

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *A Symbol of the Whole World* using the scripture Acts 10:1-17, 34-48.

Peter experiences a vision of a sheet descending from heaven, and it opens up his faith in a way that puzzled him. Regardless, in spite of his confusion, when his guests arrive he confidently declares, "I truly understand that God shows no partiality." What is this puzzling sheet, and what confidence might it form in us?



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



Family Fun Night



Spring Family Fun Night is almost here! Hosted by Discipling Commission and the Christian Education Sub-Committee, we'll start with dinner (walking tacos or taco salads along with desserts provided by the Community Life Commission). A fun evening of singing, games and activities will follow!

From the Discipling Commission



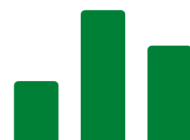
Scam Email Alert

Some people have recently received emails from "pastornormalmennonite@gmail.com" pretending to be Pastor Kevin saying he needs to speak about a confidential matter. When the scammer gets a response, they then ask for a large amount of money in gift cards. These emails are **NOT** from Kevin. **Do NOT respond to this email or purchase gift cards.** Kevin and every other pastor at MCN will never request gift cards/money/Amazon purchases like this.

If you receive a suspicious email or an unexpected request for gifts cards/money/gifts from anyone, you should always contact that person through another means (such as a phone call or text message) before replying, purchasing anything, or sending personal information.

If you receive anything suspicious, please feel free to reach out to the church office, and Lydia will be happy to analyze it with you! You can find information from the Federal Trade Commission on how to recognize phishing scams [here](#).

Spending Plan Update



Spending Plan Status as of March 31, 2023

Shared by the Administration Commission

♥ Youth Ministry update from Discipling Commission

We are so grateful that Darvis and Shelly King have offered to accompany our high school youth to the MC USA Convention in Kansas City this July. We have also invited any current eighth grade students (entering high school this fall) to attend with the group if they are interested. Parents/guardians of eighth graders who would like to attend will need to contact Shannon Unzicker or the Kings ASAP, since we are working on finalizing registration.

The newly formed Youth Ministry Sub-Committee will be meeting monthly to provide guidance and planning for junior high and high school Sunday School, along with regular JMYF and MYF group activities. Pastor Kevin, Shannon Unzicker, and Shelly and Darvis King currently serve on this Sub-Committee. Please keep this group in your prayers, as we are still in need of MYF sponsors, who will be an important part of this group as well.

From the Discipling Commission

Children's Time Recipe

Here's the recipe that goes along with Sunday's Children's Time. Make and enjoy!

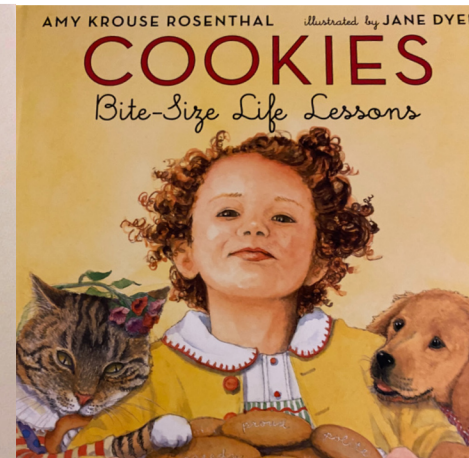
Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2/3 c mashed bananas
- 2/3 c chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 c quick oats

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. Add mashed bananas and chocolate chips in a microwave-safe mixing bowl. Heat at full power in 30 second intervals, stirring in between until chocolate is completely melted and smooth.
3. Stir in the oats until evenly mixed.
4. Use a 1.5 T cookie scoop to scoop up the mixture and place on the cookie sheet, spacing cookies about 1.5" apart.
5. Using the back of a spoon, flatten each ball.
6. Bake for about 10-11 minutes. Let cookies completely cool on cookie sheet before removing.
7. EAT AND ENJOY 😊
8. Store uneaten cookies in the fridge or freezer.



Shared by Nancy Fisher

Office Closed this Tuesday



The church office will be closed next Tuesday morning (April, 25th). But I will be back in the office after lunch that day!

