

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Lynette Miller will preach a sermon titled *Abounding Grace* using the scripture Romans 6:1-14.

Paul uses "baptism into death" and "being raised into newness of life" to describe a change in identification to a new state of being. What does that mean exactly? What tools/practices can assist us to participate more fully in that new identity?



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



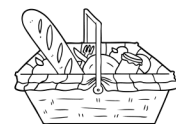
CE Guest Speaker

This Sunday, May 21 during the CE hour

The Over 60 class studying *Grace Will Lead You Home*, a book about homelessness, will have the Program Manager of Youth Services at Project OZ, as guest speaker on Sunday, May 21. We invite all who wish to hear her to join us.

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

JMYF Event



Calling all JMYFers! Beth and Andy Reeser have offered to coordinate lunch and games at the church for the junior youth! We will gather to eat together. Weather permitting, we hope to have lunch outdoors, followed by lawn games (we will adapt to indoor activities if we need to). Youth can be picked up at the church. If you are in 6th, 7th. or 8th grade please join us for some fun and fellowship! Any questions can be directed to Shelly and Darvis King.



Study Group

Monday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. High Classroom

What does it mean to describe Mennonite Church of Normal as an Anabaptist Mennonite congregation? How has Anabaptist history shaped the Mennonite church? How are Mennonites similar and distinctive from other Christian denominations? How is Mennonite Church of Normal organized structurally and how do people participate in it? The Discipleship Commission is offering a four to six-session group, with Wayne Hochstetler facilitating, to examine these and other questions. This class will begin Monday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. and future sessions will be decided by mutual consent. If you would be interested, please let Wayne know of your willingness to participate.

From the Discipling Commission

JMYF Event



May 27th at 6pm

Holly and Randy Zehr are inviting all high schoolers to an end of the year gathering at their home. There will be a BBQ (with meatless options) and time for lawn games if weather permits. Please RSVP to Holly so she can plan accordingly.

Tuesday, June 6th from 6-8pm

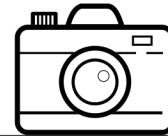
Deadline to register: Tuesday, May 30th

For those of you who like to plan ahead for next months outreach opportunity, we are back at Midwest Food Bank on June 6th from 6-8pm. The earlier you sign up, the easier it is for MFB to plan our projects for us, and they'd like us to have our final list volunteers by May 30th. You can sign up [here](#).

From the Outreach Commission



Sharing Our Gifts



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

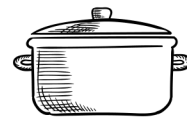


Community Life Commission Needs Your Input

The Community Life Commission (CLC) is responsible for efforts that strengthen our relationships within the Congregation. A missing component for Mennonite Church of Normal is the group previously known as Mennonite Women. This group last met in late 2021. The interruption was due to covid and MCN going through our transitional phase. The Community life Commission would now like to ask the women attending MCN what it is they are seeking from a group such as Mennonite Women. A survey will be placed in all church mailboxes and also found [here](#). Please complete the short survey form so the CLC may consider next steps to establishing this worthwhile mission for the women attending MCN. **Survey forms may be returned to the church office by May 31.** Thank you!

From the Community Life Commission

Meal Train



Christian Education: Summer Sunday School

Christian Education: Summer Sunday School for Current Pre-K thru 3rd graders

The Discipling Commission and the Christian Education Subcommittee have been busy planning summer Sunday School. Current Pre-K thru 3rd graders can look forward to learning more about sharing gifts as 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us! The teaching format will require volunteers to share their gifts with the children and help foster meaningful conversation about blessing others through their own unique talents.

“Sharing Our Gifts: Theatre, Music & Art” will begin with Theatre in June and will be led by Janet Wilson, Shelly King and Joe Culpepper.

Looking ahead...

- July will showcase musical talent within our congregation and allow the kids to learn more about different instruments!
- August will focus on art with an event on August 5th where we will decorate the classroom doors together! And there will be an Ice Cream Social & Back to School Bash on August 19th.

Interested in helping?

