

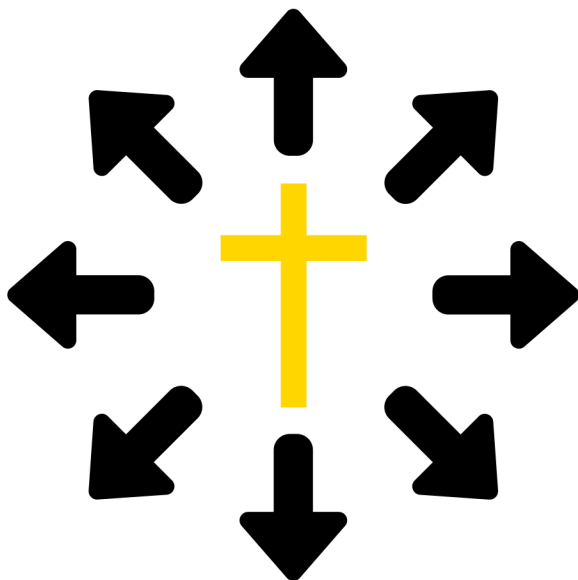
THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Really Divine* using the scripture Matthew 28:16-20.

An important note on which the "great commission" hinges is Jesus' claim to have "all authority in heaven and on earth." But in his life Jesus had problems with authority, and we certainly share Jesus' suspicions in that regard. So what kind of authority are we talking about here?



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

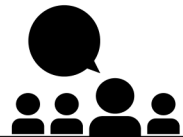
High School

Room 7 & 5



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA



Meeting for parents of 6th-12th graders

THIS Sunday, April 16th at 11am

The Discipling Commission invites all parents of current 6th-12th grade students to join Shannon Unzicker, Spring Neely, and Pastor Kevin for a brief meeting about youth ministry here at MCN. We will meet in the Conference Room during the CE hour (approx. 11:00-11:30). We will be sharing some of the hopes that DC has for junior and senior youth activities and programming for this coming school year and beyond. Parents, please bring your ideas and suggestions as well, in order to help us build a program that meets students where they are, but also challenges them to continue on their faith journey with us here at MCN. If you are unable to attend, please let Shannon, Spring or Kevin know, and we will follow up with you later this month.

From the Discipling Commission

MMT

Moses Montefiore Temple

Film Screening



This Monday, April 17, 7:00 pm at the Normal Theater

Moses Montefiore Congregation and Not In Our Town invite you to a free showing of the film, *Repairing The World: Stories from the Tree of Life*, a documentary film on Pittsburgh's powerful community response to hate in the aftermath of the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history - showing what it means to be "stronger than hate." There will be a Q & A with the producers. View a trailer [here](#). View the flyer [here](#). Register [here](#).

Shared by the Outreach 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 tomorrow, 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



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.

- **This Sunday**, April 16 - Home Sweet Home, Director
- April 30 - Safe Harbor, Director
- May 7 - Chestnut Systems, Employee
- May 21 - Project OZ, Program Director

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

From Joe Culpepper

Update from Outreach Commission



The Outreach Commission met on Monday, April 3 to organize and hit the ground running! Phil Dick will serve as our chair, Kevin Chupp is the pastoral team representative, along with Elsa Raab, Pam Hodel, and Mark Hodel. Eighteen people from MCN served at Midwest Food Bank last night, and MFB will continue to be an important partner. However, we are hoping to facilitate other regular opportunities for MCN to show up for our community, and we have a number of ideas brewing already. We will be meeting on the first Monday of each month at 5pm, and like the other commissions, you can find our latest minutes in our [Google Drive folder](#). [A link to the Google Drive folder with each team/commission's minutes can be found at the bottom of every Midweek.]

From the Outreach Commission



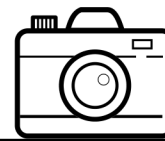
Vision Team Update

Your Vision Team met on April 6. Following the meeting, Vision Team has the following items to share with the congregation:

- 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.
- Vision Team members shared updates from their quarterly individual "check-ins" with members of the Pastoral Team.
- Vision Team will be having a team retreat on Sunday afternoon, April 16. The focus of this time will be to draw to a close the 1-year structure evaluation and plan appropriate responses to the feedback received throughout the process.

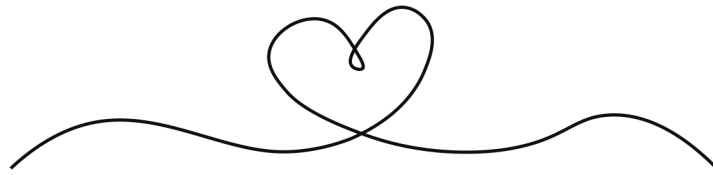
Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the [Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#).

