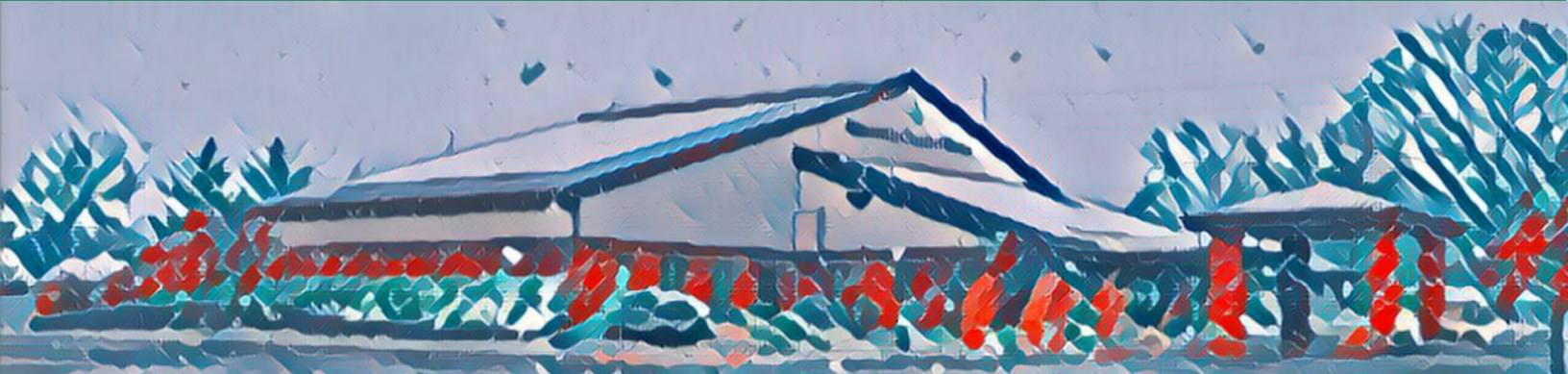


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Holly Zehr will preach a sermon titled *Wheat, Weeds, Seeds, Yeast* using the scripture Matthew 13:24-43.

Jesus uses simple, poetic imagery and stories to give his hearers insight into the nature of the kingdom of heaven and God's reign, but these simple stories raise complex questions. What does Jesus want us to hear, know, do and feel as we read these parables today? What can we learn about God's character from wheat, weeds, seeds, and yeast?



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

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

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team submits Phil, Pam, and Mark as candidates to serve on the Outreach Commission. Please send any feedback to Kristen by February 22. Thank you!

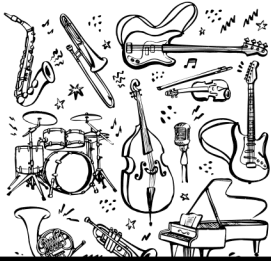
From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



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



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

Pastoral Team Affirmation Form



The Vision Team invites the congregation to provide affirmation and feedback toward the calling of current members of the Interim Pastoral Team to specific ministries as members of the Pastoral Team. Feedback can be provided through completion of this form [here](#) or by contacting Shelly, Shannon, Ben, or Barry. **Form responses will be accepted until February 18.** Please reach out to a member of the Vision Team with questions. Thank you!

From the Vision Team

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



Comforter Blitz at Hopedale Mennonite Church

Thank you to everyone who helped at the Hopedale Mennonite Church Comforter Blitz! Over 50 quilts were made.

Shared by the Outreach Commission

Covid Update



As of January 30, The McLean County Health Department indicated that the rate was **11.8%** 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.



February Month of Prayer

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) invites the congregation to continue supporting the Administration Commission (AC) in prayer during February. The AC's responsibilities include managing our facility, staff, finances, technology, the office, and communication needs. Members of the Administration Commission are Mary, chair; Rick, Cindy, Mark, and Lauren is their pastoral team representative. Please share with the Administration Commission your affirmations, encouragement, and anything else God may bring to your heart as you pray. You can do this by emailing the SGDT. Thank you for your support!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



MEA Lent at Home 2023 - now available!

