

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Where Credit is Due* using the scripture Acts 13:1-3 & 14:8-18.

An unbelievable case of healing turns into a fascinating case in mistaken identity for Paul & Barnabas in Lystra. The story illustrates the power of expectations. What does it teach us about healing? What does it teach us about mission?



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



Safe Harbor Guest Speaker

This Sunday, April 29

The Over-60 class studying "Grace Will Lead Us Home," a book on homelessness, will have Sarah Idleman, Director of Safe Harbor, as our guest this Sunday, April 29. We invite all who are interested in hearing about their services to join us.

From Joe Culpepper

Meal and Sacred Listening



Next 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 (found below.) Everyone is encouraged to share their voice. You can learn more about the process and read the prompts [here](#).

The 6 prompts are:

1. Tell a story about a time when you were especially excited or grateful to be a part of your church.
2. The mission of Central District Conference is summarized as "Knowing Christ's love...Answering God's call." Share a story or two that you feel demonstrates God's love within your congregation.
3. We "support missional partnerships that make God's reign visible." How are you living out your congregation's vision in the community around you? Can you share a story that demonstrates this?
4. We want to "call and nurture wise, dynamic and compassionate Anabaptist leadership." How does your congregation nurture your gifts and the gifts of others?
5. We want to be communities in which "grace-filled relationships flourish." Can you share an experience when your congregation was blessed by its relationships with other CDC churches, or other communities such as camps or colleges?
6. Our Mennonite Church USA vision calls us to be communities of God's "healing and hope." As you envision your future as such a Spirit-led community, what would that look like in your context?

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

Open Office Schedule Changing



Beginning next week, the hours the office will be open to stop by during will make these changes:

1. The office will be **closed Tuesday mornings**.
2. The office will be **open Thursday** afternoons **from 1:30pm-3pm**. (The same time as other weekdays.)

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for your understanding!

From Lydia in the Church Office



Annual Evaluation of the Vision Team

Commission chairs, as well as chairs of the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team and Vision Team, and all members of the Pastoral Team, recently completed the annual evaluation of the Vision Team (VT). The evaluation results were compiled by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team. Among the affirmations for the VT were the following: good follow-through on plans; a well-balanced, high-functioning team; regular, dynamic communication with the congregation; active engagement by team members in church life; and valuable regular check-ins with commissions. Some areas were submitted as areas for potential improvement and growth including: continued refinement of the understanding of the VT's role/scope of practice; increased efforts to be consistently proactive vs. reactive; increased support to pastors and timely attention to human resource matters; and refinement of ways to support commission members' understanding of their respective commission's goals and tasks while equipping and empowering commissions to carry out their work. There were both affirmations for the VT's efforts to be transparent and communicate with the congregation as well as requests for the VT to provide other methods of communication including more verbal updates. All evaluation input has been shared with the Vision Team to help inform and shape their work going forward.

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



Thank You from the Administration Commission!

- Roger and John have agreed to continue mowing the church lawn. Thanks to both of you for your commitment!
- Bess, Robin, and Chad agreed to work with Kevin Chupp on our web page content. We appreciate their insight!
- April 26 is Administrative Professionals Day. Administration Commission is very thankful for Lydia Hedberg's quality work. She is a joy to work with. Please send your thanks to her also!

From the Administration Commission



Congrats Graduates!



Vision Team Update



Your Vision Team met on April 19. Following the meeting, Vision Team (VT) has the following items to share with the congregation:

1. We 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. We held a team retreat on Sunday April 16. The focus of this time together was to draw to a close the 1-year structure function evaluation and plan appropriate responses to the feedback received throughout the process. During the April 19 meeting, VT debriefed the retreat discussion and plans to share a final report and a plan of action in the coming weeks.
3. We heard updates from SGDT on the completed evaluation of the VT and periodic self-evaluations of the Commissions and Teams.
4. We shared updates from our quarterly individual "check-ins" with members of the Pastoral Team.
5. We discussed preliminary plans from Discipling Commission as it is working to review the topic of church membership.

