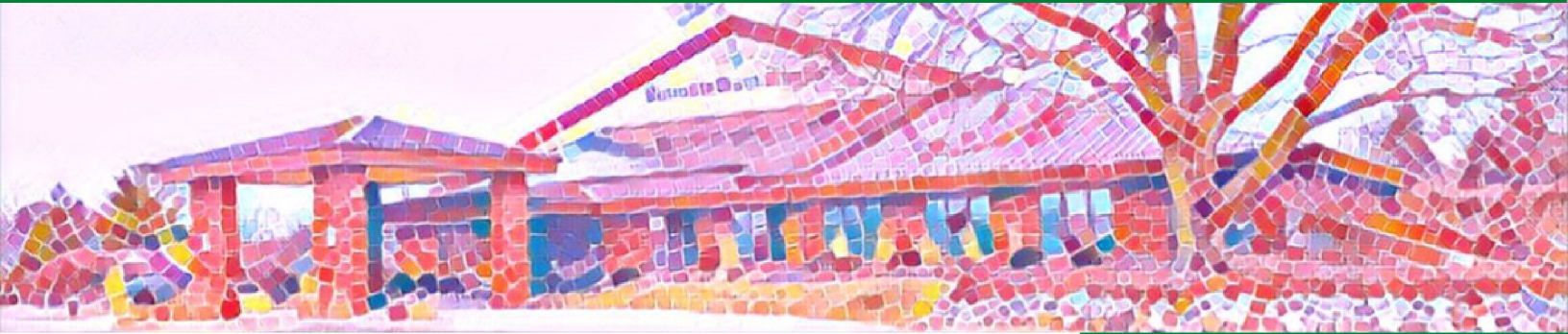


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *The Only Good Idea* using the scripture Matthew 21:1-17.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, Matthew makes it clear that this is a royal procession. However, we have two surprising images of this king. First we have the iconic image of Jesus riding a donkey. Then we have Jesus knocking over chairs and tables in the temple. What does it mean for us, like Matthew, to hold those two images together?



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

Holy Week Schedule

April 2 at 9:30am Palm Sunday Service @ Mennonite Church of Normal (MCN)

April 6 at 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service @ MCN

April 7 at 12:00pm Good Friday Ecumenical Service @ First Baptist Church (Bloomington)

April 8 at 2:00pm Holy Saturday with Community of Hope Mennonite Church (Zoom)

April 9 Brunch at 8:00am & Service at 9:30am Easter Sunday @ MCN

Maundy Thursday Service



Thursday, April 6th at 6pm

On Thursday, April 6th at 6pm MCN will have a Maundy Thursday service with communion. A simple meal of cheesy vegetable soup, white chicken chili, bread & butter, drinks will follow.

Planned by worship planners & worship commission



MCN 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

Holy Saturday Contemplative Service of Lament

April 8 at 2pm CDT on Zoom

Holy Saturday Contemplative Service of Lament: This service marks the day in the Christian calendar in between the story of Jesus' death and the story of Jesus' resurrection; a liminal and queer moment of waiting and uncertainty. Rev. Rachael Weasley (pastor at the Community of Hope Mennonite Church) will share about one of her favorite Bible passages, the story of the women walking together towards the tomb, a story about solidarity and community in the face of grief and loss. But mostly there will be lots of quiet music and silence. Join the Zoom service [here](#).

Shared by the Outreach Commission



Midwest Food Bank

Next Tuesday, April 4 at 5pm

Everyone is invited 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](#).

Shared by the Outreach Commission

Update from the Administration Commission



On March 22, the Administration Commission held a hearing to share their recommendations for use of the surplus from the 2022 Spending Plan and to hear responses to their recommendations. Since September of 2021 there have been numerous building expenditures primarily due to the age of our church building (40 years) without a previous preventive maintenance plan. We escrow funds to the Capital Improvement and Expense fund every month. Due to the numerous building needs, the current balance in that fund.

Our recommendations are:

1. Move 90% of surplus to repay the Capital Improvement and Expense escrow.
2. Move 10% of surplus to Outreach Commission, including payment of our church expenses for MCC Relief Sale.
3. Finalize a main water shutoff valve maintenance schedule together with the MRC Board.
4. Develop a grease trap maintenance schedule.
5. Begin a maintenance schedule for other building items.