From the Vision Team

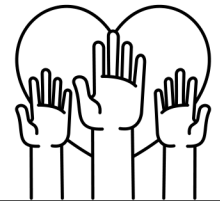


The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Cal & Vivian Hubbard

West Greeter:

Welcome Table: Gail Fisher

Ushers: Jon & Janelle Friesen

Offering Counter: Stephanie Company

Worship Planner & Leader: Ben Roeschley

Sharing Prayer Leader: Ron Ropp

Children's Story: Nancy Fisher

Scripture Reader: Ryan Miller

Technology: Adam Augspurger & Rick Harnish

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery – during worship: Courtney Yoder

Infant Nursery – during CE: Miriam Kennell

Preschool Nursery: Robin Gundy

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, April 12

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

Thursday, April 13

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

7:00pm Administration Commission

7:30pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Sunday, April 16

3:00pm Vision Team

3:00pm Cantus Novus Choir Concert

Monday, April 17

7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 18

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 19

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

Prayer Requests and Announcements

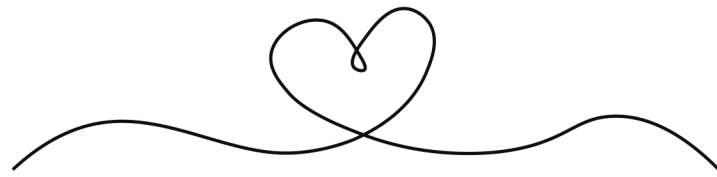
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please continue to send announcements to Lynette Miller so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true whether in person or livestreaming on YouTube.



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



Get to Know AAMA Leaders and Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 20th at 6pm CDT

Join a webinar from the African American Mennonite Association (AAMA) on Thursday, April 20th to get to know AAMA's leaders and upcoming events. Register [here](#).



Tour

April 16 through May 4

Baritone saxophonist Glenn Wilson and guitarist Rory Stuart celebrate the 32nd anniversary of their ground-breaking duo album, Bittersweet, with a 2023 Spring Tour.

They will be in Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Kentucky. Find more information [here](#). View a flyer [here](#).

Marching to Zion



April 22, 2023 at 10am at the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center

The Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center invites everyone to attend the presentation by Luke Fischer titled Marching to Zion: The Apostolic Christian Church: Origins and History. Admission is free; donations will be accepted to cover costs of this event. Address: 675 St. Hwy. 116, Germantown Hills, IL, United States, Illinois.

Spring into life.

Give blood.



American
Red Cross

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Blood Drive

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Cultural Hall
1628 W Hovey
Normal, IL 61761

**Saturday, April 22, 2023
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org.
You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.
Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.



**Be cool. Give blood. Come give April 1-23 for an
exclusive American Red Cross and PEANUTS T-shirt
featuring Snoopy as the coolest beagle in town, Joe
Cool! Get yours, while supplies last – then show off your
cool, kind spirit.**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Camp Menno Haven Women's Retreat

April 22, 2023 at 10am at the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center

Camp Menno Haven's Women's Retreat is an event for a woman to come by herself, bring a friend or a whole group of friends and get away from everyday life for an overnight retreat alongside other women who want to find connection with the Good News and with other women. For a special opportunity, come early on Friday for an afternoon of pampering (sign up early to get a massage from a local massage therapist!) and extra time to just be. The theme is: "Each of our stories matter and The Lord speaks to us each in such unique ways. This year, we will hear from multiple women on ways they see God moving in their own lives. AND then a chance to experience time with God for each of us." Find more information and register [here](#). **Registration closes THIS FRIDAY, April 14th at noon.**

Amigo Centre Men's Retreat

April 28-30 at the Amigo Centre in Sturgis, MI

Join the Amigo Centre (an affiliate of Mennonite Church USA) in April for their first annual Men's Retreat titled Creating Stories of Hope: Finding Healing in the Male Journey. James Yoder and Leon Bauman will be leading the group in creating stories of hope out of the life experiences that we bring to the table. This retreat will allow time for personal reflection and small and large group sharing while we seek to envision the next chapter in our stories. Find more details and registration [here](#). **Registration closes THIS FRIDAY, April 14th.**

Church members killed in Myanmar bombing

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) issued a call to prayer to its member churches around the world the day after a military bombardment killed members of Bible Missionary Church, an MWC member church. MWC reported an aerial bombardment of a village in Chin State killed a dozen villagers March 30, including several members of the congregation and the local pastor's daughters. Many villagers were severely injured, including the pastor. Canadian Mennonite reported last summer roughly half of Bible Missionary Church's families were displaced. About 2,000 people had fled to jungles or mountainous areas for safety after the military seized power and civil unrest grew. "Please pray for solace for all those affected," said MWC President Henk Stenvers. "Pray for an end to violence." **Read the full Anabaptist World article [here](#).**