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

Community Life Commission Update



The Community Life Commission (CLC) continues to meet monthly. We have been busy completing a new color Welcome Brochure. Be on the lookout! Topics of discussion are how best to shape a Women's Ministry and working towards meeting the 2023 goals as stated in MCN goal number 2 which is: By 2023, at least 85% of all participants will have gathered in fellowship in four different homes. CLC will be calling for volunteers for a task force within the next few weeks to plan for a fall MCN Comforter Blitz in cooperation with MCC. We are hoping for many volunteers.

- The Fellowship Committee has been hard at work planning monthly fellowship opportunities. They provided dessert for the Spring Family Fun Night. The Easter Breakfast was enjoyed by 58 individuals. We are working to establish event dates for the remainder of 2023.
- The Congregational Care Committee welcomed Gail Fischer as a new committee member.
- The Visitation Team has faithfully visited our homebound with new members added to the visitation list.
- We would love for anyone to share in the fun of planning events. If interested, please contact Deb Stenger or Mary Ann Watkins.

From the Community Life Commission



A special thank you to those who contributed to Family Fun Night!

The Discipling Commission and Christian Education Subcommittee would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who made our "All Things New" Spring Family Fun Night such a success! We had 55 people attend, which was just fantastic!

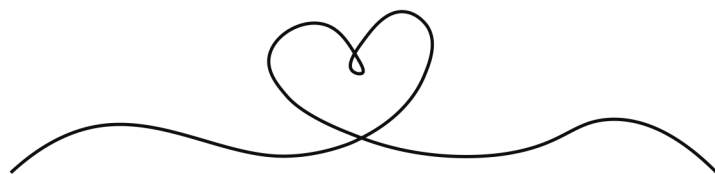
Thank you to Louise, Courtney, Marge, Shannon, Carrie, Holly, and Spring for providing dinner. We are especially grateful for the continued collaboration with the Community Life Commission and for Deb helping to organize desserts provided by Mary Ann, Pam and Meredith! And, to those who helped with set-up and clean-up including Marge, Diane, Carrie, Darvis, Beth, Alexandra, Shannon, and Spring.

A huge thank you to Shelly and Wesley for leading sing-along time with participation from all ages! And Rick for managing IT all evening! Thank you to Holly for sharing a beautiful Bible story. And, for those who created the fun and engaging activities...wow, the creativity and thoughtfulness were fantastic. Thank you to....

- Jane, Mark and Leah for putting together the "Bozo" Grand Prize Flowerpot Game and to Carrie for providing prizes
- Beth, Grant and Garrett for sharing their love of hatching butterflies with the New Life Butterfly Exhibit
- Holly for the Alleluia butterfly coloring activity in the library
- Gail & Nancy and Kristy & Phil for the lovely paper flower craft for our May Day Basket Service Project.
- David, Betty, and Marcia for an interactive Bees and Planting Seeds station that had the kids planting flower and vegetable seeds, helping build bee boxes and tasting honey and peanut butter sandwiches!
- Last but certainly not least, thank you to Rita for her support and help in setting up, filling in where needed and take down at the end of the night!

We look forward to seeing you at the next Family Fun Night this fall!

From the Discipling Commission and Christian Education Subcommittee





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Steve & Deb Stenger

West Greeter: Judy Hershberger

Welcome Table: Marcia Rossi

Ushers: Zehr family

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Holly Zehr

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Joe Culpepper

Scripture Reader: Sheila Kuria

Technology: Jaron & Clara

Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery – during worship: Connie Yoder

Infant Nursery – during CE: Ben Roeschley

Preschool Nursery: Alexandra

Gather Round: Spring Neely



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, April 26

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

Thursday, April 27

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Saturday, April 29

9:00am Worship Commission (Zoom)

