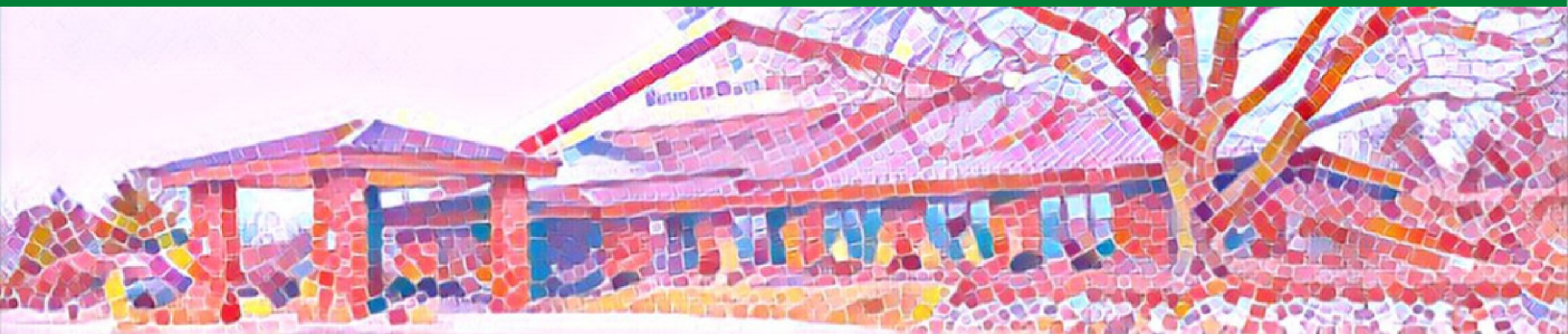


# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *A Disturbing Feast* using the scripture Matthew 22:1-14.

The “Parable of the Wedding Banquet” in Matthew starts as a celebration, but transforms into a situation marked by rage, vengeance, and the merciless treatment of a wedding guest. What exactly is being revealed about the Kingdom of Heaven?



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

# 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:

- Illinois Mennonite Conference meeting on March 11.
- 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*



## Pastoral Team at CDC

On Saturday, a couple of us from the Pastoral Team (Ron Ropp and I) traveled to attend the Central District Conference (CDC) hybrid mid-year gathering at First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana. We spent time worshipping and reflecting together, and processing things happening at the conference and denominational level.

One of the items was conversation about how we as a conference are living into the Repentance & Transformation resolution that was recently passed by delegates in May. One very tangible response is the “Queer Mennonite Visioning Retreat,” happening March 16-19 at Camp Friedenswald, which is offered at no cost to LGBTQIA+ and allied Mennonites, due to deep discounts from the camp, and CDC’s commitment for the rest of the cost.

We also became acquainted with Matt Pritchard, the new Associate Conference Minister of Emerging Communities of Faith. He shared about his previous and current work settings, told us about CDC’s plans and goals for his work, and guided us in a discussion surrounding how we hope people feel when they join our communities.

Beyond all of the “official” parts of the meeting, it was a blessing to simply share conversation and hear common themes emerge from communities outside of our own. The conversation was rich, the energy was encouraging, and I am grateful that we made the trip. I am also glad to share with all of you that I (Kevin) have accepted the invitation to serve on CDC’s Ministerial Committee. Aside from the good work that calls for, I am excited to cultivate strong connections with our conference as they serve and equip us as we work toward faithfulness in a time like this.

*From Kevin Chupp*

# Help with the Relief Sale!



Thank you everyone who has signed up to help with the Relief Sale. All of us working together can make this be a successful Sale.

