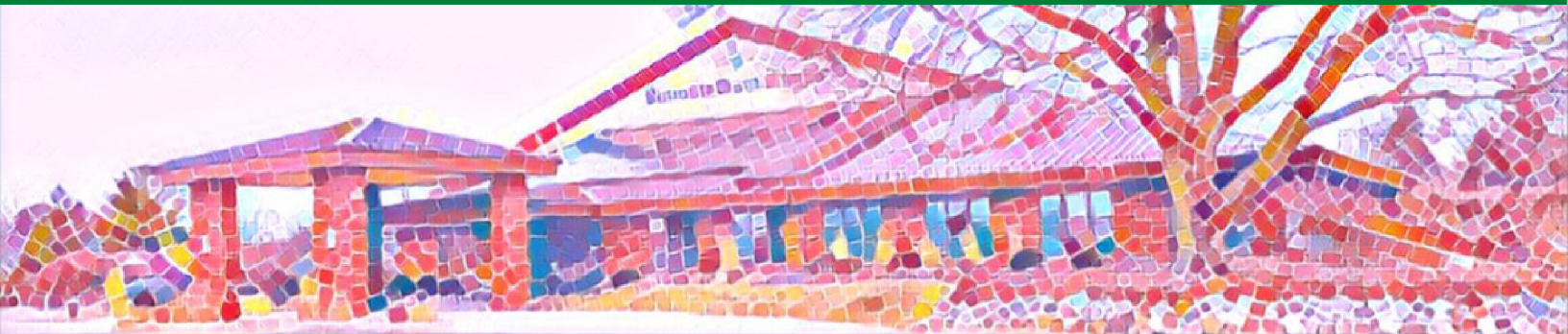


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Perenniality* using the scripture Matthew 28:1-10.

The women who first heard the news of the resurrection went away with "fear and great joy," which is the perfect response! As we hear this story again, what unsettles us? What motivates us to praise?



After Worship

There will be no
Christian Education
this Sunday.

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).



Mennonite
Church
of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Holy Week Schedule

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

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

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

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

Maundy Thursday Service



Thursday, April 6th at 6pm

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

Planned by worship planners & worship commission



MCN Easter Sunday Breakfast



Sunday, April 9 serving from 8am to 9am in the church atrium

Menu- breakfast casseroles, rolls, juice, and coffee

Please join us to share in the joy of Easter morning.

The Fellowship committee is asking for your help. Please **sign up to attend by Friday, April 7**. This will assist with planning. The Committee also requests volunteers to prepare and bring breakfast casseroles and homemade rolls or assist with setup/cleanup. Please sign-up [here](#).

From the Fellowship Committee

Holy Saturday Contemplative Service of Lament

April 8 at 2pm CDT on Zoom

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

Shared by the Outreach Commission

No CE This Sunday

There will be no Adult or Children's Christian Education this Sunday, April 9th.



Meeting for parents of 6th-12th graders

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



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

No Choir Rehearsals This Sunday



There will be no choir rehearsals this Sunday, April 9th. The Junior and Youth Choirs will resume the following week.



An Easter Gift to MCN

Please notice the new Lenten wall hanging behind the pulpit. The pieced Log Cabin cross was created by Jenell Ulrich and Vivian Hubbard. We give thanks to Jenell and her amazing quilting expertise. We will enjoy the gift for many years to come.

Worship Notes



Your Worship Commission met last Sat. to review upcoming plans for Holy Week & Easter. We touched base about the Children's Time rug, recent live stream experience, & a slightly changed & more efficient process for serving communion on Easter. Most of our time we discussed length of worship on Sundays when extra elements are added, prompted by our service on March 19 when worship lasted one hour and fifty minutes! It included the relief sale report, infant dedication, two anthems, a special piano offering, & a guest preacher for both the sermon & Children's Time. We discussed several options, but we decided that the key is for Worship Planners to pay attention when extra elements are added & streamline the worship in other areas (e.g. reduce the number of hymns when anthems are being sung, abbreviate or eliminate other elements of the service). Full notes on our discussion are in our Minutes posted [here](#). Your comments & suggestions are always welcome. We look forward to meaningful Holy Week & Easter worship together!

