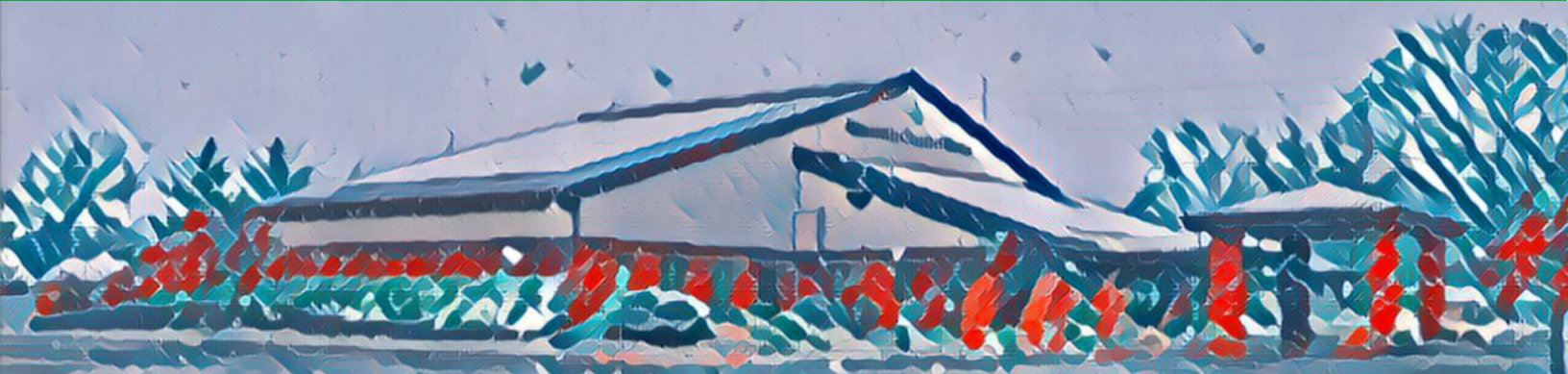


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Of the Hill* using the scripture Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29.

As we remain on the mountain with Jesus and the disciples, we hear Jesus rapidly weaving together strands of wisdom with authority and a starkness that is astonishing! As he winds down this “Sermon on the Mount,” he claims that those who are willing to act on these words are like someone who builds their house on a rock. How do we anchor ourselves to Jesus’ teachings? And the more intimidating question: how does someone build on what Jesus teaches here?

We will celebrate Communion in worship this Sunday with Kevin Chupp leading. In preparation, we are all encouraged to engage in self-examination of both our relationships with God, and with others. We also receive specially designated gifts for our Mutual Aid Fund on Communion Sundays as a means of assisting others in need through being the Body of Christ. There will be a special basket in the back of the sanctuary for those funds.

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**

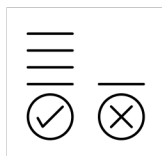
A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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



Spending Plan Vote Results

The Vision Team and the Administration Commission are pleased to report that the 2023 Spending Plan was approved following the congregational annual meeting on January 22. The vote passed with 94% in support of the proposed plan. We are grateful of the time and work put in by individuals to help the Administration Commission prepare the Spending Plan. Thanks also to those that participated in the meeting.

From the Vision Team and Administration Commission

Hosts Needed!



Goshen College Concert Choir is performing here on Friday, February 24th and volunteers willing to host students overnight (Friday to Saturday) are needed! Hosts would be asked to provide a simple breakfast in the morning. Students are comfortable staying in beds together as needed or even on floors (if the host provides a sleeping bag/bedroll). If this something you are willing to do, please contact Lauren.



February Month of Prayer

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) invites the congregation to a month of prayer in February to support the work of the Administration Commission (AC). Members of the Administration Commission are Mary, chair; Rick, Cindy, Mark, and Lauren is their pastoral team representative. The AC's responsibilities include managing our facility, staff, finances, technology, the office, and communication needs. They have and will continue to do very important work for the church. Throughout the month of February we will share more specific ways you can hold them in your prayers. You are also invited to share with the Administration Commission your affirmations, encouragement, and anything else God may bring to your heart. You can do this by emailing the SGDT through Shelly. Thank you for your support!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

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



Worship Commission Notes

In our recent meeting we discussed the beginning of our use of the Narrative Lectionary, noting how it seems odd to be using texts in January which are usually read during Lent. It will be an interesting process as we work to connect Narrative Lectionary preaching & worship themes with the seasons of the Church Year .

