

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Work Clothes & Overtime* using the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a.

Paul's famous "love chapter" in 1 Corinthians 13 lists characteristics of love beginning with the word, "patient." We imagine things like waiting calmly in line, or refusing to use an offensive gesture at the person who is tailing you on the highway. But Paul wrote this letter to define love to a church with a lot of problems. What kind of love-fueled patience might Paul be promoting here?



The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).
The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

After Worship

Adult CE

Journey Groups:

Group A (20's-30's)
Sanctuary

Group B (40's-50's)
Sanctuary

Group C (60's and above)
Sanctuary

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-3rd Grade

4th-7th Grade

8th Grade & High School



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Community Life Commission Needs Your Input

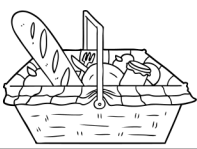
The Community Life Commission (CLC) is responsible for efforts that strengthen our relationships within the Congregation. A missing component for Mennonite Church of Normal is the group previously known as Mennonite Women. This group last met in late 2021. The interruption was due to covid and MCN going 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 or submitted online by TODAY May 31.** Thank you!

From the Community Life Commission

Journey Groups

Starting this Sunday, all three Journey Groups to gather in the sanctuary during the CE hour on June 4, 11 and 18. People will be encouraged to share what they have learned from the three books we've read and discussed this past year. This will be an informal time of listening and learning from each other. (Gatherings will begin 15 minutes after worship ends.)

- June 4: *Invited* (hospitality).
- June 11: *Grace Will Lead us Home* (housing insecurity).
- June 18: *What is the Bible*.



SMAP Picnic

Sunday, June 18th at 4:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE! Student Mutual Aid Program committee welcomes you back to an IN-PERSON picnic/fundraiser on Sunday, June 18th at 4:00 p.m. All are invited! Any questions can be directed to Darvis King by email.



Summer Nursery Volunteer Schedule

Find the schedule of volunteers for the Infant and Preschool nurseries [here](#).



Blood Pressure Checks

The Congregational Care Committee has arranged to have a student nurse from Mennonite College of Nursing check Blood Pressures on the first Sunday of the month. This will be available **this Sunday**, June 4th at 10:45 during Christian Education in the first office by the front entrance. We hope you will make use of this service.



Spending Plan Update

Spending Plan Status as of April 30, 2023

Year-to-Date Income - Expenses: \$146.34

Shared by the Administration Commission

From the Pastoral Team



We have enjoyed using the Narrative Lectionary as the basis for reflection on Scripture in our worship this year. The readings for this season ended at Pentecost, and they start up again with the creation story in September. In the meantime, we are planning to spend the Summer reflecting on the question, "what is love?" We will guide our reflection using the terms of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. We encourage you to reflect with us as we are formed together by our God who *is* love.



Online Giving at MCN

Below are links related to the Ministry Moment from last Sunday. Thank you all for supporting the work of the Mennonite Church of Normal! If you have any questions, you're always welcome to stop in the office, email church@normalmennonite.org, or call 309-452-6622.

- Watch a walkthrough presentation of the online giving methods at MCN [here](#).
- View a handout with the contents of the presentation written out [here](#).



MCC Comforter Bash

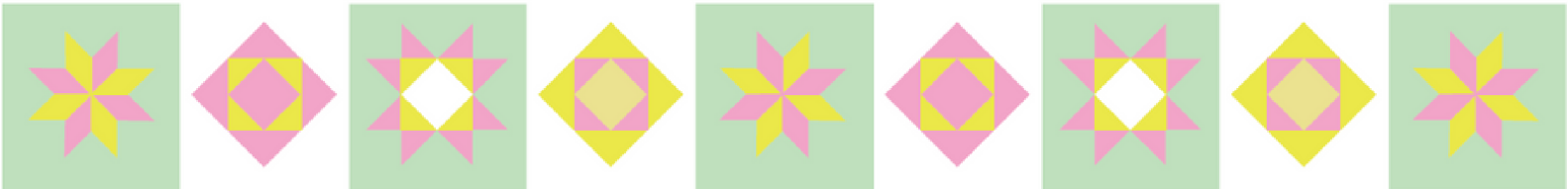
Save the Date and join us!

