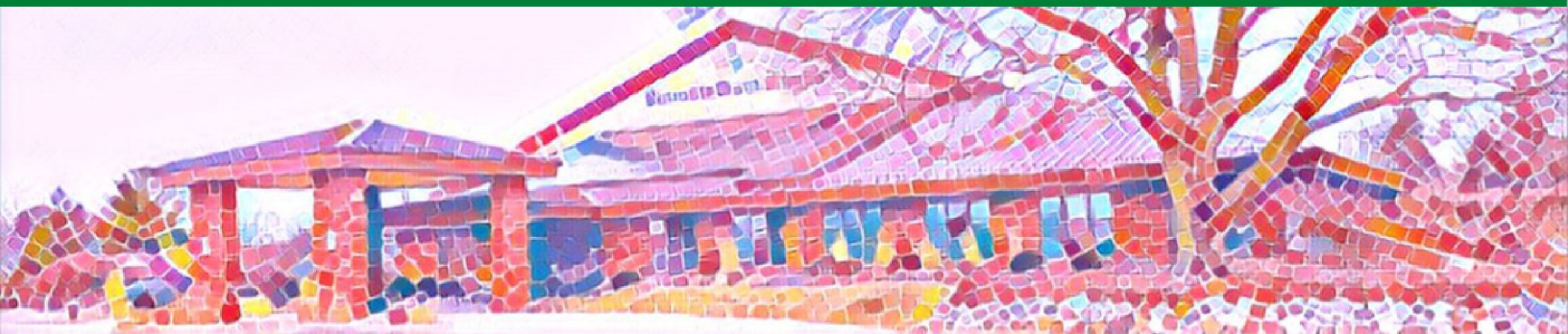


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Johnny-Come-Lately* using the scripture Matthew 20:1-16.

In the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, we encounter a landowner who is at least unusual, and at most profoundly generous. If this is an image of the Kingdom of God, we wonder whether we are the ones who are pleasantly surprised or the ones who are enraged by the wages at the end of the day.



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

2nd-5th Grade

Junior High

High School



Mennonite
Church
of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Vision Team Update

Your Vision Team met on February 22. Following the meeting, Vision Team has the following items to share with the congregation:

- a. Vision Team received reports on the activities of the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT), the Pastoral Team (PT), and the Commissions and identified ways we can support them.
- b. We discussed the progress of the formation of the Pastoral Team and the feedback and affirmations received by the congregation for each person. Individual conversations with the pastors to share high-level feedback and affirmations received are being had prior to next steps in the licensing process.
- c. We continued discussion of the process of evaluating of the church structure. Vision Team solicited and received feedback on how the structure is operating from those serving in various roles within the church structure (commissions, teams, committees). That feedback is being processed by Vision Team and will inform the final discussions VT will have in the coming weeks around this evaluation process and what/if potential changes are needed.
- d. We are conducting our quarterly "check-in" with the commission leaders. This quarter it will be done via one-on-one conversation between a VT member and the commission leader(s).

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

From the Vision Team

Worship Notes - Addressing Livestream Questions

We had a very productive conversation with Administration Commission & our tech folk about live stream concerns. Helpful information was shared & suggestions were made. In addressing desires that live stream show people in the congregation, here are the difficulties: our camera position will only allow showing the first six rows which are usually sparsely populated giving the impression that we have low attendance when that is not the case; there is difficulty showing the congregation without showing children; many adults don't want to be seen on camera; permission might be needed from adults to be shown. Our value for protecting privacy means that views of the congregation need to be limited. We hope this helps clarify why the congregation is not shown.

In addition, our tech folk will research a plan for future upgrade of our sound system. We checked in about Lenten plans, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Ecumenical Good Friday service, & Easter. We revised our Worship Planner Guidelines which will be sent to our planners. We expressed appreciation for all that our tech people do, Lydia's good work on Worship PowerPoint, & the value of our good discussion of issues to help make live stream as well as in-person worship go smoothly & effectively. Your comments & suggestions are always welcome.

From the Worship Commission

The IL Mennonite Relief Sale is coming on March 18. How exciting to be part of a way to help people all over the world. Proceeds from the Sale go to help those persons in need. Proceeds from go to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and local relief. Recently MCC sent 13 shipping containers to Ukraine filled with food, warm comforters and other things. Here are some of the ways everyone of all ages can help with the sale. Be sure you find something you can do to help have a successful sale.

Pancakes and sausage tickets: Signup for tickets to sponsor guests, friends and families. Tickets are collected at booth and you then pay Relief Sale for Tickets you have used.

