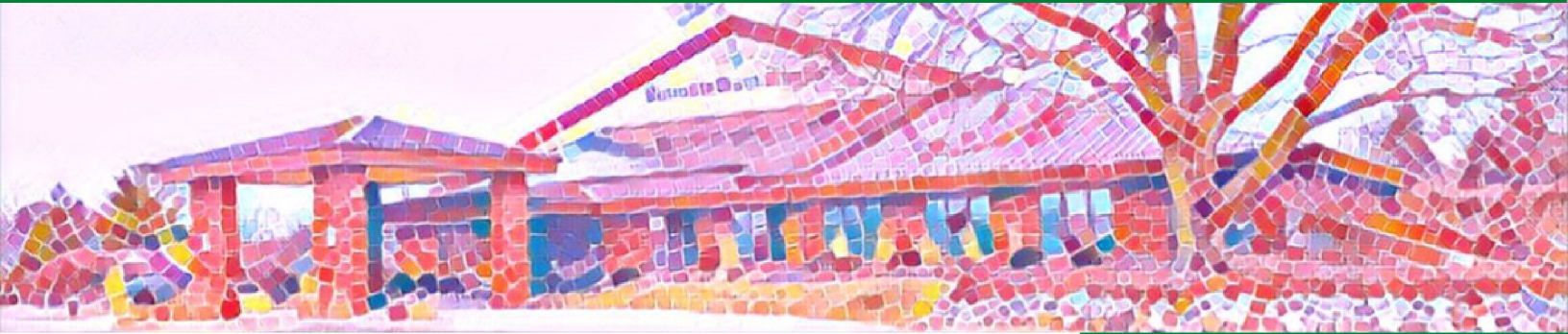


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Ovine Justice* using the scripture Matthew 25:31-46.

With apocalyptic severity, Jesus gives us the image of sheep and goats to talk about justice and the kingdom of God. What is it, exactly, that motivates us to act with the generous justice that Jesus describes?



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

Hearing Today

TODAY, 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 ([here](#)). Please plan to attend to discuss how to disburse the surplus funds from 2022.

From the Administration Commission

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!

**MENNO
CON23**

Our Youth at MennoCon23

MCN has 4-5 high school youth who are interested in attending the MC USA convention in Kansas City this summer (July 4-6, but the group would be arriving in KC on July 3rd and departing July 7th). As you know, we are currently without youth sponsors, so we need the congregation's help!

We are in need of a female and a male sponsor (or a couple) who might be willing to serve in this way.

In the past the congregation has attempted to cover 1/3 of the cost out of the youth ministry budget, one third of the cost has been covered by fundraising, and 1/3 of the cost has been paid by the youth/families themselves. We have several parents who have already offered to help with fundraising activities, but before we move ahead, we need to have committed sponsors for this week in place.

Please pray about this opportunity and reach out to one of us (David Voegtlin, Shannon Unzicker, Spring Neely, Lynette Miller) with any questions or suggestions. Thank you!

From the Discipling Commission

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. **If you are interested, please respond before April 13th.**
- 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



MCHN Easter Sunday Breakfast



Sunday, April 9 serving from 8am to 9am in the church atrium

Menu- breakfast casseroles, rolls, juice, and coffee

Please join us to share in the joy of Easter morning.

The Fellowship committee is asking for your help. Please **sign up to attend by April 7**. This will assist with planning. The Committee also requests volunteers to prepare and bring breakfast casseroles and homemade rolls or assist with setup/cleanup. Please sign-up [here](#).

From the Fellowship Committee



Relief Sale Thank You

Sincere thanks and appreciation to all the persons who helped with the Relief Sale. Many helped with making beautiful handwork including quilts, throws, afghans, potholders, dishcloths, and even some beautiful socks. Many helped to make 74 strawberry pies, 40 apple pies, and various other kinds of pies and cinnamon rolls and breads and cookies and candies. Many helped in Dutch Market, stocking and running cash registers. Some helped transporting items to the Interstate Center from Church and Arthur. Many helped with serving and bussing at the pancake and sausage breakfast. Financial contributions were also given and greatly appreciated. **All** deserve an "A" for hard work, effort and support of the Sale. Mennonite Church of Normal contributed in a major way again in making the 2023 sale a success.