## **We still need help in the following areas:**

### **Pancake and Sausage Serving:**

5:30am-8:30am

8:30am-10:30am

### **Bussing Tables:** Thank you MYF for helping here.

5:30am-8:30am

8:30am-10:30am

### **Interstate Center and Clean Up:**

Set Up Friday

Clean up after Sale on Saturday

### **Meat Sales**

9:45am-1:00pm

### **Dutch Market Stocking**

Friday:

12:00pm-2:00pm

2:00-4:00pm

Saturday:

7:00am-9:00am

11:30am-2:00pm

### **Pancakes & Sausage Serving**

5:30am-8:30am

8:30am-10:30am

**Please bring any quilts, comforters, arts and crafts, antiques, and other items to church on Sunday. A table will be set up to display them in the foyer.**

Check sign up sheets to see where you can help and sign up, or let us know what you would like to help with. Thank you.

# Youth Ministry Update

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Below is an update on youth ministry and activities here at MCN. Providing support and programming for our youth is a topic that the Discipling Commission discusses regularly in our meetings, as we continue to retool our MYF and JMYF programs. Here's a quick recap:

As part of our congregational restructuring, the Youth Ministry Committee was dissolved, and these responsibilities now fall under the Discipling Commission. Shannon Unzicker, who formerly served on the YMC, joined the Discipling Commission as co-chair, along with Spring Neely.

Shelly and Darvis King are our JMYF Sponsors, but we continued to be unable to find MYF Sponsors. Lauren Satchwell generously fills in as needed. Operating under COVID restrictions of course proves quite challenging. Once we were able to be in the building again, Discipling Commission focused on providing ways for youth to get re-acquainted and socialize.

## **2022-2023**

We were/are still without MYF sponsors, and struggling with COVID challenges, as MCN went back to gathering remotely again for a number of weeks in early 2022. In May we held a cookie and punch reception for our two high school graduates. As in past years, we took a summer break and resumed youth group activities again in the fall. The Kings continue as JMYF sponsors, and Shannon Unzicker agreed to coordinate MYF activities until sponsors can be found. A cookout was held at the Unzickers in October for both groups (JMYF and MYF) and in November a number of youth helped with Family Fun Night activities at the church. In December the MYF met at MCN for a meal with Pastor Kevin and his family before joining the church-wide caroling night. In late 2022, the Spring Neely proposed (and DC recommended) that a Youth Ministry sub-committee be formed in order to create and implement a regular meeting schedule for both youth groups. Pastor Kevin, Shannon Unzicker and the Kings met to start working on ideas for activities through May 2023.

On February 8th, both MYF and JMYF met at church for a meal together with Pastor Kevin, Shannon Unzicker, and the Kings before joining others for the cupcake-decorating night hosted by the CLC. Both groups are planning on gathering again this month to bake and package items for the Relief Sale. Plans are in the works for at least one activity per month for the rest of the school year.

## **Where we're headed:**

In April, Shannon Unzicker, Spring Neely, and Pastor Kevin will be holding a meeting for parents of 6-12 graders during the CE hour to talk more about youth programming at MCN. DC would like establish a schedule to provide 3-4 youth group activities per month, such as service opportunities, regular Bible studies, and gathering for fun and fellowship. Without a doubt, we will need the support and assistance of parents and the wider congregation to make such a program function.

After we have met with parents and talked further, DC will be sharing our plans and ideas with the wider congregation, and hope to raise awareness of the help that will be needed to get a consistent program up and running. Please contact one of the Commission members if you have any questions--David Voegtlin (Interim Chair), Spring Neely, Shannon Unzicker, Lynette Miller (PT representative).

# Singers Needed - Combined Good Friday Service

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

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

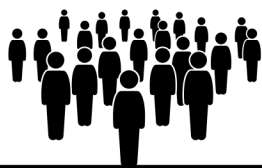
Service: 12:00-1:00 p.m.



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).