From Lydia in the office
p. 3 of 16



Adult Sunday School

The Discipling Commission has been busy planning summer Sunday school for adults. You can look forward to two different teaching plans this summer in a combined group setting.

The first three Sundays of June will be focused on recapping our journey group books. All journey groups are invited to join in the sanctuary to discuss key takeaways and poignant discussions, as well as opportunities for outreach at MCN:

- June 4th– Hospitality: “Invited”
- June 11th – Grace Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End Homelessness
- June 18th – What is the Bible and how do we understand it?

Then, we are excited to share “The Way We Were & Who We Became: A Telling of Oral Histories.” This Sunday school content was originally piloted with our 2nd grade thru high school classes last summer. The feedback was so positive from those speaking and facilitating, along with the kids, that we wanted to create an “adult” version this summer!

- **What can be expected?** The teaching format will require volunteers to share their story. Oral story telling can be a very powerful method to share an individual's personal reflection, including their childhood, family & career, faith formation, etc. It can also lead to rich conversations and relationship building.
- **What do we need from you?** We need 1 volunteer to kick off the class on June 25th, followed by 5 volunteers for the month of July and one to conclude this session on August 6th.
- **What will be provided to the volunteer speakers?** A list of thought-provoking questions to get you started, but we encourage every volunteer to share their story with authenticity and the ability to determine if they want to stick to a “script” or not!
- **If you are volunteering, can you bring in props?** Absolutely, last summer volunteers shared photographs, collections, and other visual aids to bring their story to life!
- **Who to contact if you are interested in being a volunteer speaker?** David Voegtlin, Lynette Miller, Shannon Unzicker or Spring Neely.

Meal and Sacred Listening



Sunday, May 7th after worship

Coming up quickly, MCN is participating in Central District Conference’s (CDC) “Sacred Listening” process on May 7th. Following worship, we will share a light meal and will be sharing stories of our congregation with our “listeners” who are joining us from nearby CDC congregations. There are 6 prompts that will guide this process. Everyone is encouraged to share their voice. You can learn more about the process and read the prompts [here](#).

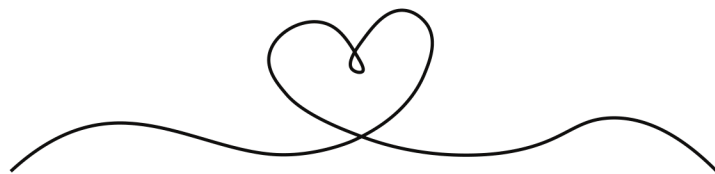
From the Pastoral Team



Called to Serve

Vision Team has called Janet Wilson to serve on the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team. Her term will run from May 2023 through December 2025. Please share affirmations and feedback you may have with Barry Weaver, Vision Team chair, by email, phone, or in person. Thank you!

From the Vision Team





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Paul & Mary Ann Watkins

West Greeter: Nancy Fisher

Welcome Table: Marge Weaver

Ushers: Adam Augspurgen & Lotus Hershberger

Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger

Worship Planner & Leader: Steve Benner

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story: Laura Dick

Scripture Reader: Marge Weaver

Technology: Rick Harnish & Jaron

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Dorothy Loepp

Infant Nursery – during worship: Gabriella Harnish

Infant Nursery – during CE: Beth Reeser

Preschool Nursery: Robin Gundy

Gather Round:



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, April 19

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

7:30pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Thursday, April 20

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

Monday, April 24

7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 26

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (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

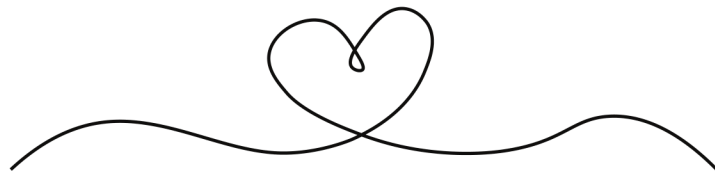
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please continue to send announcements to Lynette Miller so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Anniversaries

Birthdays

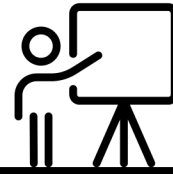


Get to Know AAMA Leaders and Upcoming Events

Tomorrow, Thursday, April 20th at 6pm CDT

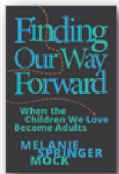
Join a webinar from the African American Mennonite Association (AAMA) on Thursday, April 20th to get to know AAMA's leaders and upcoming events. Register [here](#).