We discussed concerns that have been raised about recurring problems with our live stream. We shared ideas for improving the quality, including looking at the recorded worship of a congregation who does it well. Administration Commission is working on evaluation of our technology.

Lent begins on Feb. 22. Worship planners are Cindy & Jessica. Rather than using Mennonite Leader materials, which are based on the Revised Common Lectionary, we will continue following the Narrative Lectionary & have access to materials offered by a Narrative Lectionary Facebook resource group. There will be no Ash Wed. worship, but we will have a Maundy Thursday worship on April 6. Pastor Kevin will participate in planning an ecumenical Good Friday worship which we are encouraged to attend.

Some new suggestions have been sent to Worship Planners & Communion Leaders to enhance our worship experience together. As always, if you have suggestions or questions, let us know. Participatory worship is one of our key values!

From the Worship Commission

Bench from the Office



Do you know the history of the bench in the office? It is currently in need of repair. Would you be interested in repairing the bench to donate to the relief sale or owning it? If so, please contact [Lauren](#) at to discuss.

From the Church 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



Thank You

To the Body of Christ at Mennonite Church of Normal, It is with deep gratitude and thankfulness that I say "Thank You" for the ways you have shown your love and caring these past three months through cards, notes, visits and telephone calls both times I was in the hospital and Martin Health Center. Most of all I thank you for your prayers for the management of my pain after the bone cancer diagnoses and then for healing after the fracture of my hip. My hip has healed relatively quickly and I am walking and doing well. A recent PET Scan shows no cancer and a second opinion from another oncologist is that I am cancer free. I am thanking and praising our God for this "miracle". "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."

From Doris

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 the Church Office



Save the Date

Friday, February 24 at 7:30pm

Goshen College Concert Choir will performing here at MCN on Friday, February 24 at 7:30pm. Singing in the choir will be our very own Jonah and Evan!

THANK
YOU!


National Caregivers Day

National Caregivers Day is the third Friday in February (17th). This day honors individuals who selflessly provide personal care and physical and emotional support to those in need of it most. We had a number of special people giving care to our loved ones, friends and others. Our thanks and prayers go out to them.

From the Pastoral Team

Zoom Conversation



Thursday, February 23

On Thursday, February 23, Menno Media will be hosting a Zoom conversation with author Kevin Nye to discuss his book, GRACE CAN LEAD US HOME: A Christian Call to End Homelessness. (This is one of the books that all three Journey Groups are reading this year.) He will speak about his work with people experiencing homelessness, and what lead him to write this challenging book. You can register [here](#).

Shared by the Discipling Commission



Comforter Blitz at Hopedale Mennonite Church

This 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 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

Love

Friendship

Service

Peace

Kindness

Next Wednesday, 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

Service

Friendship

Love

Come join us for an evening of some hands-on fun! Even if you've never used frosting to decorate before we'll show you how much fun and easy it is! **We'll need you to sign up by February 6th** so that we can be sure we have enough for everyone to create their own masterpiece! We will be decorating additional cupcakes to give to the clients of the Salvation Army. Afterward, we can show off our creations before we join together to enjoy a cup of tea and a cupcake while we visit and share with our friends. **Please sign up [here](#) as soon as possible.**

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!

Office Closed Friday Afternoon



The Church Office will be closed **Friday, February 3 in the afternoon**. It will still be open Friday morning from 9-11am. Thank you for your understanding!

From the Office

Covid Update



As of January 23, The McLean County Health Department indicated that the rate was **11.1%** and **rising**. 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.



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."