From the Worship 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 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

Update from Paradise, CA

Wayne and Lois Hochstetler shared photos from Paradise, CA where they are currently helping rebuild with Mennonite Disaster Service. Several photos are included below. To view more, click [here](#).

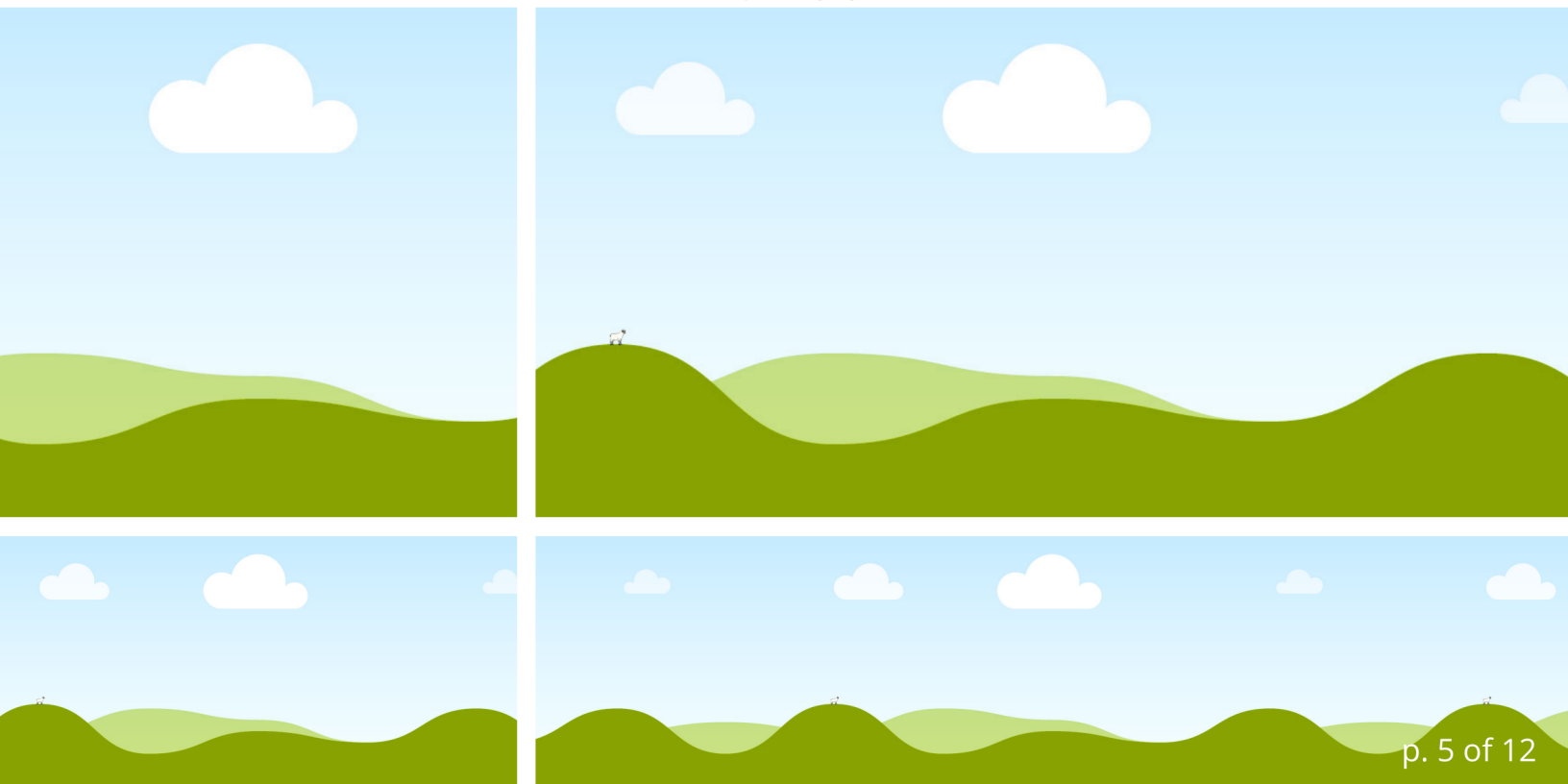
A note from Wayne and Lois:

We are in Paradise now for close to two weeks, and things are going well. During this time it has rained many more days than it has not. That makes working outside almost impossible; plus the mud here is the stickiest red clay we have encountered for a long time. So, all shoes come off before walking into our lodgings. The upside is that this is the greenest we have seen Paradise, and flowers are in abundance. This is a truly beautiful place, and new growth is hiding many of the fire scars.