Dutch Market

- Stocking and prep on Friday
- Cashier on Saturday
- Runners to keep stock on shelves

Sausage and Pancake Breakfast

- Serving
- Bussing tables (kids with a parent)

Apple pies and other fruit pies (recipe for apple pies available)

Baked Goods such as breads, rolls, cookies, candies

Strawberry Pies

- Thursday 8-12:00 Mix together ingredients and bake crusts
- Friday 8-12:00 Clean and stem strawberries, mix with ingredients, put in bags and boxes.

Set up and clean up

- Signs at Interstate Center

Arts and Crafts Booth

- Bring items also for Baby booth, Flower Box, and Kiddie Korner.

Auction items

Quilts, quilts and more quilts for the auction

Recycling

Sponsor tickets for Breakfast

Who are the Mennonites? Booth

Transportation take pies to Interstate Center

Questions: check with Gerry Schrock or Marcia Rossi



A Note from Ron

If you need to leave a message on Ron Ropp's phone, leave it on his landline number 452---, not his cell phone number 212---



Office Closed on Friday

The church office will be closed this Friday, March 3rd. Thank you for your understanding!
From Lydia in the Church Office

Easter Lilies



Easter Lilies! Would you like to order an Easter lily for our Easter worship service? As in other years, we are planning to use lilies to enhance our Easter celebration. If you are interested in purchasing one, call or email Lydia at the church office to place your order. They are \$18 each, and the deadline is March 8th. You may take yours with you after the service. Some lilies will be designated to be given to our members who are in nursing homes or the hospital, or are homebound. Thanks for adding beauty to this special season!



Commission and Team Members

New year, new reminder about the upcoming vacancies on many commissions. If you see yourself or someone else serving, please contact a member of SGDT. Below is a list of commission and team members' end of term status. As there will be many vacancies this year, we encourage people to think about how they could serve. As interest arises, please share with a team member to let this be known! Please contact Nancy Fisher, Kristen Hartwig, Shelly Nester King, Holly Zehr, or Kevin Chupp. Thank you! [Commission Members Term End Status - Google Docs](#).

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Sharing Our Gifts



Thank you again for sharing your photos of you sharing your gifts with us! If you've not sent a photo yet, please do so! We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Sharing Our Gifts Photos

Thank you all for sharing wonderful photos of you sharing your gifts! Find a link to the slide show that plays before and after the Sunday worship service here (or play the video below!) The photos are updated each week so be sure to check back regularly!

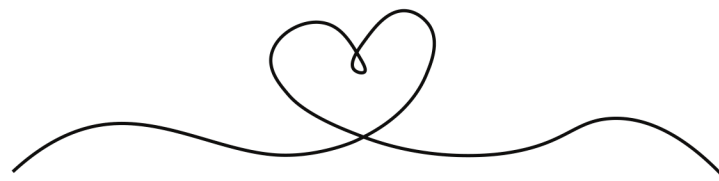
Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



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



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Gail & Nancy Fisher

West Greeter: Judy Hershberger

Welcome Table: Mary Dyck

Ushers: Hoffman family

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner: Cindy Ropp & Jessica Hall

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Jessica Hall & Holly Zehr

Scripture Reader: Becky Josefson

Technology: Jaron Zehr & Wesley Hershberger

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery - during worship:

Infant Nursery - during CE: Nancy Fisher

Preschool Nursery: David Harnish

Gather Round: Shelly King

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Anniversaries

Birthdays



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 1

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

10:00am Anabaptism at 500 Group 2

7:00pm Anabaptism at 500 Group 1

Thursday, March 2

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

Friday, March 3

Office Closed

Sunday, March 5

6:45pm Youth Choir

7:30pm Adult Choir

Monday, March 6

7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)



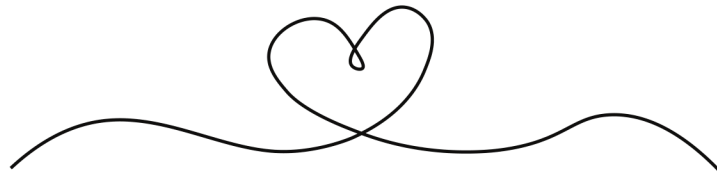
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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 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.