If you'd like to review the slides for detailed information on the rationale and recommendations, please contact the church office.

From the Administration Commission

Update from the Vision Team



Your Vision Team met on March 21. 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. Vision Team members shared updates from their quarterly individual "check-ins" with the commission leaders.
3. Vision Team began discussing potential candidates who could be called to consider filling an upcoming opening on the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team.
4. Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the [Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#).

From the Vision Team



Book Sale MYF/IMYF 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 (**Today**). Contact Lauren Satchwell with questions. Thanks!

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

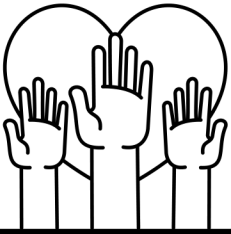
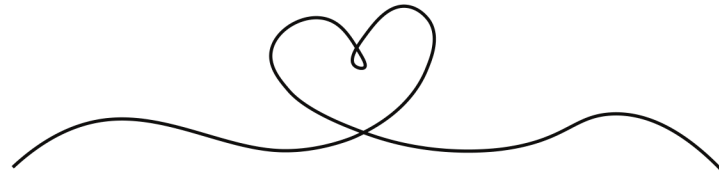
MCN has 4-5 high school youth who are interested in attending the MC USA convention in Kansas City this summer (July 4-6, but the group would be arriving in KC on July 3rd and departing July 7th). As you know, we are currently without youth sponsors, so we need the congregation's help!

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

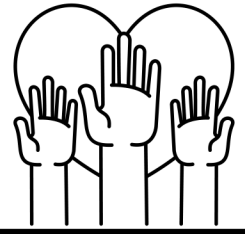
In the past the congregation has attempted to cover 1/3 of the cost out of the youth ministry budget, one third of the cost has been covered by fundraising, and 1/3 of the cost has been paid by the youth/families themselves. We have several parents who have already offered to help with fundraising activities, 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



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Beth & Andy Reeser Family

West Greeter: Bernice Valverde

Welcome Table: Stephanie Company

Ushers: Deb & Steve Stenger

Offering Counter: Stephanie Company

Worship Planner: Cindy Ropp & Jessica Hall

Worship Leader: Cindy Ropp

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Jessica Hall & Holly Zehr

Scripture Reader: Ron Ropp

Technology: Glenn Wilson & Ryan Miller

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab/Dorothy Loepp

Infant Nursery – during worship: Connie Yoder

Infant Nursery – during CE: Janet Wilson

Preschool Nursery: Gabriella Harnish

Gather Round: Jessica Hall



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 29

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

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

Thursday, March 30

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

Saturday, April 1

9:00am Worship Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, March 26

7:30pm Adult Choir

Monday, April 3

1:00pm Community Life Commission

5:00pm Outreach Commission (Zoom)

7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

7:00pm Mama Bears (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 4

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

5:00pm Midwest Food Bank Volunteering ([sign-up here!](#))

Wednesday, April 5

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



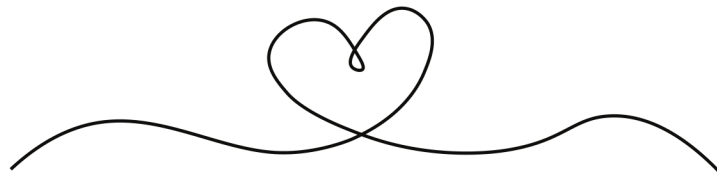
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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 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.



Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference

June 15-18, 2023 at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA

The 3rd Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival brings together Mennonite practitioners, artists and theologians from around the world to learn, share and discuss their work for peace. Everyone is invited to Eastern Mennonite University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA, to participate and share in this global journey. The organizer's hope is to strengthen relationships; build and continue to cultivate our networks; and create an opportunity to nourish and strengthen our respective work towards peace, whether it be on the streets and communities, in our policies, in the academy, or in our churches. Learn more [here](#).