We have some wonderful long-term volunteers (cooks, construction supervisor, crew leaders) these past two weeks. On top of that, the weekly volunteers have been energetic, enthusiastic, and eager to work. There has been a great team spirit. However, beginning this coming Saturday, April 1, almost everyone will leave, including our cooks. We will be left with only the two of us, plus the construction supervisor and one new person, so the next two weeks we are down to 4 people. However, that is not altogether a bad thing.

The project here is winding down, and by this weekend we have only three houses to finish. That means there is not a lot of work for many volunteers, but we really could use some skilled finish carpenters. Anyone interested? Pray for people to work with us, and for more dry weather. I will try to send some photos from last week.

You'll recognize at least one person (Lois) in these photos. Some are at coffee time which we take to the workers on site. One is the group photo from last week.

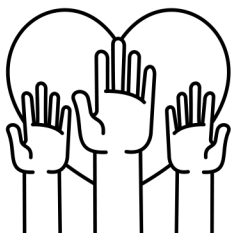
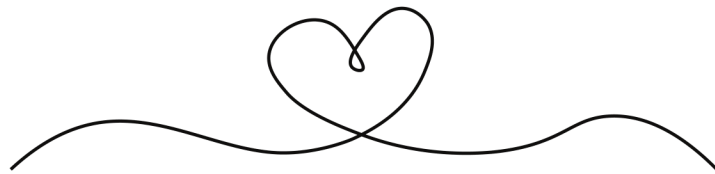




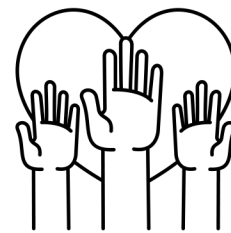
Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be **closed the afternoon of Friday, April 7th and Monday, April 10th**. Thank you for your understanding!

From the Office



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Larry & Louise Reeser

West Greeter: Gail Fisher

Welcome Table: Paul Watkins

Ushers: Nancy Fisher & Mark Roeschley

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner: Cindy Ropp & Jessica Hall

Worship Leader: Jessica Hall

Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp

Children's Story: Jessica Hall & Holly Zehr

Scripture Reader: Ron Ropp

Communion Leader: Steve Benner

Technology: Adam Augspurger & Ryan Miller

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Dorothy Loepf

Infant Nursery – during worship: Shannon Unzicker

Infant Nursery – during CE: No CE

Preschool Nursery: Beth Reeser

Gather Round: No CE



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, April 5

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

Thursday, April 6

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service

7:30pm Vision Team (Hybrid)

Sunday, April 9

8:00am Easter Breakfast (Sign-up [here!](#))

Wednesday, April 12

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Prayer Requests and Announcements

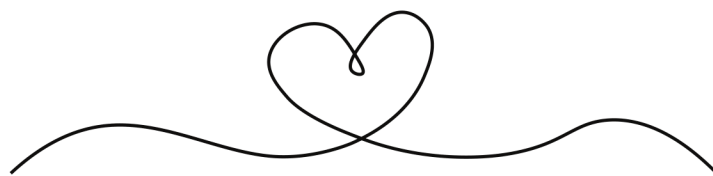
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please continue to send announcements to Lynette Miller so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This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



AW call for submissions: Holy Spirit/Pentecost

Deadline: April 26.

Length: 600 to 1,200 words.

Anabaptist World is calling for submissions about the Holy Spirit/Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit descended on the believers at Pentecost, they saw flames of fire over each other's heads, and they spoke in different languages. What does an outpouring of the Holy Spirit look like today for an individual or a community? Submissions of photos or art that symbolize the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are encouraged. Submissions will be considered for the May 26 issue. Send to editor@anabaptistworld.org. **Read the full Anabaptist World article [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.