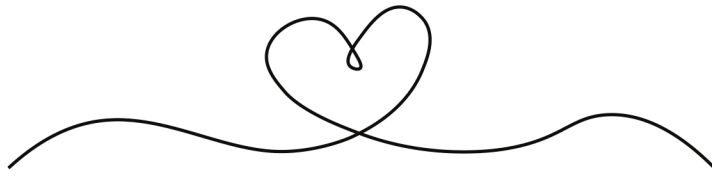
Organized by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

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, February 1

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

Thursday, February 2

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

Friday, February 3

4:00pm Joint AC and MRC Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 7

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 8

6:30pm Cupcake Decorating (Sign-up [here!](#))

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE TOP ADMINISTRATORS AND THEIR 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 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: Caleb & Jessica

West Greeter: Marcia

Welcome Table: Phyllis

Ushers: Steve & Deb

Offering Counter: Mark

Worship Planner & Leader: Wayne

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette

Children's Story:

Scripture Reader: Lois

Technology: Ryan & Adam

Song Leader:

Accompaniment: Dorothy

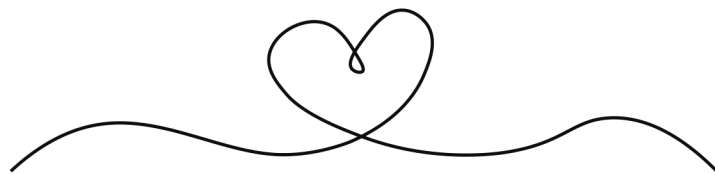
Prelude & Postlude: Adam & Caleb

Infant Nursery – during worship: Holly

Infant Nursery – during CE: Ben

Preschool Nursery: Jordan

Gather Round: Shelly



Faith-based organizations urge Biden not to enact 'asylum ban'

Faith-based organizations and congregations pleaded with the Biden administration, in a letter sent Jan. 23 to President Joe Biden and other leaders, not to enact new immigration restrictions. Mennonite Central Committee U.S. is one of the signers. The letter — signed by 165 faith-based local, national and international organizations and congregations — expresses “grave concern” with policies Biden announced in January. While those policies expand a program offering humanitarian parole to Venezuelans to include individuals from Nicaragua, Haiti and Cuba, they also include a proposal to ban people from seeking asylum if they enter the U.S. without inspection or do not seek protection in other countries along the way, the letter said. The letter urges the Biden administration not to move forward with what it calls an “asylum ban,” calling it “harmful, inhumane and deadly for the most vulnerable.” Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by Emily McFarlan Miller [here](#).

Anabaptism at 500 announces Bible name

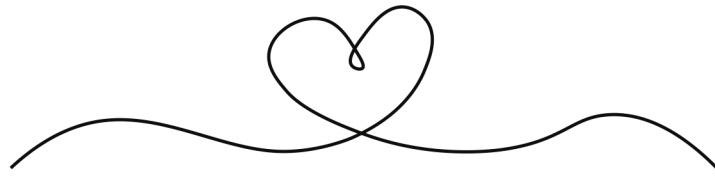


MennoMedia has unveiled the official logo for Anabaptism at 500 and the name of the new commemorative Bible under development. Anabaptism at 500 is a project celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement, coming in 2025. MennoMedia contracted with Lightbox, a design agency in Goshen, Ind., to create the logo. It will serve as the branding for the project and all events and products created as part of the celebration. *The Anabaptist Community Bible*, a commemorative Bible being developed for the anniversary, will use the Common English Bible translation. The Bible will contain annotations submitted by biblical scholars, Anabaptist historians and 500 study groups from diverse Anabaptist faith communities. Study groups are forming, and more are needed. Anyone who is part of an Anabaptist group is encouraged to form a Bible study group and sign up at anabaptismat500.com. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by MennoMedia [here](#).

'Women Talking' nominated for best picture film award

Women Talking, a new film about women discussing their sexual abuse in a remote Old Colony Mennonite colony, has been nominated for multiple Academy Awards. *Women Talking* was nominated for best picture and writing (adapted screenplay). Although produced by Frances McDormand, who is also in the cast and won best actress in 2021, *Women Talking* was not nominated in any acting categories. The winners will be announced March 12.

[Contains sensitive content] Read a description of the film [here](#). Read a review by Vic Thiessen for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<u>Building Open:</u>	Monday–Friday 9AM–11AM and Monday–Wednesday 1:30PM–3PM. Not Friday 2/3
<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](#)