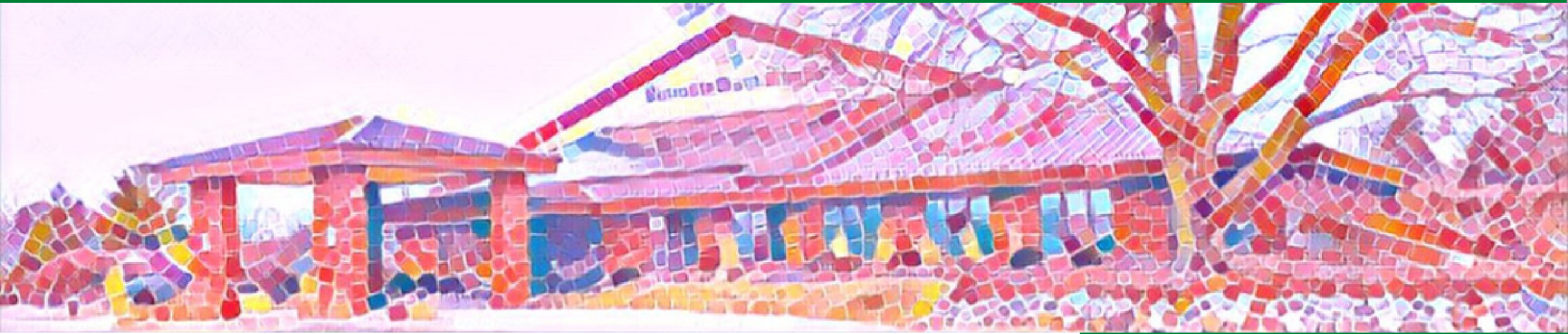


THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF MARCH 15, 2023

# ***THE MIDWEEK***



## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM**

This week, Les Gustafson-Zook will preach a sermon titled *MCC: Hearing, Seeing, Following* using the scripture John 9:1-41.

Les Gustafson-Zook is the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Constituent Engagement Coordinator and the MCC Relief Sale and My Coins Count Coordinator for the MCC Great Lakes Office. He is visiting us this weekend for the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale.

**The 65th Anniversary  
Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale**



**March 18, 2023**

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

# Relief Sale this Saturday!



Our 65th Relief sale is almost here. (**This Saturday**, March 18th!) Thank you to everyone so far for all your hard work in helping to make this a wonderful Sale.

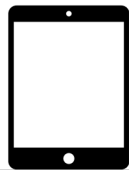
A reminder of the times to drop off items at the church:

All quilts are wanted at the Interstate Center by **10:00am**. All items for the QUILT AUCTION, THE ARTS AND CRAFTS Booth, BABY Booth, ANTIQUES, and FLOWER BASKET need to be at the church by **8:00am** Friday morning.

All baked and food items can be dropped off by **12:00pm**. Pies and all other baked goods will be transported in the afternoon. If you are needing to bring in baked items later than 12 please let Gerry know what time you will dropping of your items.

All persons helping in the kitchen to make pies on Thursday and Friday please wear a clean apron and a hat. I have some extras if you don't have either one. Latex free gloves will be provided.

Come to the Sale. Invite family and friends. Come and enjoy seeing old friends and seeing some beautiful quilts. It has been three years since a Relief Sale. So come and have fun and support our mission. In a small way you may be helping someone in war torn Ukraine or drought stricken Sudan or a homeless person in Bloomington.



## Relief Sale Request

Could the Relief Sale borrow your iPad? Ben Roeschley is looking to borrow two iPads to help run check out at a couple Relief Sale booths on Saturday, March 18. Specifically, he is looking for iPad models that are no more than a few years old. If you would be willing to loan your iPad to the Relief Sale for the day, please call/text Ben. Thank you!

## Book Sale MYF/JMYF Fundraiser!



Tena Bliss, the daughter of Earl Kaufman, has downsized her large book collection and has donated them to MCN as a fundraiser for our youth groups. Please take the opportunity to peruse the books in the atrium, take as many as you like in exchange for a donation to our youth groups. The sale will go through March 29th. Contact Lauren Satchwell with questions. Thanks!