Marching to Zion



This Saturday, 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.



MennoMedia Book Event

Thursday, April 27th at 6pm CDT

Join MennoMedia and author Melanie Springer Mock for a CommonRead Conversation about Mock's book *Finding Our Way Forward: When the Children We Love Become Adults*. This online event is free to attend. Register [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](#).

Spring into life.

Give blood.



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

THIS 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

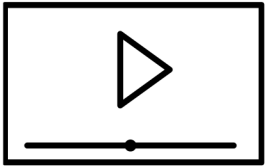
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[25] - Order ID: 1467073 - Item ID: 6201592 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 000663207 - 2023-APR-022 - APC G - 231 IT9

Brethren plan silent reflection, confession this summer

The Church of the Brethren is planning a “time of silent personal reflection and confession” at its July 4-8, 2023 Annual Conference in Cincinnati based on a recommendation adopted last year to hold a service of confession and repentance regarding relationships with one another and exclusion of LGBTQ people. Church of the Brethren Newsline reported (read the article [here](#)) 19 of 28 members of the denomination’s Standing Committee voted March 7 to read the recommendation at the Annual Conference and have quiet reflection. The committee chose not to approve two other options to either proceed with the confession and repentance proposal or to admit that the denomination is not ready for such a service. A motion to start a multiyear process of confession and repentance was voted down. Discussion of the recommendation, adopted by the Standing Committee last July, has revealed sharp differences (read more [here](#)) among district delegates. The recommendation states, in part: “Theological differences around human sexuality have too often been manifested in bullying, violence and a general sense of dismissal toward one another and specifically toward our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. We must redouble our efforts to live out these differences, as individuals and through our systems of governance, in ways that preserve the humanity, dignity and deeply held spiritual convictions of all. Harsh, dismissive, unloving and unforgiving behaviors toward one another cannot have a home among us.”

Read the full *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).

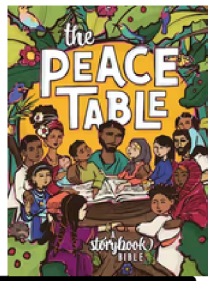


#NoDraft Video/Essay Challenge

A contest open to all high school students grades 9-12!

- Submit your short video telling the world why you oppose the draft and Selective Service registration!
- Top entries win cash prizes, up to \$1,000!
- Deadline 6/30/2023
- Every entry can help raise awareness of the injustice of drafting young people to fight and kill in war!

The Center on Conscience & War (CCW) (find their website [here](#)) is hosting a video essay contest for teens. Founded in 1940, CCW is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of conscience, opposes military conscription, and serves all conscientious objectors to war. To enter, submit your short video and brief essay telling the world why you oppose the draft and why you think the US should repeal Selective Service, ending decades of draft registration and overturning damaging penalties against those who do not register. Enter your submission [here](#).



Peacemaking emphasized in new storybook Bible

Come to God's peace table, where there's room for everyone.

From beginning to end, the Bible reminds us that we are made in God's image and that God's table has room for us all. God's presence and peace become real to children of all ages in *The Peace Table* (Shine, July 2023), a comprehensive family storybook Bible with artwork from 30 illustrators. Authors Chrissie Muecke, Jasmin Pittman Morrell, and Teresa Kim Pecinovsky offer biblically faithful retellings of 140 stories from Scripture. Alongside each Bible story they include prayer prompts, questions, and action ideas to guide family reflection and conversation. Twelve "peace paths" encourage children to explore the ways that peace themes are woven throughout the Old and New Testaments. A resource section includes ideas for how to experience peace with God, self, others, and creation, as well as maps, background information on the Bible, interactive ways to pray, and prayers for many occasions. The Peace Table will be the source of the Bible story for Elementary classes for the next three years of the Shine curriculum beginning in Fall 2023. "The Peace Table is an excellent resource for families and faith communities who want their children to love Jesus, grow in faith, and become peacemakers who change the world," says Chrissie Muecke, author and Shine editor.