## Commission and Team Members

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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

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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*

# Sharing Our Gifts Photos

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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. 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*

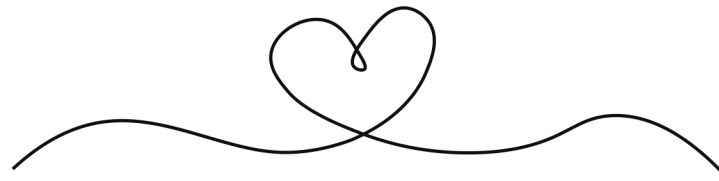


*MEA Lent at Home 2023 - now available!*

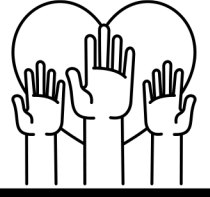
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MEA is pleased to announce that the 2023 Lent at Home worship guide and daily ritual calendar is now available for free download in English and Spanish. The complete press release including a link to this resource is [here](#).

*Shared by the Pastoral Team*



# Those Serving This Week



**South Greeters:** Rick & Annette Harnish

**West Greeter:** Mark Roeschley

**Welcome Table:** Bernice Valverde

**Ushers:** Hoffman family

**Offering Counter:** Lotus Hershberger

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

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Kevin Chupp

**Children's Story:** Holly Zehr

**Scripture Reader:** Erin & JB Ponnou-Delaffon

**Technology:** Adam Augspurger & Wesley Hershberger

**Song Leader:** Cindy Ropp

**Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude:** Dorothy Loepp

**Infant Nursery - during worship:** Jessica Hall

**Infant Nursery - during CE:** Caroline Roeschley

**Preschool Nursery:** Janet Wilson

**Gather Round:** Holly & Randy Zehr

*Birthdays & Anniversaries*

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



## *This Week at MCN*

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### **Wednesday, March 8**

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

**10:00am** Anabaptism at 500 Group 2

**7:30pm** Vision Team (Zoom)

### **Thursday, March 9**

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

### **Sunday, March 12**

**7:30pm** Adult Choir

### **Tuesday, March 14**

**3:00pm** Pastoral Team (Zoom)



*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*



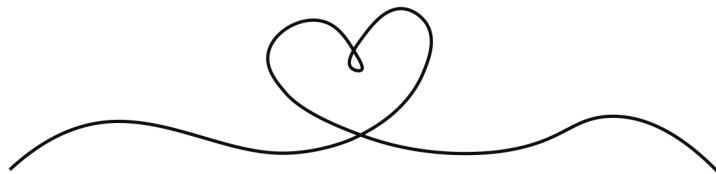
MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE TOP ADMINISTRATORS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2023



# Prayer Requests and Announcements

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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.



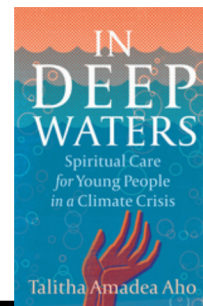
## Queer Mennonite Visioning Retreat 2023

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After years of pandemic disconnect and ongoing change in the Mennonite Church, including the passing of the Resolution for Repentance & Transformation, it is a vital time to invest in our relationships with one another, hold intentional space to process, and build and vision expansively together as LGBTQIA+ and allied Mennonites. A group will be meeting at Camp Friedenswald from March 16-19 to to cultivate a nourishing gathering for ~15 LGBTQIA+ & allied Mennonites, with:

- Time to (re)connect: gather, eat, sing, walk, tell stories, make art
- Time to retreat: rest, replenish, savor nature
- Time to absorb: celebrate, grieve, process, share worship/ritual
- Time to build: scheme, dream, strategize, vision

## Book Review - *In Deep Waters*



Below is an excerpt from Jennifer Schrock's book review for the Mennonite Creation Care Network of the book *In Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis* by Talitha Amadea Aho, Fortress Press, 2022. Read the full review [here](#). Purchase the book at [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org) [here](#).

"I was afraid to read this book. 'As if being a youth pastor and climate change aren't challenging enough without combining the two,' I thought. What I found were stories rooted in joy and love, told by a fine writer who makes being with youth and young adults sound like the best job in the world. I look forward to hearing from Talitha Amadea Aho at the Youth Climate Summit."