Oregon snow turns eight-hour camp service project into five-day retreat



A small group of volunteers from Seattle arrived at Drift Creek Camp on Feb. 22 for an eight-hour middle school class service project. As the group arrived, snow began to fall. And fall. And fall. In addition to the highly unusual foot of snow that fell on that first day, countless trees came down like pick-up-sticks across the road. For nearly three days, five men who were trapped at camp cut through hundreds of trees from morning until dark. Staff found ways to put the kids to work in the lodge. They brought food for one day, leading to creative solutions using the More-With Less Cookbook to scrape together meals from what was left in the pantry. Feeling weary, camp staff used Facebook to put out a call for help. A few longtime camp supporters saw the post and headed out. Along the way, they met a group of local folks who knew of "The Mennonite Camp" but hadn't actually been to Drift Creek and also answered the call. The crew began clearing the road from Highway 101. By Sunday night on day 5, camp staff were discouraged and exhausted, although the Seattle group was able to ride in a truck over the snow to Lincoln City, where they could borrow a vehicle to return home. Eventually, Dennis Kauffman came from 2 hours away to plow the way to the camp with his tractor. Since the February storm, Drift Creek Camp has lost six rental groups that had planned to use the facility. The financial loss from these cancelations has been significant. The phrase "spring cleaning" has taken on new meaning this year. **Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by Brenda Kauffman and Drift Creek Camp [here](#).**

"God's transforming call to intercultural ministry"

Read Ertell M. Whigham article for MC USA's #BeTransformed series [here](#). Whigham is an associate pastor of Nueva Vida Norristown (Pennsylvania) New Life Mennonite Church and an Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) administrator, trainer and consultant. You can read the beginning of Whigham's article below:

The Bible has several examples of God changing or updating the name or descriptor of God's servants because of their life experiences and the context of their calling.

I will change your name: In the Bible, when God changed a person's name, it was usually to establish a new identity. In Genesis 17, God changed Abram's name, meaning "high father," to Abraham, "the ancestor of a multitude of nations." At the same time, God changed Sarai's name, meaning "my princess," to Sarah, "mother of nations." When Jesus first met his disciple-to-be Simon, Jesus changed Simon's name, meaning "God has heard," to Cephas/Peter, meaning "rock" (John 1:42). When God changed people's names, it signaled that they were destined for a new mission in life. The new name was God's way of revealing a new aspect of the divine plan, which would be fulfilled through them.

Advocates form In This Together, a support and resource group

When Pieter Niemeyer came out as gay in 2014, it was an isolating experience. “There really wasn’t a lot of support from Mennonites in Canada, people or organizations to connect with for guidance,” said Niemeyer, at the time a pastor of a Mennonite congregation. He reached out to the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests, a U.S. organization that seeks to cultivate an inclusive church. They offered some assistance, but he wanted to connect with Canadian Mennonites who also identified as gay — something that was hard to do. The experience prompted him and others to create In This Together (view their website [here](#)), a support and resource group for Anabaptists who are part of the LGBTQ community in Canada. The founders are Niemeyer and his partner, Mauricio Palacio, who are part of Toronto United Mennonite Church; Alissa Bender, pastor of Hamilton Mennonite Church in Ontario; Leah Harder of Community Mennonite Church in Stouffville, Ont.; and Matthew Froese of First Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Man. The group began dreaming about a Canadian support network in 2019 after a conference called “Beyond Binaries: Creating an Affirming Church” at Waterloo North Mennonite Church in Ontario. The group continued to work while gathering online during the pandemic. They launched In This Together in 2022. They are being supported by Mennonite Church Canada in their efforts. “We have a very positive working relationship with them,” Niemeyer said. “We want to be a place where individuals and congregations can find support and resources, and be a catalyst for change,” Palacio said. **Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by John Longhurst [here](#).**

"Peace is not just the absence of violence"



Read Bekah York's reflection on the peacebuilding work her local church, Iglesia Menonita de Tesuaquillo in Bogotá, Colombia, is doing [here](#). York serves in with Mennonite Mission Network in Bogotá, Colombia, with the Colombia Mennonite Church at the Seminario Biblico Menonita de Colombia and Justapaz, to accompany the Mujer y Paz (Women and Peace) project. You can read the beginning of York's article below:

My local church, Iglesia Menonita de Tesuaquillo, continues to be contextually active, living out a “here-and-not-yet” kind of hope, specifically through projects with Venezuelan families. We support families emotionally and financially on a six-month cycle, with spiritual support that continues. Every Wednesday morning, I walk to the Mennonite Center, where the church is located, to help with Venezuelan family interviews and assist with childcare for children ranging from newborns to four-year-olds, so their parents can fully participate in the discipleship classes offered by a local Mennonite pastor. I enjoy getting to know families on a deeper level, by spending three to four hours per week with their children.



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 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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

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.