Learn more and pre-order the book from MennoMedia [here](#). *The Peace Table* is available at 25% off until June 1, 2023 for anyone who preorders and pays in advance.



Pratt Music Scholarships In Strings Or Piano

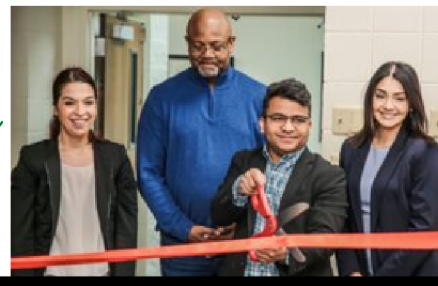
The Pratt Music Foundation's mission is to provide talented youth an opportunity to enhance their musical ability through private lessons. Music lessons are expensive and simply not an option for some children and families: this is where the Pratt Music Foundation comes in. The Foundation grants full music lesson scholarships to the Illinois Wesleyan University Music Preparatory Program. Instruction is available in piano or strings (violin, viola, cello). Music scholarships are awarded to area students in grades 2 - 12 each spring, and are based on financial need, motivation, and talent. **Applications are due by May 1.** Free music books are supplied from the Music Shoppe. For those without instruments, they are available free of charge. Downloadable applications are available [here](#). For questions or to request an application, call 309-827-5534 or email prattmusicfoundation@gmail.com.



Will Congress keep hanging humanity on the Pentagon's iron cross?

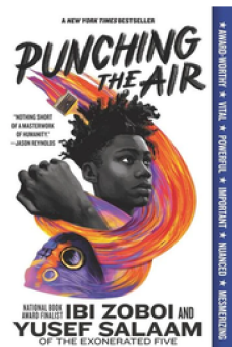
It's budget season in Washington, and people of faith should pay attention. Over the coming months, Congress will face — and make — critical budget decisions that could drastically reshape our country. The old axiom that budgets are moral documents is true. So now our leaders, as well as the values our country proclaims, will be put to the test. On March 9, President Biden released his budget for the next fiscal year, urging Congress to fund the White House's \$6.9 trillion in priorities for 2024, make corporations pay more of their fair share in taxes and approve his plan to reduce the deficit by nearly \$3 trillion over the next decade. Republicans in Congress quickly pushed back and declared it dead on arrival. Making matters more challenging, the already contentious spending debates are complicated this year by a looming deadline to lift the debt ceiling. If not, the United States could default on trillions of dollars in accumulated federal debt. But who will pay the real costs in the process? Some in Congress are demanding deep cuts to vital programs that people rely on every day in exchange for raising the debt ceiling. Childcare, health care, education, jobs, environmental justice and international peace building are all potentially on the chopping block. Not even children are immune. A funding cut to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) will send more of our children to school and bed hungry. That can't be an answer. It can be hard to see a way to reconcile the competing demands to cut spending, reduce our growing debt and invest in the programs our country needs. But there is one place to rein in excessive spending hiding in plain sight: the Pentagon. The current Pentagon budget is already at a staggering \$858 billion. Congress consistently piles on tens of billions on top of what the president requests in the name of national security. This is encouraged by the Pentagon's "unfunded priorities lists," where the military submits wish lists to Congress, asking for additional funding beyond what the president requested. Last year, those lists totaled \$24 billion. No other part of the federal budget gets the same opportunity to push for more funding. For 2024, President Biden requested the largest military budget in history — \$886 billion. But runaway war spending is not inevitable. It is a choice Congress makes every year. If Democrats and Republicans want to find common ground on reducing federal spending, they should start by cutting weapons systems, ships and equipment that don't work or that the Pentagon doesn't want or need. Moreover, we must invest in addressing the greatest threats we face — climate change, global disease, economic decline and violent extremism. The Pentagon budget should not be allowed to endlessly expand with few to no questions asked and scant pushback given. **Read the full opinion article by Bridget Moix (published by the *Anabaptist World*) [here](#).**

