitation
Through Sunday Camp Friedenswald Retreat

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Anniversaries

Birthdays



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE TOP ADMINISTRATORS AND THIER FAMILIES FROM CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2023

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.



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: King Family

West Greeter: Kristen Hartwig

Welcome Table: Carrie Stalter

Ushers: Jon & Janelle Friesen

Worship Planner & Leader: Ben Roeschley

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story:

Scripture Reader:

Technology: Ryan Miller & Caleb Augspurger

Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler

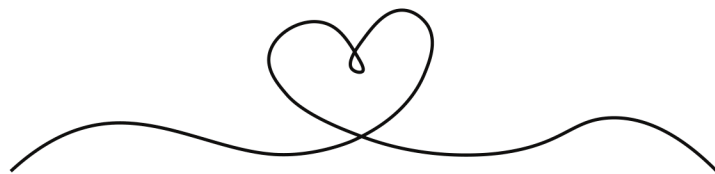
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery – during worship: Nancy Fisher

Infant Nursery – during CE: Connie Yoder

Preschool Nursery: Carrie Stalter

Gather Round: Jessica Hall





Camp Friedenswald Winter Events

Winter Getaway: February 3 through 5th

Come on your own for a solitary retreat, or get away with family and friends. There's no pressure to do anything – just soak in the peace of the woods and lake. They'll provide the tasty meals in the Dining Hall, a comfy cabin, and trails for exploring. This is a program-free weekend. Meals are the one coordinated corporate activity. The [Getaway](#) runs the evening of Friday Feb. 3 through Sunday Feb. 5 at noon. All ages welcome. Register [here](#).

Grand Camp: March 31 through April 1

[Grand Camp](#) provides a weekend filled with quality time for grandparents (or grand-friends) and grandchildren to make memories together at Friedenswald. This one night camp will include times of storytelling, guided conversations, art projects and time in nature. Lisa Weaver will be sharing stories from her co-authored book *Let the Children Come to Me*. The theme this year is "Walking with Jesus."

Canadian MB gathering opens national conversation on LGBTQ inclusion



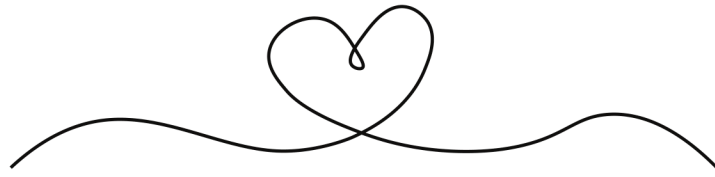
Organizers plan to ask for a moratorium on suspending churches exploring the topic. About 60 people from across Canada gathered Jan. 9-11 in Winnipeg, Man., to explore how the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches could include, welcome and affirm LGBTQ people. The meeting was organized by four retired Canadian MB pastors and conference leaders — David Wiebe, former CCMBC executive director, and former pastors James Toews and Danny Unrau of British Columbia and John Unger of Manitoba — in response to a May 2021 decision by CCMBC leaders not to hold a national conversation about LGBTQ welcome and inclusion. Clergy and retired clergy, academics, students and other members of MB churches who have interest in the topic came to the invitation-only event. To ensure a safe space for conversation, no national or provincial MB conference leaders were invited, organizers said. CCMBC leaders were informed about the event; they expressed disappointment but did not seek to stop it. Open Space had no formal agenda beyond creating a safe space for a conversation. At the first session, participants were asked to identify topics they wanted to talk about and, at the end, asked to vote on what topics required further attention. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by John Longhurst [here](#).



Webinar series: Beyond incarceration

Feb. 7, Feb. 21, March 7, and March 21 at 7:30 p.m. EST (6:30pm CST)

Today, there are many within and on the fringes of our prison system who are tired and seeking hope as they work to move beyond the confines of oppressive structures. Hope can be a fragile thing. We struggle to trust God to do the unexpected, to move us to forget what we think we know. As we work to transform our society's notions of justice and peace, may we let go of the familiarity of our own spiritual timbres and listen for the creative potential to imagine something different. **Join Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Church USA for Beyond incarceration: A hard look at dismantling the prison system and building healthy communities** on Feb. 7, Feb. 21, March 7, and March 21 at 7:30 p.m. EST. Register for the webinar series today [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 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](#)