- We are still looking for two volunteers for June to serve as facilitators and support Janet, Shelly and Joe. Essentially, these individuals would serve as helpers and ensure the kids are behaving/listening, and to provide help and assistance as needed
- Other volunteer opportunities are still available in July and August too!
- If you are interested in helping, please contact Spring Neely.

Summer Sunday School for Current 4th-7th Graders

We are excited to announce that Laura Dick will be teaching current 4th graders through 7th graders using Menno Media’s “Passport to Peace” VBS curriculum.

Summer Sunday School for Current 8th Graders & High School Students

Kevin Chupp and Steve Stenger will be leading this class. The class will be watching and discussing “The Chosen”, a TV series that is based on the life and ministry of Jesus, as seen through the eyes of the people he encountered.

Important Dates to Remember

The first Sunday of the summer quarter begins on June 4th and runs through August 20th. And, the fall quarter will then begin August 27th. There will be no classes on August 13th since church will be held at Menno Haven.

From the Discipling Commission

1

Vision Team Update 1

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 discussed follow up items and a plan of action from our team retreat, which took place on April 16th.
3. We continued to discuss the preliminary plans from Discipling Commission as it is working to review the topic of church membership.
4. We discussed the results of the annual evaluation of the Vision Team and began developing action items.

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

From the Vision Team

Vision Team Update 2

2

Over the past few weeks, the Vision Team has been working on an approach for the present and the future of the Pastoral Team that we think will meet the needs of both the congregation and the members of the Pastoral Team.

Here is the approach of how this Pastoral Team has been called and what the future process of calling pastors will be.

- Kevin Chupp will continue to serve as the long-term pastor on the Pastoral Team.
- All the other members of the Pastoral Team who are currently serving (Lauren Satchwell, Lynette Miller, and Ron Ropp) will continue to serve as interim pastors at this time.
- If any of the interim pastors wish to become a member of the permanent Pastoral Team, they will need to apply for these positions as they become available. They will go through the hiring process with the Pastoral Team Search Committee, as have other candidates did last year.
- If any of the interim pastors choose to not apply for permanent status on the Pastoral Team, they will eventually be replaced with pastors who apply and are hired on a permanent basis.

The Vision Team sees the fruit growing from the ministries in which each member of the Pastoral Team is engaged. We strongly affirm each of them and would like to see them each continue this good work! As always, if you any questions, please feel free to reach out any member of the Vision Team (Barry Weaver, Shelly King, Ben Roeschley, or Shannon Neely).

From the Vision Team

The Outreach Commission is planning to offer monthly opportunities to show up for our wider community. This month, our focus is Home Sweet Home Ministries. We know some of you are already involved in serving there, but for those of you who are interested you can read more about the volunteer opportunities and fill out a volunteer application [here](#). After completing a short training, you will be able to sign up for things like dishwashing, food prep and serving, custodial work, welcoming, etc. Join us as we partner with those who are already actively serving our community!

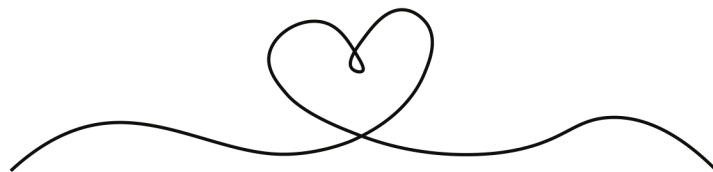
From the Outreach Commission



May Month of Prayer

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) invites the congregation to a month of prayer in May to support the work of the Worship Commission (WC). Members of the WC are Steve Benner, Joe Culpepper, Annette Harnish, and Kevin Chupp (pastoral team representative). The WC's responsibilities include gathered worship planning and leading, spiritual disciplines, spirituality, spiritual direction, music, drama, and arts. They have and will continue to do very important work for the church. Throughout the month of May we will share more specific ways you can hold them in your prayers. You are also invited to share with the Worship Commission your affirmations, support, and anything else God may bring to your heart. You can do this by emailing the SGDT. Thank you for supporting the Worship Commission in this way!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Rick & Annette Harnish