CDC April Connector

Read the April 2023 edition of Central District Conference Newsletter *Connector* [here](#). It contains stories and updates from congregations around the conference, including: an update on the Mid-Year Gatherings, an overview of Mennonite Arts Weekend, sharing from St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship, and the accessibility process at Milwaukee Mennonite and Southside Fellowship. Paper copies will be available in the church mailboxes in the next week or two.

"Finding my seat at the Mennonite table"

Read Kiron Mateti's reflection on his attendance at MC USA's Hope for the Future Conference [here](#). Mateti is a Mosaic Mennonite Conference board member and attends the Plains Mennonite Church in Hatfield, Pennsylvania with his wife, Rachel, and three kids. You can read the beginning of Mateti's reflection below:

I didn't grow up Mennonite, or even Christian for that matter. My introduction to the Mennonites came from meeting a woman named Rachel while in campus ministry at Penn State in 2006. I had just come to Christ months earlier, after my older brother had passed away in a car accident. My mother, who had converted from being a devout Hindu to a "born again" Christian a decade prior, had a large influence on me, but I wanted my own faith, so started reading the Bible. In Matthew, I began to see contradictions between what Jesus said and what I saw in the church. So far, my take was that Christians were conservative, nationalistic, pro-gun and seemed to only care about internal piety, versus systemic social justice issues. Rachel was different: She had traveled internationally, cooked huge meals of rice and lentils from the More-with-Less cookbook, lived in community, had wall hangings, played Dutch Blitz, and she pronounced Pakistan correctly. As an Indian-American, that last point impressed me and showed a desire to learn about other languages and cultures, instead of having an America-first mentality. The Mennonites showed me a different Christian expression that I could sign up for. I would later marry Rachel, and I use her last name, Zimmerman, to play the "Mennonite game."

3 Canadian MB churches expelled, another suspended for LGBTQ stance



Three Canadian Mennonite Brethren congregations have been removed from that denomination due to their stance on LGBTQ inclusion and same-sex marriage. On March 4, delegates to the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba annual convention voted to remove Jubilee Mennonite Church in Winnipeg from membership. On Feb. 25, Southridge Community Church and FreeChurch Toronto were removed from membership in the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. That brings to four the number of congregations that have been removed or left the denomination over LGBTQ welcome and inclusion. Artisan, a church in Vancouver, left the British Columbia conference in 2021 before a vote could be taken to remove it. Termination of membership in a provincial conference automatically results in loss of membership in the Canadian conference. In addition to those churches, in February, River East Church in Winnipeg received a notice of suspension from membership. Unless the church reverses its decision to welcome and include LGBTQ people and affirm same-sex marriage, it will lead to removal as well. **Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by John Longhurst [here](#).**



National Healthcare Decisions Day

Below is information shared by Carle BroMenn Medical Center that is useful for all of us National Healthcare Decisions Day encourages patients to express their wishes regarding health care - and reminds providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be. At Carle, we will celebrate by offering ways for the community to learn about and complete Power of Attorney Healthcare forms (POAHC). The POAHC is essential because once completed it ensures a person's wishes are written, understood, and shared with those who need to know. It helps you identify what should be done in the event you are unable to make decisions for yourself, and name who serves as your voice in that event. This planning is for *all* adults - not only the elderly or terminally ill - and it doesn't have to be scary. In celebration of National Healthcare Decisions Day, Carle will have tables set up for you to drop by at several locations to get more information or fill out forms during the week of April 17-20, 2023.

- 11am to 1pm Monday, April 17 - Carle BroMenn Atrium Walkway, 1304 Franklin Ave
- 9 to 11am Wednesday, April 19 - Carle BroMenn Atrium Walkway
- 9 to 11am Wednesday, April 19 - Eureka Hospital entrance, 101 S Major St.
- 9 to 11am Wednesday, April 19 - Carle Cancer Institute Normal, 407 E Vernon Ave
- You can also stop by Carle BroMenn at any time, ask for the on-cal chaplain and someone will help you through the process.
- At the Carle Cancer Institute ask for Social Worker Candi Gray or Rev. Christine McNeal during regular business hours Monday-Thursday.