Monday, May 1

1:00pm Community Life Commission

7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 2

2:00pm Pastoral Team

Wednesday, May 3

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

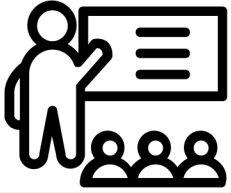
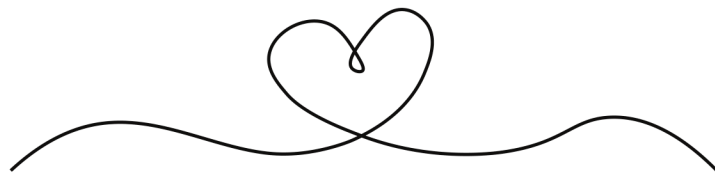
Prayer Requests and Announcements

Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please continue to send announcements to Lynette Miller person or livestreaming on YouTube.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

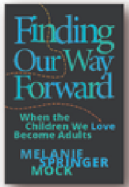


Presentation by Dr. Joan Brehm

Today, Wednesday, April 26, at First United Methodist Church, 211 N. School St.

Supper at 5:15pm: Choice of soups and sandwiches.

Program at 6 pm: "The Future of a Thirsty Society: Water, Power, Equity, and Access," presented by Dr. Joan Brehm, Chair of ISU Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, and co-founder and co-director of the interdisciplinary initiative Center for a Sustainable Future.



MennoMedia Book Event

Tomorrow, 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](#).

An Afternoon with Fanny Crosby



Tomorrow, Thursday, April 27. At 1 p.m. the United Methodist Church of Eureka

The United Methodist Church of Eureka (208 N Callender St) will host a free concert, "An Afternoon with Fanny Crosby," by Shawn Degenhart of Gospelfest Ministries of Washington. Crosby, born in 1820, wrote more than 8000 hymns and gospel songs before her death in 1915. Come prepared to sing along to many beloved hymns. For more information, call 309-467-3026.



Citizens Concert

This 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](#).

Earth Care Fair



This Sunday, April 30 at Second Presbyterian Church from 11am to 1pm

The Second Presbyterian Church on East St. in Bloomington will hold an Earth Care Fair on Sunday, April 30 from 11am-1pm. Sixteen local "nature partners" will be on hand to offer information on recycling, other sustainable practices, gardening for nature, bees, birdwatching, places to enjoy nature locally and where to volunteer. Lenore Sobota, who writes "Explore with Lenore" will be there to answer questions about nature and hiking. Wayne Hochstetler will be representing the John Wesley Powell (JWP) Audubon chapter.

There will be food for purchase from Green Top Grocery and Fusion Crunch. To save plastic, bring your own drink bottle! Bring a canned good for the Free Food Pantry. There will be activities for children. For more information, please call 309-838-0398. For a full list of the organizations participating, please click [here](#). You can view a flyer [here](#).



Queer Theology Sunday School: Reading From the Margins

Next Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 5:30pm CDT

In this event designed for LGBTQ+ folks and those who love them, we'll explore transgender readings of Scripture and how they can be a powerful blessing not just for transgender folks, but for non-trans folks as well. We're thrilled to be welcoming [Father Shannon TL Kearns](#) (he/him), of [queertheology.com](#) fame, as our guest teacher this time! We'll offer a longer Q&A this time, followed by breakout discussion groups, and close in prayer. One discussion group is always queer-only. [Register ahead of time](#) for the Zoom link!

May 1st BMC/SCN Gatherings in Elkhart, IN

JOIN BMC FOR A

COFFEE
HOUR

&

QUEER
BONFIRE

MAY 1, 2023
2-4 PM (DROP-IN)

MAY 1, 2023
7PM

Southside Fellowship
Chapel of the Sermon on
the Mount
3003 Benham Ave
Elkhart, IN 46517

Contact Debbie at (919) 264-3068 for
directions

Drop by for coffee or tea, connect
with BMC Director Annabeth
Roeschley and connect with
other LGBTQIA-affirming pastors
and members of the Supportive
Community Network.