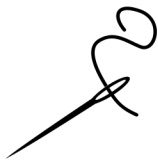
Mennonite Church of Normal

805 S. Cottage Ave, Normal, IL 61761



Friday, September 15 (9:00 am-4:00 pm)
Saturday, September 16 (9:00 am-4:00 pm)





Making Quilt Tops

All are invited to join in making quilt tops with Gerry Schrock and her Book Group. They will be sewing starting on June 1 from 1-4pm. and continuing every Thursday throughout the summer. No signup, experience, or materials are needed to attend. A variety of jobs will be available to work on. Come join in the fun and make a quilt top to be used at the Comforter Bash on September 15 and 16. What a great way to prepare for the Quilt Bash, learn new skills, and make new friends at the same time! Come when you can, stay as long as you can and have some fun.

From Outreach



We are glad to report that 15 people have signed up to serve at Midwest Food Bank next Tuesday. If you were unable to serve this time, we ask that you join us in praying for those who will receive the food and others who are hungry. You can let this prayer guide you (From the Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland):

*God our Father,
in the name of him who gave bread to the hungry,
we remember all who,
through our human ignorance, folly, and sin,
are condemned to live in want.
Show us, who have so much, what we can do
to help those who have so little;
and bless the efforts of those
who work to overcome poverty and hunger,
that sufficient food may be found for all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Thank you!

The cross on the altar table at the front of the sanctuary was made by Roger Clemmons. We wish to thank him for his sharing of his talents and time with us. It will enhance our worship for many years. Thank you so much, Roger!



Queer Saints

"St. Joan of Arc" by Br. Robert Lentz, O.F.M.

One of my convictions is that we aren't really welcoming anyone unless we are celebrating them. I usually say it in the negative, "that which is not celebrated is not welcomed." So, we take the cue from our calendars and celebrate our queer siblings in Christ throughout history during Pride Month (June). Our own relatively recent history of becoming an affirming congregation, and our denomination's more recent moves toward becoming inclusive, make it seem like we are charting new territory, but looking back, we realize that we are all painfully late to the party.

To start this list, yesterday (May 30th) was the feast day of one of the most famous characters late medieval Christianity—Joan of Arc (1412-1431). Joan is a relative of mine—she is my 4th cousin, 19 generations removed. Joan felt led through visions to dress and wear her hair like a man in order to lead a military resistance to the occupying English army. Indeed, she did that—at age 17! Eventually, she was captured by the English-allied military and put on trial. She was degraded as a "hommase" ("manwoman") and her way of dressing was referred to as monstrous and "an abomination," and it was her refusal to change her appearance that she was sentenced to death. In her response to her accusers, she said "For nothing in the world will I swear not to arm myself and put on a man's dress; I must obey the orders of Our Lord." She was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431.

While we can't know everything about Joan's gender identity or sexuality, she has been long seen as someone who paved the way for our nonbinary and transgender siblings in Christ. You can read more about Joan's history as a queer icon [here](#).

- Pastor Kevin



Note from John Gundy

Many thanks for cards and expressions of sympathy on the passing of my oldest brother Gerdon Gundy Jr.

From John Gundy



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 Sunday, August 20th.

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.

From the Discipling Commission

Sharing Our Gifts Photos

Thank you all for sharing wonderful photos of you sharing your gifts! Find a link to the slide show that played before and after the Sunday worship service two weeks ago [here](#) (or play the video below!)