West Greeter: Mark Roeschley

Welcome Table: David Voegtlin

Ushers: Vivian & Cal Hubbard

Offering Counter: Kristen Satchwell Hartwig

Worship Planner: Kevin Chupp

Worship Leader: Lynn Reha

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story: Gail Fisher

Scripture Reader: Lois Hochstetler

Technology: Adam Augspurger & Caleb Augspurger

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment: Elsa Raab

Prelude, & Postlude: Adam Augspurger & Caleb Augspurger

Infant Nursery – during worship: Nancy Fisher

Infant Nursery – during CE: Courtney Yoder

Preschool Nursery: Stephanie Nester

Gather Round: Holly & Randy Zehr



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, May 17

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

7:00pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Thursday, May 18

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

Monday, May 22

6:30pm Study Group

Wednesday, May 24

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

5:30pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



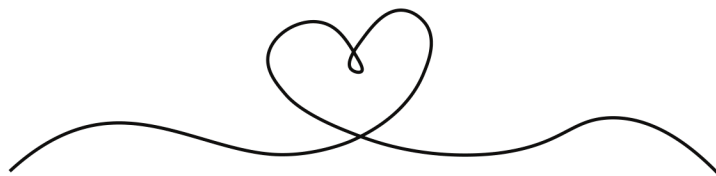
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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.





Tuesday, May 23 at 1:30 pm CDT

Join the MHS Association (a group dedicated to helping organizations achieve their best outcomes while staying true to their Anabaptist roots) for a webinar titled "Every Part of Us: Reconciliation, Our Work" next Tuesday, May 23. Hear from panelists how their behavior is shaped by believing reconciliation is the center of their work and how this is demonstrated in their organization's operations, culture, mission and values. Register and find more information [here](#).



Webinar: Confessing Faith to Each Other

Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 pm CDT

Join Anabaptist History Today for a webinar titled "Confessing Faith to Each Other." The webinar will feature Sara Wenger Shenk, the author of *Tongue-Tied: Learning the Lost Art of Talking About Faith*. In this webinar you will encounter history through artifacts, learn with expert presenters, and discuss with each other. Register and find more information [here](#).

Webinar: Racial Justice/Queer Justice

Wednesday, May 24th from 6:00-7:30pm CDT

"Racial Justice/Queer Justice: Fractures and Intersections in the Mennonite Church"

Join the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) and Raleigh Mennonite Church for a panel on Queer Justice and Racial Justice in the church. For the last decade we've seen queerness and race pitted against one another in many parts of our denominations. So we're going to talk about it with leaders who live at various intersections of race, sexuality, and gender. We hope this will open up space for complex conversations in our church and help faith communities build practices oriented around collective liberation. Details and registration can be found [here](#).

Racial Justice/Queer Justice: Fractures and Intersections in the Mennonite Church

MAY 24, 2023 AT 7:00 ET (WEBINAR)



SHANA CHIVON GREEN
Community Activist and Pastor



JOANNE GALLARDO
Conference Minister (Indiana
Michigan Mennonite
Conference)



JERRELL WILLIAMS
Pastor, Salem Mennonite
Church (Oregon)



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Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.



ANNABETH
ROSCHLEY
Moderator

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

McLean County Moms Demand Action

Saturday, June 3rd 10am-1pm at the Western Avenue Community Center

McLean County Moms Demand Action



NATION GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

SAVE THE DATE!

WHAT? Wear Orange Event

WHERE? Western Avenue Community Center

WHEN? Saturday, June 3rd 10am-1pm

WHO? Our Community

This is a family friendly event with entertainment, arts, crafts, games, remembrance walk and refreshments.

So far in 2023, the United States has already experienced over 100 mass shootings; there have been nearly 8,000 gun related deaths - a number that includes deaths by suicides, homicide, defensive and unintentional shootings. We cannot live like this. We cannot let our friends, family and neighbors die like this. We must do more to protect our communities and put an end to this public health crisis. Join us and add your voice!

Questions? Contact Donna at mcmomsvolunteering@gmail.com

Sermon Recording: "Church, Do you want to be well?"

[Eden Mennonite Church](#) in Moundridge, Kansas, invited Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Glen Guyton to share a sermon on Peace Sunday, March 19. MC USA shared it in the hope we will be blessed by Glen's powerful message, in which he asks, "Church, Do you want to be well?" View it [here](#) or below.