Transgender Resource Fair



This Friday, March 31 from 4-7pm

at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal

Join organizations from around Bloomington-Normal on International Transgender Day of Visibility at the Transgender Resource Fair hosted by the Prairie Pride Coalition and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal. There will be vendors who provide important resources to our local transgender and nonbinary communities. Vendors will include medical providers, social service agencies, the Gender Expansive Resource Center, retailers, and shops that provide personal care services. The event is free and open to members of the transgender and nonbinary communities as well as people seeking resources to support their loved ones who are transgender/nonbinary. Learn more [here](#).

Chicago church organizes neighbors to hold leaders to housing commitment



Hurt by broken promises, congregation fights backroom gentrification land deal

A small congregation in Chicago is doing what it can to save neighborhood land reserved for affordable housing from being given to a local billionaire. Bethel Community Mennonite Church lost about 12 families from its congregation of 40-60 attenders two decades ago when roughly 36,000 people were forced out of the massive Addams-Brooks-Loomis-Abbott (ABLA Homes) public housing complex. The church sits next to 25 acres that were demolished to make way for new housing. Despite letters of support from past leaders and federal grants, a 10-year plan to transform housing across the city fell flat for lack of funding. Less than a third of the promised housing units were built, and some of the land remains vacant. Black and Hispanic residents were disproportionately affected. Last year, Mayor Lori Lightfoot promised the biggest parcel of the ABLA housing land to Joe Mansueto, a wealthy business leader who founded the Morningstar investment firm and owns the Chicago Fire, a Major League Soccer team. Their deal calls for the housing authority to lease about 25 acres to the team, which would construct a training facility and offices at the quickly gentrifying site. The Bethel congregation feels the economic impact of a soccer facility and parking lot is minuscule compared to the redevelopment plan the church's investment and construction team presented to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Chicago Housing Authority over the past five years. **Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by Tim Huber [here](#).**

BMC Transgender Day of Visibility Vigil

This Friday, March 31 from 7:00am to 7:00pm CDT on Zoom
*To our trans, non-binary and genderqueer siblings:
We see you, we love you, and know the trans Divine through you.*

Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests lifts up this all-day vigil Friday for Trans Day of Visibility. There are ways to plug in online every hour of the day, for prayer/blessing, biblical education, action items and more. Thanks to our colleagues at Alliance Q and the Open & Affirming Coalition for hosting.

On the hour every hour: a prayer or blessing from the host and then during the hour: connection, fellowship, conversation, and resources for taking action in our faith communities and places of residence.

Additional programming at 11am, 4:00pm, and 7:00pm, Central Time. **Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Share widely in your churches and communities via the Facebook event found [here](#).**

Action Steps:

- [Click here](#) to send a message to your U.S. Representative asking them to vote against H.R. 734, a bill that would prevent trans youth from taking part in school sports teams that match their gender identity.
- Familiarize yourself with the anti-LGBTQ+ bills in your state by using [this map](#) from the ACLU.
- Find your legislators information via this site.
- Explore and share the Trans support groups [listed here](#) from Trans Lifeline.
- Trans Lifeline Hotline, a peer support service by and for trans people: 1-877-565-8860. This is a good number to have available for those who need it.

Cyclone Freddy impacts BIC churches in Malawi and Mozambique

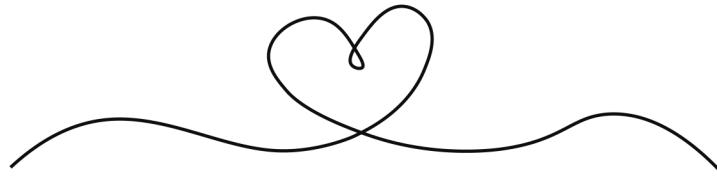


Pray for Anabaptist-Mennonite church members in Malawi and Mozambique who are affected by Cyclone Freddy, an exceptionally long-lived tropical storm that battered the region for more than five weeks with heavy rains and high winds. Read more from the Mennonite World Conference [here](#).

Community of Hope Mennonite Church Monthly Service

This Monday, April 3 at 7:30pm CDT on Zoom

Join Rev. Rachael Weasley and the Community of Hope Mennonite Church for their Monthly church service. This month they will be queering the Easter story together! Join the Zoom service [here](#).



Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

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!

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.