## Vision Team Update

Your Vision Team met on March 8. Following the meeting, Vision Team has the following items to share with the congregation:

1. 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.
2. VT would like to thank the congregation for the affirmations and feedback it submitted on the interim pastors. Individual conversations with the pastors to share high-level feedback and affirmations received have taken place. Vision Team is continuing to process the feedback and work toward the formation of the Pastoral Team. The affirmations and feedback we received are key inputs into those discussions.
3. We continued discussion of the process of evaluating of the church structure. Vision Team reviewed summarized feedback on how the structure is operating from those serving in various roles within the church structure (commissions, teams, committees). That feedback will continue to be reviewed and will inform the final discussions VT will have in the coming weeks around this evaluation process and what/if potential changes are needed. Vision Team is planning to have a retreat on April 16 to work through remainder of this process.
4. We are conducting our quarterly individual "check-ins" with the pastoral team members.

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

*From the Vision Team*

## Save the Date



**Wednesday, March 22 at 6pm**

The Administration Commission will host a hearing on Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:00pm. This will be a hybrid event, both in person at MCN and on Zoom. Please plan to attend to discuss how to disburse the surplus funds from 2022.

*From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team*



## SGDT

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team submits Elsa Raab as a candidate for the Outreach Commission. Please send any feedback to Kristen Hartwig or Nancy Fisher at by March 29. Thank you!

*From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team*



## Mama Bears

Mama Bears is an informal group of family members who love LGBTQ+ persons. We meet by Zoom to share highs and lows of being on the journey as allies in helping create a church and community of full affirmation and inclusion for LGBTQ+ lives. We just happened to begin as all moms, thus we took the name Mama Bears. It's great if sisters, brothers, dads, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins join, too – we can be Family Bears! For more info, contact Jane Roeschley.

## Request for Delegates



Mennonite Church of Normal is a part of several conferences, who are meeting in the near future. We need to find delegates and will provide reimbursement for expenses. The conferences are:

- Central District Conference annual meeting in June. We can have at least 3 delegates and 1 youth delegate.
- Mennonite Church USA meeting is July 3-8 in Kansas City, Missouri. We can have 3 delegates and 1 youth delegate.

Please contact Mary Dyck to share your interest in being our delegates.

*From the Administration Commission*

## Singers Needed - Combined Good Friday Service

**Friday, April 7th at First Baptist Church ([directions](#))**

**Combined choir rehearsal: 10:45-11:45 a.m.**

**Service: 12:00-1:00 p.m.**



First Baptist Church is hosting the annual combined Good Friday service this year. Members of the MCN church choir are invited to participate in the combined choir during the service.

There will be one rehearsal in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church immediately before the service, from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m., and the service will be held from noon to 1 p.m. The piece that has been selected is "What Wondrous Love Is This" arranged by Patti Drennan ([link to listen](#)).

If you are interested in participating, please contact Kevin Chupp at [kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org).



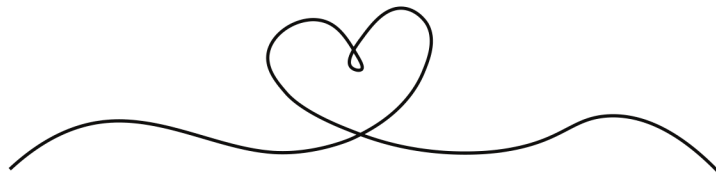


## Sharing Our Gifts

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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*