Sunday School Guest Speakers

The over-60 age Sunday School class will be having a series of guest speakers as we learn about different services for the unhoused in our community . We invite anyone who is interested to join us on these Sundays to hear what our resource folk have to share.

- March 26 - Katara Rabb
- April 16 - Home Sweet Home, Director
- April 30 - Safe Harbor, Director
- May 7 - Kristen Satchwell
- May 21 - Project OZ, Program Director

We meet in the classroom north of the kitchen. You are welcome to join us!

From Joe Culpepper



SGDT

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

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

SGDT



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

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



Midwest Food Bank

Now that the relief sale is over, it is our job to keep those volunteering muscles working by inviting you all to join us in serving at the Midwest Food Bank (MFB) on April 4th from 5-7pm. If you haven't participated before, you should know that it is a truly "no experience necessary" type of situation. On that evening, we meet together just inside the entrance and head out into the warehouse together where one of our facilitators give us our instructions for the getting food ready to be sent out to feed individual people. Last time, we were packaging a whole lot of cereal! We don't operate heavy machinery, and you don't have to be an expert in anything. Yes, it is another obligation on the calendar, but it is always a good time! You can sign up [here](#).

A Poem from Ron Ropp



Thoughts come out of the brain
But feelings come out of the heart
Sometimes they become entangled
And we can't tell them apart

Feelings are part of our being
They are neither right nor wrong
If they're expressed as judgements
They keep relations from being strong

Our words may report our feelings
But they get expressed as a thought
So as we report them to others
If its heard as judgement we're fraught

When love is the base of relations
And our feelings we openly share
They are meant to bring us closer
And prove that we really care

Written by Rev. Ron Ropp

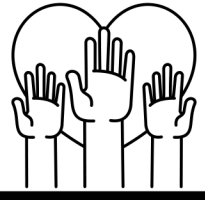
Sharing Our Gifts

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! Find a link to the slide show that plays before and after the Sunday worship service (or play the video below!) The photos are updated each week so be sure to check back regularly. **To protect privacy, please refrain from sharing this document with others.** Thank you.

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Jeff & Amy Reiman

West Greeter: David Voegtlin

Welcome Table: Mary Ann King

Ushers: Janet Wilson

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner: Cindy Ropp & Jessica Hall

Worship Leader: Marge Weaver

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story: Jessica Hall

Scripture Reader: Darvis King

Technology: Caleb Augspurger & Clara

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Dorothy Loepf

Infant Nursery – during worship:

Infant Nursery – during CE: Jane Roeschley

Preschool Nursery: Alexandra Neely

Gather Round: Spring Neely

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 22

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

10:00am Anabaptism at 500 Group B (Hybrid)

6:00pm Surplus Hearing (Hybrid)

Thursday, March 23

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

6:30pm Administration Commission

Sunday, March 26

7:30pm Adult Choir

Tuesday, March 28

3:00pm Pastoral Team

Wednesday, March 29

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

10:00am Anabaptism at 500 Group B (Hybrid)



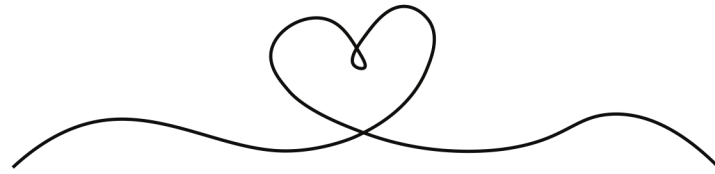
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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.



Camp Friedenswald 2023 Program Info

See larger versions of these images [here](#).