Elkhart County Mennonites unite to open faith-based immigrant legal aid center



After more than two years of preparation, La Posada Immigrant Aid (find their website [here](#)), a new faith-based immigrant legal aid center located in Sunnyside Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana, is open for business, largely due to the support and collaboration of several Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) affiliated churches, conferences, schools, organizations and individuals. Naun Cerrato, founder and co-pastor of Piedra Viva Mennonite Church — which also shares space with Sunnyside Mennonite Church — and an immigrant himself, noticed that Elkhart County, Indiana, had a need for low-cost immigrant legal services. Cerrato reached out to other Mennonite congregations in Elkhart County for support, and in 2020, the board for La Posada was formed, with Cerrato as the board chair. In February, La Posada received accreditation from the U.S. Department of Justice to act as legal representatives in immigration cases. The organization's reach is still limited for the time being, though, as they continue to search for an attorney, and office manager, to join the staff. **Read the rest of Kessica Griggs' article for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Book Review



Read a review by Rev. Cyneatha Millsaps, the Executive Director & Midwest Regional Representative of Mennonite Women USA, of the book *Punching the Air* by IBI Zoboi and Yusef Salaam [here](#). She describes it as "a hard read, but it is brilliant, fascinating, and worthwhile."

All Salt & Light Videos Now Have Closed Captions

All of MennoMedia's Salt & Light videos are now available with closed captions. Jump start online or in-person Bible study conversations this spring with introductory teaching videos that enrich MennoMedia's new Salt & Light curriculum series. These teaching videos can be used either for teacher prep or to introduce each weekly session. The videos are free and available online on MennoMedia's YouTube channel [here](#).

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Begins Reparations for Harmful Credentialing Interviews

Conference seeks accountability, repair through listening and response invitation.

The Ministry Credentialing Team (MCT) of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) has become aware that some credentialing interviews of the past have caused harm due to institutional tension and fear. Though the credentialing approach of MCT has moved toward one of collaboration and trust in congregational discernment, there is a desire within the team and the conference to create spaces to hear stories, extend an institutional apology, and offer grace and healing through a shared ritual. The first step in this journey is the release of this letter inviting those who have been negatively impacted to participate in listening process. "We hurt people, and MCT hopes to listen, learn, and (where possible) repair and restore what has been broken. It is our intent to open up a listening process to allow anyone who was negatively impacted to share with us in the format that feels most comfortable to them: written or in person, anonymous or named. We acknowledge that people who wish to share with us may not be the interviewee themselves, but their loved one, their mentor, or someone else affected by our unfair practices. We are committed to hearing these stories from those willing to share them." This is intended to be the first step on a road toward repair as an institution and marks an important point in the history of a conference seeking to live out our vision as a "Community of Congregations, Centered on Jesus... Acting through Grace, Love, and Peace..." For those wishing to submit a written account or to arrange for an in-person meeting with a member of the current MCT, please reach out by email at MCT@im.mennonite.net or by mail to Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, ATTN: MCT Listening Process, PO Box 702, Goshen, IN 46527. **Read this letter on the website of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference [here](#).**



Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

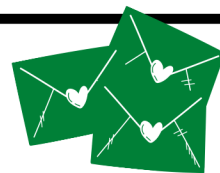
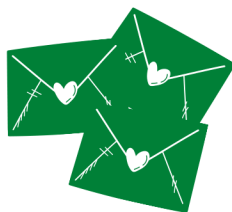
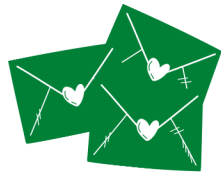
Items for the Midweek



Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

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

Commission Meeting Minutes

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

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.