# Those Serving This Week



**South Greeters:** Wesley & Lotus Hershberger

**West Greeter:** Kristen Hartwig

**Welcome Table:** Pam Hodel

**Ushers:** Larry & Louise Reeser

**Offering Counter:** Kristen Hartwig

**Worship Planner:** Cindy Ropp & Jessica Hall

**Worship Leader:** Jessica Hall

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Ron Ropp

**Children's Story:** Les Gustafson-Zook

**Scripture Reader:** Stephanie Company

**Technology:** Caleb Augspurger & Clara

**Song Leader:** Cindy Ropp

**Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude:** Elsa Raab

**Infant Nursery – during worship:** Miriam Kennell

**Infant Nursery – during CE:** David Harnish

**Preschool Nursery:** Carrie Stalter

**Gather Round:** Carrie Stalter

*Birthdays & Anniversaries*

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



## *This Week at MCN*

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### **Wednesday, March 15**

**9:30am** Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

### **Thursday, March 16**

**8:00am** Relief Sale Baking

**7:00am** Next Man Bible Study

### **Friday, March 17**

**8:00am** Relief Sale Baking

### **Saturday, March 18**

**6:00am** Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale

### **Sunday, March 12**

**7:30pm** Adult Choir

### **Monday, March 20**

**7:00pm** Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

**7:00pm** Fellowship Committee

### **Tuesday, March 21**

**12:00pm** Central Illinois Mennonite Pastor Peer Gathering



*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*

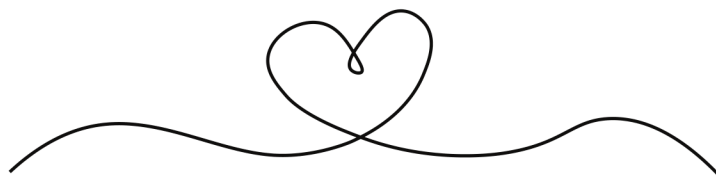


MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR THE TOP ADMINISTRATORS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2023

# Prayer Requests and Announcements

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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.



## #BringthePeace Award Nominees



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Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) is looking for nominees for our 2023 #BringthePeace awards. The award recognizes the work of denominational peacemakers and is sponsored by MC USA's Church Peace Tax Fund. You are invited to submit your recommendations for nominees by completing the form [here](#) by April 14.

MC USA is seeking to honor two courageous peacebuilders who have a diversity of experience and are actively engaged in resisting war and promoting peace in their respective congregation and community:

- A legacy peacemaker, who has been faithful in promoting peace across their lifetime and/or life's work.
- A young peacemaker (age 16-25), who can help to inspire other young leaders.
- The #BringThePeace awards provide each recipient with a \$300 grant. The Church Peace Tax Fund, which sponsors these awards, is a way for people to engage in MC USA's peacebuilding work. It also provides funding for educational programs that address militarism and promote ways of living out Jesus' peace.

If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, denominational minister for Peace and Justice, at [Lorrainesa@mennoniteusa.org](mailto:Lorrainesa@mennoniteusa.org).



# Climate Change Training Event



**Monday, May 22 to Wednesday, May 24 in Madison, WI**

Would you like to see your congregation more engaged in climate justice, but aren't sure how to move in that direction? Join "Pastoring for Justice & Healing in a Climate Crisis" at Holy Wisdom Monastery, Madison, WI, Monday, May 22 to Wednesday, May 24. Learn from a diverse team of leaders, with pastors, scientists, activists, and professors such as Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, and Rev. Victoria Loorz, a wild church pastor and author of *Church of the Wild*. Sponsored by Creation Justice Ministries, Faith in Place, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, and Anabaptist Climate Collaborative. This is free of charge to pastors and ministry leaders, including those who attend with their pastor. Apply [here](#). Deadline is March 31. View a flyer [here](#).



## Ohio Conference Stays with MC USA

### **Ohio Conference staying with MC USA after withdrawal vote falls short**

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA is remaining affiliated with the denomination after a proposal to withdraw received majority support but less than the two-thirds needed to pass. The delegate vote, in which 54.7% favored withdrawal, followed three straw polls to determine which scenario would come to a vote — one to remain or one to withdraw — at the March 3-4 Annual Conference Assembly hosted by Central Christian School in Kidron. Thirty-five of the conference's 41 congregations were represented by 153 delegates at the meeting. The conference plans to continue allowing congregations to opt out of direct membership with MC USA, a practice it began with a 2017 constitution revision. An [identity statement](#) used by the conference clarifies that its credentialed ministers and congregational members interpret Scripture differently regarding how much to include LGBTQ people in congregational life, and that credentialed ministers will not perform a same-gender marriage ceremony or be in a same-sex relationship themselves. Read the full article by Tim Huber for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).

## Mennonite Mission Network Opportunities

View a PowerPoint showing opportunities with Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).