Prairie Wolf Collective
1721 Prairie St
Elkhart, IN 46516

Join Annabeth and local BMCers
and for a May Day bonfire with our
queer and trans community. All
LGBTQIA+ folks are welcome! In case
of inclement weather, we'll gather
indoors at this location.

RSVP to
annabeth@bmclgbt.org for
more info for both events!



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.

Highlights from MC USA Executive Board Meeting

Delegates at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Kansas City, Mo., in July will consider a recommendation to adopt a triennial schedule for national delegate assemblies, which currently meet every two years. The MC USA Executive Board unanimously approved the recommendation at its meeting April 13-14 in Los Angeles. Leading factors in proposing a three-year cycle are “the pace of change and our capacity to effectively implement delegate decisions,” said Glen Guyton, the denomination’s executive director. Less frequent meetings could also save money. Guyton estimated holding two delegate assemblies rather than three in a six-year span would reduce the cost by 30%. Although the proposal only affects delegate assemblies, national conventions, which feature worship services and other events, likely would follow the same schedule, Guyton said. A triennial schedule has a precedent. The General Conference Mennonite Church, which merged with the Mennonite Church to create MC USA and Mennonite Church Canada in 2002, met every third year.

In another agenda item for Kansas City delegates, the Executive Board voted to recommend changing the status of Everence and Mennonite Health Services Association from denominational agencies to ministry partners. In the new relationship, MC USA would have less oversight over Everence and MHS Association. Everence is a financial services organization that relates to several denominations. MHS Association supports Mennonite and other Anabaptist health and human service providers.

Another action reveals the Executive Board’s role in events that led to the March resignation of Mike Sherrill, executive director of Mennonite Mission Network. By approving the minutes of their January meeting, the board made public an action taken after an executive session: “A vote of no confidence was given” on Sherrill, and the MC USA Executive Committee would “work in support of the MMN board to address the concerns discussed in the executive session.”

The board discussed a decision by the resolutions committee not to bring to delegates a resolution that reaffirms a 2015 statement on forbearing with each other amid disagreement. Moderator-elect Jon Carlson of Leola, Pa., said the resolution was proposed by a progressive congregation in Virginia that wanted to reassure traditionalists that they are welcome and respected even though delegates passed an LGBTQ-affirming resolution in 2022. Carlson said the resolutions committee did not feel the resolution moved the conversation forward in a meaningful way because it restated what a previous resolution already said. Board members did not dispute the resolution committee’s decision but discussed how they might change the perception that those who hold traditional views on LGBTQ issues are no longer welcome. Karen Zehr of Wichita, Kan., said reaffirming forbearance would be a good idea, but “maybe we don’t need another resolution to do it.” Carlson suggested, “If something like this needs to be said, maybe it is the Executive Board’s responsibility and not the resolutions committee.” Todd Lehman of Hesston, Kan., added that the underlying question was, “How can we as a church practice compassionate relationships with one another?” **Read all of Paul Schrag’s article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

April 2023 Courier / Avril 2023 Courier

Read the April 2023 edition of Mennonite World Conference's (MWC) monthly Newsletter [in English](#) and [en français](#).

Courier Correo Courier

April 2023
Volume 36, Number 2

Mennonite World Conference
A Community of Anabaptists
& Mennonite Churches

Congreso Mundial Mennonita
Una Comunidad de
Anabaptistas y
Iglesias Mennonitas

Conférence Mennonite Mondiale
Une Communauté
d'Anabaptistes
et d'Églises Mennonites

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Fraternité des
YABs
• Dimanche de
la Fraternité
Anabaptiste