Queer Theology Sunday School: Queer Biblical Hermeneutics



THIS Sunday, March 5th at 5:30pm CST

Join the Community of Hope Mennonite Church on Zoom for Queer Theology Sunday School: Queer Biblical Hermeneutics. In this event designed queer folks and those who love them, they'll learn how to look at Scripture through the lens of queer theology, including Anabaptist interpretation and identifying queer figures within the Bible. It will open in prayer; welcome Rev. Erica Lea-Simka (she/her) as the guest presenter/teacher; then break into self-selected groups by discussion question, and close in prayer. Register ahead of time [here](#). Email pastor@communityofhopechurch.com with questions.



Volunteer at MennoCon23

Interested in volunteering at MennoCon23, Kansas City, Mo., July 3-6? Mennonite Church USA is seeking volunteers for special events, children's and junior youth programming, and more! Volunteers must be at least 19 years old. If interested, fill out the form [here](#).



Hungry World Farm Book Study Event

March 14, 28, April 11 and 25 2023, from 7 to 8 p.m.

The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus In Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery
by Sarah Augustine

Join Hungry World Farm staff in reading, reflecting, and inviting transformation of our relationships with the land, with our neighbors, with ourselves, and with God. Author Sarah Augustine is a Pueblo (Tewa) woman with a profound faith and passion for justice, Jesus-style. Through personal stories, historical accounts, and reflection on scripture, Sarah invites us to wrestle with the ongoing implications of 15th-century laws known as the Doctrine of Discovery.

There will be four gatherings (in person in the HWF Learning Center, or via Zoom) to reflect on the reading: March 14, 28, April 11 and 25 2023, from 7 to 8 p.m. Participants are encouraged to join in as many sessions as they are able. Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Executive Director of Hungry World Farm, will facilitate the gatherings. For more information and to register, go to Book Study on the Events page of the HWF website or click [here](#).

MCC responds to earthquakes in Syria

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is accepting donations to support people affected by the Feb. 6 earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. MCC is working with long-term partners in Aleppo and surrounding areas to provide emergency food, shelter, hygiene, sanitation supplies and trauma counseling. In a country already vulnerable from years of conflict, this was a devastating blow. You can share God's love and compassion with our global neighbors by providing a gift online at mcc.org/earthquake, by calling (888) 563-4676 or by sending a check earmarked for "Syria and Türkiye earthquake" to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.



EARTHQUAKE **Türkiye & Syria**

Your help is needed to support people affected by the devastating quake in Türkiye and Syria.

MCC is responding with partners in northern Syria after the deadly quake. Your gift will provide essential food, hygiene and trauma counseling.

mcc.org/earthquake

MC USA - Menno Snap Shot



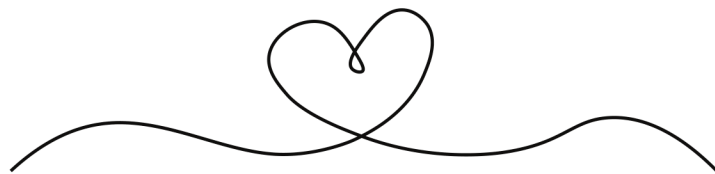
Abandon hope all ye who enter here: Mass incarceration as a mechanism to enforce the caste system of the U.S.

"I took the words "abandon hope" from Dante's "Inferno." They're an apt description of the system of mass incarceration. They were etched across the entrance to the inferno (hell). Those currently subjected to mass incarceration are those who are locked away in U.S. prisons, as well as the millions of people on probation, parole or electronic monitoring. Tens of thousands of immigrant men, women and children are locked in detention centers in the U.S. Some have abandoned hope, because we have abandoned them.

In her book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent," Isabel Wilkerson describes the American caste system as "an artificial hierarchy that helps determine standing and respect, assumptions of beauty and competence, and even who gets [the] benefit of the doubt and access to resources."

Mass incarceration is an enforcement mechanism for the American caste system. To understand why we support it, we have to challenge how our identities are shaped in the U.S."

Read the full article by Conrad Moore (a formerly incarcerated person, the former director of peace education for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) East Coast, and the former co-director of the antiracism program for MCC U.S. among many other roles) from Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) [here](#).



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!

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open:

Closed Friday

Monday–Thursday 9AM-11AM
and Monday-Wednesday 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:

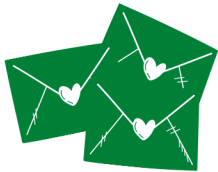
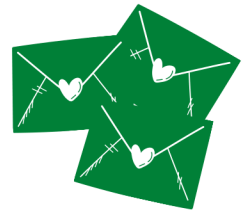
Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lauren Satchwell:

Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS.
SEND A CARD IF THE SPIRIT LEADS 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.

Commission Meeting Minutes

Click [this link](#) to be taken to a Google Drive folder which contains meeting minutes from each commission.