MEA is pleased to announce that the 2023 Lent at Home worship guide and daily ritual calendar is now available for free download in English and Spanish. The complete press release including a link to this resource is [here](#).

Shared by the Pastoral Team



Choir Concert

Friday, February 24 at 7:30pm

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

Love - Combining Key Ingredients



TODAY, 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   

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



African Journey

Sunday, February 19 at 6:30pm in the MRC Community Room

Friends asked Adam if he would share his recent trip to Africa with the congregation, and he is happy to do so. All are invited on Sunday evening, February 19, at 6:30 p.m., to the MRC Community Room, to enjoy Adam's slide show and account of his two weeks in Africa, during which Adam and two friends were guided by their Kenyan friend Julian. They visited Julian's family in Nairobi and also a rural village, went on a safari in Masai Mara, and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. All are welcome!

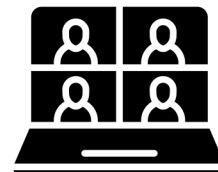
Help with the Relief Sale!



Saturday, March 18th at the Interstate Center

The Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale will be held this year one day only on Saturday March 18 at Interstate Center. Plans are underway as there will be many ways that everyone can help. There will be bakers needed to help make cookies and pies and other baked goods, craft and quilted items are needed for auction and the craft booth, volunteers to help the day of Sale and financial help all important to have a successful sale. Signup sheets will soon be out so be thinking how you might want to contribute. Proceeds from the Relief Sale go locally and to MCC internationally. More details are coming so stay tuned. Questions: check with Gerry and Marcia.

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



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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, February 8

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

6:30pm Cupcake Decorating

7:30pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Thursday, February 9

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Monday, February 13

7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

7:00pm Anabaptism at 500 Group 1



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: Barry & Marge

West Greeter: Annette

Welcome Table: Nancy

Ushers: Adam & Andy

Offering Counter: Stephanie

Worship Planner: Meredith

Sharing Prayer Leader: Ron

Children's Story:

Scripture Reader:

Technology: Glenn & Adam

Song Leader: Barry

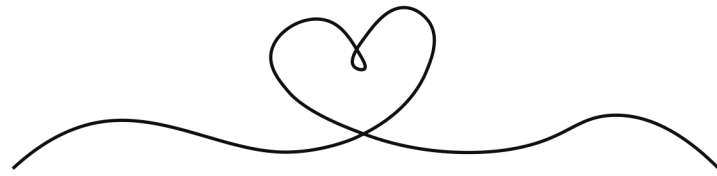
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa

Infant Nursery – during worship: David

Infant Nursery – during CE: Beth

Preschool Nursery: Stephanie

Gather Round: Holly & Randy



Film and Concert at the Normal Theater

Thursday, February 16 at 7pm

Come to the Normal Theater to view the film "Billie", a 2019 documentary about the great Billie Holiday written and directed by British filmmaker James Erskine. Following immediately will be a live concert with Glenn Wilson and Friends featuring vocalist Xintian Yu. These events are made possible by Further Jazz, Inc. with funding from The Town of Normal Harmon Arts Grants and the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation. View a flyer [here](#).

Beyond Incarceration webinar series

Tuesdays at 6:30pm CST

MCC and MC USA are partnering in a new webinar series, Beyond Incarceration: A hard look at dismantling the prison system and building healthy communities. Join us to learn about the ways the faith community is actively understanding and working against these complex systems of confinement. The webinars will be followed by learning tour opportunities in different parts of the U.S. in 2023. Register once and participate in one or all of the webinars [here](#). Find more information [here](#).

- **February 21, 2023 at 6:30pm:** Intervene: How do we interrupt and intervene in systems of mass incarceration?
- **March 7, 2023 at 6:30pm:** Create: How do we imagine and bring about alternative systems?
- **March 21, 2023 at 6:30pm:** Practice: What does proclaiming, intervening and creating alternative systems to mass incarceration look like in practice?