Atlanta needs a forest, not 'Cop City'

One sunny afternoon on a busy downtown corner, about 40 people walk single-file down the sidewalk. One lifts a megaphone and begins a chant. “Protect Weelaunee, the lungs of Atlanta. Defend the Forest!” The sound bounces off the skyscrapers. At each intersection, heavily armed police meet the marchers. Three blocks later, a large police presence more than doubles the march’s size. This was the scene during a week of action in early March to protest the proposed construction of “Cop City,” a project to tear down hundreds of acres of public forest in Atlanta and build a shooting range and mock urban block. It would become the largest police training facility in the United States. Corporations like Coca-Cola, Wells Fargo and Home Depot have funneled \$60 million to the project through tax-deductible donations to the Atlanta Police Foundation. A coalition of environmental groups, neighborhood associations, schools and racial justice organizations has worked for two years against this unholy alliance of policing and corporate interests. Facing community opposition, Atlanta’s political leaders have responded with repression and police violence. Forty-two people face domestic terrorism charges on weak grounds. On Jan. 18, Georgia State Patrol officers fatally shot Indigenous activist Manuel “Tortuguita” Esteban Paez Terán, whose hands were up while the officers fired 14 times. Anton Flores-Maisonet, a member of Atlanta Mennonite Church’s interim pastoral team, told a group of clergy: “I’m hearing too many Christians focused solely on the reactionary acts of protesters. However, our prophetic cry should denounce structural violence, including repressive policing, equating protest with domestic terrorism and using indefinite detention to suppress dissent and appease corporate interests. That’s what all concerned clergy should reject. I am thankful this faith-rooted coalition of experimenters with truth and nonviolence exists. Keep being creative in unmasking structural and repressive state violence.” Jay Bergen, a pastor at Germantown Mennonite Church in Philadelphia, said in a sermon: “Much of the week of action to #StopCopCity resembled Mennonite Disaster Service: You chop vegetables and wash dishes. You help rebuild tents and pavilions destroyed by police. You shovel dirt and take care of trees. You pick up trash. You sort donations and drive them to nearby community members in need. You hang out, make small talk and drink endless cups of bad coffee.” Over 20 Anabaptist faith leaders joined their voices with 300 clergy signing on to a letter stating: “We declare with faith, commitment and hope that this land will be a part of healing, repair and the flourishing of all people in the greater Atlanta community and beyond. . . . We will not succumb to evil or systems or policies that bring harm and destruction. We will continue our work with justice and love until the day we can all live in peace as God’s children.” **Read the full *Anabaptist World* article by Jay Bergen, Anton Flores-Maisonet, and Sarah Nahar [here](#).**

Colorectal Cancer Awareness

Carle Faith Community Nursing Network is spreading awareness about colorectal cancer (CRC). One in 24 people will be diagnosed with CRC in their lifetime, making it the second deadliest cancer in the United States. But you can make a difference today. Find more information from the Carle [here](#).



Risk Factors & Symptoms

Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives

Risk Factors

Getting screened for colorectal cancer starting at age 45 can save your life. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the U.S. among cancers that affect both men and women. But it doesn't have to be. Routine screening for colorectal cancer beginning at age 45 can save lives! Screening finds abnormal growths so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.

You may be at increased risk if:

- ▶ You or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer.
- ▶ You have inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, or ulcerative colitis.
- ▶ You have a genetic syndrome such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome).

People at increased risk for colorectal cancer may need earlier or more frequent tests than other people. If you think you may be at increased risk, talk to your health care provider about the routine screening tests that are right for you.

What Are the Symptoms of Colorectal Cancer?

Someone could have colorectal cancer and not know it. People do not always have symptoms especially at first (or in early stages).

If there are symptoms, they may include:

- ▶ Changes in your bowel habits.
- ▶ Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement).
- ▶ Abdominal pain, aches, or cramps that don't go away.
- ▶ Unexplained weight loss.

Contact your health care provider if you notice any of these symptoms.



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury
Prevention and Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/>
Call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
For TTY, call 1-888-232-6348



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 & 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!

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.

Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Directory