# Carbon Fast for Lent

Mennonite Church British Columbia shared a Carbon Fast for Lent as part of their Creation Care initiative. In the bible, caring for creation is God's first instruction to humans. This Lent, a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God, we encourage you to take up Climate Stewards' Lent challenge. Click [here](#) to sign up and receive more information. Click [here](#) to see a larger version of the weekly overview.



## Carbon Fast

for Lent

### LENT 2023 WEEKLY OVERVIEW

#### 22 FEB - 4 MAR FAST FROM CONSUMERISM (BUY NOTHING)

- Aside from true essentials like food and toiletries, buy nothing
- Before buying something, assess: do I need this or not?

1

2

3

3

#### 5 - 11 MAR FAST FROM MEAT, DAIRY OR DESSERTS

- Go meat-free
- Already vegetarian? Fast from dairy products
- Already vegan? Give up desserts and sweets

#### 12 - 18 MAR FAST FROM CHEESE, CHOCOLATE, & COFFEE

- These treats have a high carbon footprint
- Cut out some of our favourite treats

4

5

#### 19 - 25 MAR FAST FROM LONG SHOWERS & USING TUMBLE DRYER

- Save energy by reducing consumption
- Use a clothes drying rack
- Take shorter showers

#### 26 MAR - 1 APR FAST FROM DRIVING

- Lift share, cycle, walk or take public transport for your commute and shopping.

6

7

#### 2 - 8 APR FAST FROM SCREENS

- Go outside and pay special attention to the beauty and intricacies of Creation.
- Find alternative activities in an evening - like a games night instead of streaming a movie.

## MENNONITE WOMEN'S HISTORY TIMELINE



View Mennonite Church USA's timeline of Mennonite Women's History [here](#).

# Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit

**July 7, 2023** (the day after MennoCon23)

**Kansas City Convention Center** (the same location as MennoCon23)

**9 a.m.-5 p.m. CT**

**\$49 (includes lunch)**

Climate change has created a spiritual and human crisis. On July 7, the Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit will bring together experts in climate change, spiritual activism and social justice to explore ways that youth and young adults ages 14-25 can put their faith to work to address this crisis. It will be a day of worship, learning and collaboration. Youth sponsors are welcome to attend. The one-day event will feature worship, a keynote speaker, a panel discussion and breakout sessions on a variety of topics, including: political advocacy, grassroots environmental initiatives, climate anxiety and the development of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery board game. Find more information and a tentative schedule [here](#). Registration coming soon.

## *Livestream Recording: Interview with Jerrell Williams*

One February 28, 2023 *Anabaptist World* celebrated Black History Month with a special guest, Jerrell Williams, columnist for *Anabaptist World*. Jerrell is pastor of Salem Mennonite Church in Oregon. Watch a recording of the livestreamed interview [here](#) or below.



# MCC responds to earthquakes in Syria



"We are only beginning to see the enormity of this disaster," says Garry Mayhew, an MCC representative for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. "The sheer numbers of lives lost, injured and displaced are overwhelming, and numbers will continue to grow in the days ahead."

## 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](http://mcc.org/earthquake)

You can share God's love and compassion with our global neighbors by providing a gift online at [mcc.org/earthquake](http://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.

## YOU ARE IN HERE (Official Lyric video)

MC USA shared this in the hope we will be blessed by this beautiful song, written by Anthonia Onye, regional conference minister for Southern California for Pacific Southwest Conference. Shared with permission. Listen [here](#) or below.

YOU ARE IN HERE (Official Lyric video)

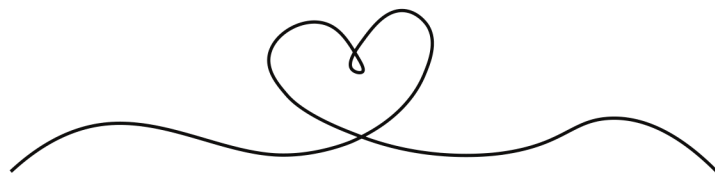
Share

YOU ARE MY KING

YOU ARE MY

LORD

Watch on YouTube



## 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.