Camp Friedenswald 2023 PROGRAM

2023 CALENDAR

JANUARY 6-8 HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CAMP 13-15 JUNIOR HIGH WINTER CAMP	
FEBRUARY 3-5 WINTER GETAWAY 17-19 FAMILY WINTER CAMP	
MARCH 31-APRIL 1 GRAND CAMP	
JUNE 11-16 HIGH SCHOOL CAMP 18-23 PRIMARY & PRE-JR CAMP 25-30 JUNIOR HIGH CAMP	
JULY 2-7 JUNIOR CAMP 10-14 FAMILY CAMP I 15-16 BUILDERS WEEKEND 17-21 FAMILY CAMP II 24-28 FAMILY CAMP III	
SEPTEMBER 15-17 WOMEN'S RETREAT	
OCTOBER 14-16 RESTORATION RETREAT	

Contact Us
www.friedenswald.org
269-476-9744
program@friedenswald.org
15406 Watercress Way, Cassopolis, MI
@campfriedenswald

CAMP FRIEDENSWALD
the peaceful woods

Camp Friedenswald SUMMER 2023

June 11-16
High School Camp
GRADES 9-12

June 18-23
Primary & Pre-Jr Camp
GRADES 2-4

June 25-30
Junior High Camp
GRADES 7-8

July 2-7
Junior Camp
GRADES 5-6

July 10-14
Family Camp 1

July 17-21
Family Camp 2

July 24-28
Family Camp 3

CAMP FRIEDENSWALD
the peaceful woods



Menno Snapshot

When Sue Park-Hur, director of racial/ethnic engagement for Mennonite Church USA, was invited by MennoMedia's *Leader* magazine to write about intercultural churches, she knew right away that this should be in a conversational format with other Mennonite leaders who are committed to living out the vision of the church becoming intercultural. Sue invited Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate executive director of operations for Mennonite Church USA, and Tina Schlabach, moderator of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference and co-pastor of Shalom Mennonite Fellowship in Tucson, Arizona, for a lively conversation. Read more [here](#).

Telling the whole story: Mental health and the resiliency of youth



Find below an excerpt from an article by Jon-Erik (J.E.) Misz for the Anabaptist Disabilities Network and shared by Mennonite Church USA.

"I do not have what some might call a "green thumb." I can keep a houseplant alive fine enough, and my wife and I do our best to maintain a garden in the summer. But we are not experts. What we can grow, however, is lavender. This purple-flowered plant continues to find a home in our yard, and we add a few new plants each year, because we enjoy the smell and color in bloom. What we might like most about this plant, however, is that it is so resilient. It survives in a rocky soil and cool conditions without much water or attention. After each harsh midwestern winter, it grows and blooms again — quite ideal for our location and skill level. If we only talk about lavender based on the conditions it was placed in, we are not telling the whole story. If we focused only on the rocky, dry landscape and the cool atmosphere, we would miss out on the true beauty of this plant. As a mental health therapist and spouse of a youth pastor, I am quite aware of the mental health crisis that continues to grow among youth and young adults. I have a front row seat to partnering with young people and their families in addressing mental health needs, and anecdotally, my experience matches what research is finding. According to the Centers for Disease Control, symptoms of depression among high school students have increased 40 percent in the last 10 years, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors also increased up to 44 percent during that same time."

Read the full article [here](#).



Technicolor Truth-Telling

Find below an excerpt from an article by Malinda Elizabeth Berry for the Anabaptist World.

"I feel honored to be in a unique place to speak to the overlap between womanist theology and Anabaptism. In my experience, 99.9% of Anabaptist-Mennonites are unaware of womanist theology beyond the basic idea that it focuses on Black women's experience. And there is so much more to womanism than that.

In The Womanist Reader, Layli Phillips Maparyan defines womanism as "a social change perspective rooted in Black women's and other women of color's everyday experiences and everyday methods of problem solving in everyday spaces." Womanism is so bold as to believe it is possible to end all forms of oppression among humans, restore the balance between people and all of Creation, and reconcile material and spiritual reality."

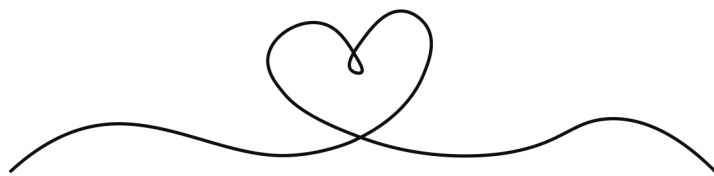
Read the full article [here](#).

Citizens Concert



Sunday, April 30th at 7pm at the Metamora Mennonite Church

Metamora Mennonite Church will be hosting the musical group Citizens in late April and everyone is invited. Listen to one of their songs on YouTube [here](#). View a flyer [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!

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Our Members in Care Facilities

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

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

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.