In Memory of Ruth Wenger

The Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) remembers and honors Ruth Wenger, who passed away March 23, 2023. Our care and sympathies go to Ruth's wife, Judy Wilson, Germantown Mennonite Church, and all who love Ruth, as we grieve her loss and celebrate her life. Ruth was active with BMC in the 1980s and 90s, serving on the BMC board for many years. She played a special role in the memorial quilt project, moving the quilt along each year as it was sold again and again at BMC auctions. Days before Ruth died, she was still fostering sacred connections among our BMC family: Ruth and Judy sent a quilt with their pastor to a retreat of queer Mennonite leaders, so that we could envelop ourselves in our gay and lesbian ancestors. Ruth is remembered as one who was always full of life and holy mischief. This story (found [here](#)) from 2017 captures that spirit, especially her commitments to intersections of lgbtqia+ and racial justice, as a leader in her church and in her neighborhood. A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, May 6th at 3:30pm ET at Germantown Mennonite Church, 21 W Washington Ln., Philadelphia, PA 19144. A meal will follow downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. If you cannot attend the Celebration in person, it will be livestreamed on Zoom at this link [here](#). --Annabeth Roeschley, Executive Director

Pacifism and nonviolence should be a way of life

Below is an excerpt from Mennonite World Conference (MWC) general secretary César García's article about pacifism. Reprinted by MWC with permission from Konferenz der Mennoniten Der Schweiz/Conference Mennonite Suisse.

Mennonites are sometimes accused of irresponsibility, even by other churches. In the face of a war, is it appropriate to continue to adhere to pacifism and nonviolence?

This question arises in any violent conflict, and it is easier to think about it when one is not directly involved. I think with pacifism, it's important that we stay completely with ourselves. We cannot demand a pacifist attitude from others, but only from ourselves. We can always ask ourselves: what do I do when I am under violent attack? Of course, the answer is difficult if I have never been in such a situation, and maybe I would react with violence. That is all too human. Nevertheless, I can hold on to the idea that for me, basically, the nonviolent way is the right way. **Read more [here](#).**

Depuis le début de la guerre, ceux qui s'engagent pour le pacifisme et la non-violence doivent soudain se justifier. Pour les mennonites, en tant qu'Église historique de paix, c'est une situation difficile. Face à une guerre comme celle qui se déroule en Ukraine, est-il opportun de continuer à s'accrocher au pacifisme et à la non-violence?

Cette question se pose dans tout conflit violent et il est plus facile d'y réfléchir quand on n'est pas directement concerné. Je pense qu'en matière de pacifisme, il est important que nous restions entièrement nous-mêmes. Nous ne pouvons pas exiger une attitude pacifiste des autres, mais seulement de nous-mêmes. Nous pouvons toujours nous demander: qu'est-ce que je fais si je suis violemment agressé? Bien sûr, la réponse est difficile à donner si je n'ai jamais été dans cette situation, et peut-être que je réagis par la violence. Ce n'est que trop humain. Néanmoins, je peux m'en tenir à l'idée que, pour moi, la voie non-violente est fondamentalement la bonne. **[Lire la suite](#).**

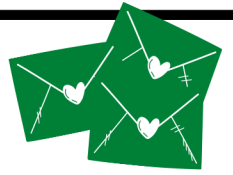
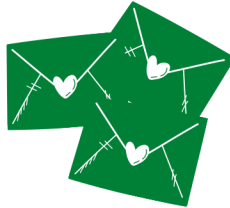
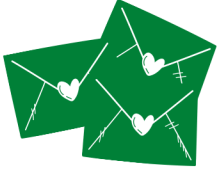
MC USA announces MennoCon23 worship speakers

The MennoCon23 worship planning committee has released the names of the worship speakers for the July 3-6 Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) denominational convention, which will take place at the Kansas City (Missouri) Convention Center. The convention's overall theme is "#BeTransformed," which is inspired by Isaiah 43:19-21 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Worship speakers include Nelson Okanya, Brian Moll, Iris de León-Hartshorn, Dianne Garcia and Jon Carlson. Each speaker will provide the main message for one morning or evening session and will focus on the event's worship theme, "Transformed by the Spirit," by exploring the many ways transformation may occur. Learn more about the speakers and what #BeTransformed means to them [here](#).



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 & Wednesday-Friday 9AM-11AM and Monday-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

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!

Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Commissions and Teams Contact List

[Commissions and Teams Contact List](#)

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.