The Immigration Project Is On the Move!

The Immigration Project (TIP) has some exciting news - a new location! Over the years, The Immigration Project has grown its team and services to better serve the immigrant community in Southern and Central Illinois. As a result, their headquarters in Normal, IL has been bursting at the seams! Starting Monday April 24th, their new headquarter's address will be 211 Landmark Drive, Suite D4, Normal, IL. Stay tuned for more news on the big move, and the reveal of their brand new office!

With over three times the square footage, there will be new and upgraded features including confidential client meeting rooms providing clients with a safe space to express their needs. Additionally, the Welcoming Center that has been operating out of The Immigration Project office in Normal since 2021 will be getting its own designated space within the new office! Other improvements that come with this relocation will include an increase in offices, staff capacity, and event capacity. In the past, TIP has had to borrow space from other organizations or rent spaces for events. However, with more space TIP will be able to host more of their events in their new office! The Community Navigator team can't wait to start presenting from the new classroom! Learn more about The Immigration Project [here](#).

Learn. Act. Pledge: Demilitarize the Skies



Around the globe, there's war in the air. And it's killing our planet.

As the global climate crisis comes into focus, world governments will convene events such as the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai this year, once again skirting around a glaring major contributor to the warming of the planet: the world's military.

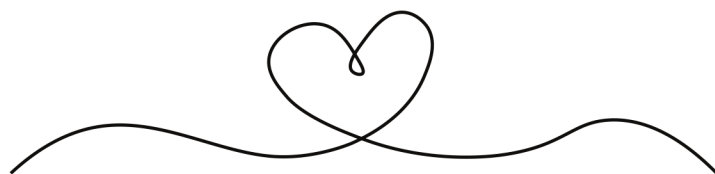
This killing machine has one of the largest carbon footprints on earth and is a major contributor to greenhouse gasses. Estimating the World's Military Greenhouse Gas Emissions finds that "If the world's militaries were a country, it would have the fourth highest carbon footprint," larger than all of Russia and exceeded only by the countries of China, the United States, and India.

Global military activities such as the use of aircraft, tanks, heavy machinery and diesel power generators produce significant amounts of air pollution. Improper storage and disposal of hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, and chemicals contribute to air pollution and can contaminate the soil and groundwater and release harmful chemicals into the air.

The highest contributor to this planet-killing monstrosity is the US Military. In a recent article, Professors from Durham and Lancaster Universities state : "recent work...shows that the US military is one of the largest polluters in history, consuming more liquid fuels and emitting more climate-changing gases than most medium-sized countries. If the US military were a country, its fuel usage alone would make it the 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, sitting between Peru and Portugal."

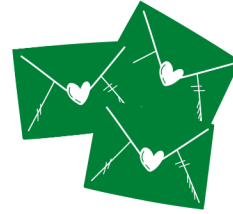
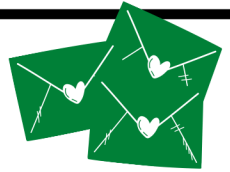
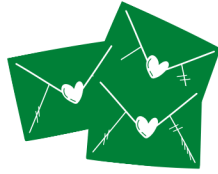
In every place that Community Peacemaker Teams work—Colombia, Iraqi Kurdistan, Palestine, Turtle Island, Lesvos, the US/Mexico borderlands and elsewhere—the effects militaries have on the air and environment is a prime issue.

Taking action to end military exploitation of the planet is a critical step towards curbing the climate crisis and promoting a more sustainable and peaceful world. Learn, act and pledge to support demilitarization of the earth's air today. We cannot tackle the climate crisis without reducing global militarization. Will you pledge to honor the air and declare your solidarity with those fighting for climate justice? Sign the pledge and learn more [here](#). Learn more and support Community Peacemaker Team's work [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. Closed: Tuesday Mornings
<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 ; 574-315-2579
<u>Lynette Miller:</u>	Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions; lynette.miller.k@gmail.com ; 309-261-7485; 309-963-4495
<u>Ron Ropp:</u>	Pastor for Pastoral Care; 309-452-8534
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions; satchwell.lauren@gmail.com ; 309-830-6827

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.