## Menno Haven Spring Work Day



**Saturday, April 22 from 8am to 4pm**

This is a family friendly event with a little something for everyone in your congregation. If you like to be active, you can spend the day outside participating in forestry projects, splitting and moving firewood, clearing trails, or cleaning lawns and flower beds after a long winter. If being inside is more your thing you can help sweep cabins, prepare lunch, or do general cleaning. If you have construction skills, you can help us do some repairs on the cabins, build on the Adventure Course or help prepare the pool for summer. If you have other special skills, let us know what you can do and we probably have something on our To Do List that you can help with. Find more information [here](#). View a flyer [here](#).

## Pray with Apache Stronghold on March 19th!



**March 19-21, 2023**

The [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#) invites our community to join in prayer for Indigenous land justice with the Apache Stronghold on March 19th. On March 21st, a federal appeals court will hear a pivotal case about Apache religious freedom that centers around a proposed copper mine, which would destroy the Western Apache sacred site of Oak Flat, Chi'chil Biłdagoteel. Mennonite Church USA and Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference signed onto an amicus brief (a letter to the court) in support of the Apache Stronghold, along with other religious groups. The Apache Stronghold are rallying all people of faith and conscience under the call of "One Drum, One Prayer, One Circle," to seek unity in protection of Earth and in resistance to ongoing colonization. They will be dedicating March 19th to prayer before their court case and ask us to join them. Find a suggested prayer [here](#).



Share your encouragement for the Apache Stronghold and spread the word about Oak Flat on social media by using hashtag [#saveoakflat](#).

View the first in a series of videos about the fight for Oak Flat [here](#) or to the left and find the others [here](#).



## Atlantic Coast Extends Credentialing to LGBTQ+

### Atlantic Coast extends credentialing to LGBTQ

Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) of Mennonite Church USA will now process credentialing requests for LGBTQ ministers. The Feb. 10 announcement of the decision by the ACC Ministerial Leadership Committee followed “careful discernment of listening to God’s Spirit through the diverse feedback from delegates and congregations” and affirmation by the conference’s executive committee. Delegates gathered Feb. 4 at Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola, Pa., to talk about what extending credentials would mean for their churches. ACC reported a majority of congregations and delegates “expressed support for expanding credentialing opportunities,” while others said such a change would be difficult to accept. Delegates did not vote on a new credentialing policy because conference bylaws and procedures give the Ministerial Leadership Committee discretion on when to extend or withhold credentials. The committee will now process any request for credentialing brought by an ACC congregation. Congregations retain the right to request, or not to request, the credentialing of an LGBTQ person. Read the full *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).

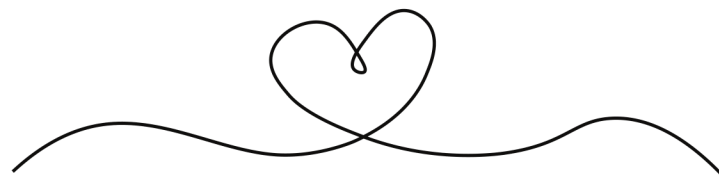


## MDS Builds Back Stronger after Hurricanes



### MDS studies hurricane damage to rebuild stronger

Hurricanes are getting stronger, and Mennonite Disaster Service is responding by building stronger homes. Longtime MDS consultant Johann Zimmerman, principal engineer at JZ Engineering in Harrisonburg, Va., has studied home design to help MDS train its volunteers and other organizations to incorporate improved methods. “There are lots of skilled workers in the country, but MDS volunteers need to be trained for resilient techniques,” he said. MDS studied 27 homes built in Louisiana to withstand 140 mph winds after Hurricane Rita hit the area in 2005. Each home was intact even after Hurricane Laura’s 150 mph winds in 2020. Improved rebuilding techniques don’t just have an economic impact for families. “There’s huge cost not only financially but socially,” Zimmerman said. “Look at the societal damage in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit — how many people left and never came back.” Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by Susan Kim [here](#).



## Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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<u>Building Open:</u>	Monday–Friday 9AM-11AM and Monday-Wednesday & Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; <a href="mailto:church@normalmennonite.org">church@normalmennonite.org</a> ; 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; <a href="mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org">kevin@normalmennonite.org</a>
<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



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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

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[Work Order](#) & [Purchase Request](#)

## Structure Documents

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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

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