Openings for Kaleidoscope Program Coordinator & Queer Religious Justice Field Placement

What young person or graduate student do you know who would be a great fit for Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC)? Please send them their way! BMC is excited to announce a new opportunity to complete a Queer Religious Justice Field Placement (typically for seminary students) at BMC. More info [here](#). As well, BMC hopes to carry on their long-standing Kaleidoscope Program, focusing on young adults and peace-church campuses, with a 1-2 year voluntary service staff person. More info [here](#).

MCC Opportunity



Put your faith in action by volunteering with SWAP this summer! Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) home repair program provides short-term service and learning opportunities for churches, school and university groups, families, other groups and individuals. Now is the time to make your summer plans and sign up! More information and registration [here](#) or (606) 634-4418.

Five Groups Join Supportive Communities Network



Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC) is delighted to welcome 5 more groups as members of Supportive Communities Network (SCN) as this robust network continues to grow. Click to read their welcoming statements:

- [Austin Mennonite Church](#) in Texas. Join Annabeth in welcoming them to SCN during worship on Feb. 19th if you're in the area!
- [Atlanta Mennonite Church](#) in Georgia, formerly part of SCN as Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, now merged with Berea Mennonite Church. Together they join SCN!
- [Benton Mennonite Church](#) in Indiana, part of SCN since 2015 as a "Welcome Group;" now joined as full congregation.
- [Belmont Mennonite Church](#) in Indiana. Their Statement of Inclusion includes a great addendum that spells out what "full participation" means to them!
- [Community of Hope Church](#) in Washington. A new Mennonite church-plant by and for queer people!

Learn more about SCN and see the groups who are part of it [here](#). Contribute [here](#) to support this vital work as we build collective power in Brethren and Mennonite denominations and increase safety and visibility for queer and trans folks among us.



Job Openings at MCC

Two Job Openings from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)

MCC Great Lakes is seeking a Program Director: This role is responsible for the direction and oversight of MCC Great Lakes programs and church engagement. This position is expected to connect with constituent churches, groups, and partner organizations to work together and advance the mission of MCC. The full-time position will preferably be located at one of the main Great Lakes offices, but the location is flexible within the region where MCC is an authorized employer. Bilingual fluency in Spanish and English is preferred. Apply online by March 3 [here](#). For more information, contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.

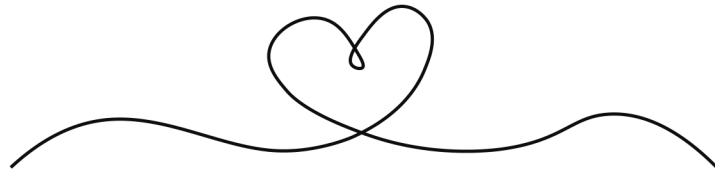
MCC is seeking a Project Coordinator for the Dismukes Project in Kimball, West Virginia: MCC continues to work to uncover the forgotten history and honor the legacy of Dr. Henry Dodford Dismukes, an African American physician and surgeon in Appalachia in the 1930s. This full-time role is great for someone looking to put their innovation, creativity, and resourcefulness to use by collaborating with the local community and SWAP staff to build the program from the ground up. Apply online by February 28 [here](#). For more information, contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org

Through the conflict, life carries on



"Damaged infrastructure around the country leaves people without power for hours every day. School programs for kids were put on hold for months, their classrooms turned into shelters. Families were forced to pick up their lives in an instant, leaving everything behind. And despite it all, life carries on." Read Emily Loewen's (Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada's marketing and communications manager) reflections from her visit to MCC's partners in Ukraine and hear about the incredible impact that supporters like you are making possible [here](#).

Listen to on-the-ground interview clips and audio diaries from Loewen's recent trip to Ukraine on MCC's podcast *Relief, Development and Podcast* episode "Audio diaries from Ukraine" [here](#) (full transcript available).



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.