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Pet Sitting/Odd Jobs

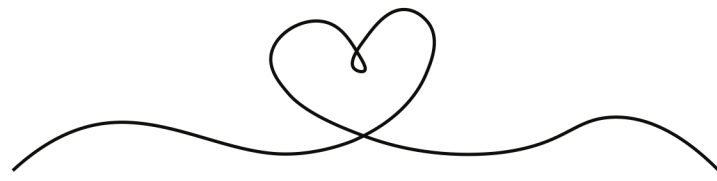
My daughter, Claire Dyck, is focusing on school at Heartland Community College this summer to begin work on a Veterinary Assistant certificate. She would appreciate odd jobs. She enjoys pet sitting or other work with animals and is willing to do other jobs.

From Mary Dyck

My 50th State to Cycle + three more Short Tours

Several of you have asked about my summer cycling tour plans. My first week-long tour, Bike Ride Across Georgia, is riding from Clayton in the mountains to Augusta on the Savannah River. If you are interested, my tour plans are available online. I will be posting a daily online journal & photos during my rides if you'd like to follow along. Please keep me in your prayers for safe & rewarding journeys.

From Joe Culpepper



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Caleb & Jessica Hall

West Greeter: Connie Satchwell

Welcome Table: Stephanie Company

Ushers: Hoffmann family

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Marge Weaver

Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp

Children's Story: Jessica Hall

Scripture Reader: Lucy Unzicker

Technology: Ryan Miller & Glenn Wilson

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Dorothy Loepf

Infant Nursery – during worship: Connie Yoder

Infant Nursery – during CE: David Harnish

Preschool Nursery:

Gather Round: Resumes in September

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, May 31

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

6:30pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Thursday, June 1

1:00pm Community Life Commission

1:00pm Quilt Toppers

Sunday, June 4

10:45am Blood Pressure Checks

Monday, June 5

7:00pm Fellowship Committee

Tuesday, June 6

6:00pm Midwest Food Bank

Wednesday, June 8

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)



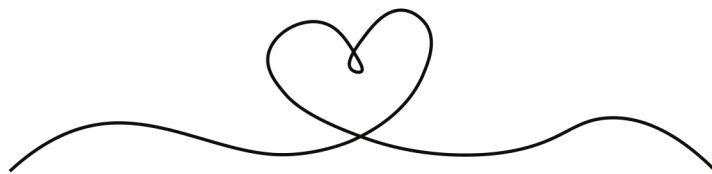
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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.



National Gun Violence Awareness Day

McLean County Moms Demand Action

This 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



Gathering Together

From April 18-20, Annabeth Roeschley, Executive Director, represented the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) in Minneapolis at a cohort-meeting with leaders of LGBTQIA+ religious justice organizations across Christian denominations. They said this about the meeting: "It was a generative and hope-filled gathering, as we articulated a new mission and vision for our collective work to nurture queer & trans communities and dismantle white Christian supremacy [learn about it [here](#)]. As small-staffed organizations, we know our power is more effective and efficient when we work together!"

RAWtools National 44k Livestream Event



Guns to Garden Tools Livestream Blacksmith Marathon

May 31 at 12pm CDT through June 30

Throughout Gun Violence Awareness Month, [RAWtools](#) and its collective network of blacksmiths and makers across the country will hold a blacksmithing marathon totaling over 44,000 minutes of labor in remembrance of over 44,000 individuals lost to gun violence in the United States in 2022. Dismantled gun parts will be transformed into garden tools, art, and jewelry. The livestream event found [here](#) will begin May 31 at 12:00pm CDT and run until June 30. Learn more about the event [here](#).



Summer Conventions: Save the Date

The Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) will be at summer church conventions, happening the same week this July.

July 3-6: #MennoCon23 in Kansas City, MO.

- BMC will be part of the "Big Booth for Intersectional Justice" in the exhibit hall.
- BMC seminar with Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition on *Resistance and Healing: Lessons from Queer, Decolonial Mennonite Movements*.
- Stay tuned for details and for other intersectional queer justice happenings!

July 4-8: Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Cincinnati, OH

- Weds 7/5 @ 1pm ET Equipping Session, *Supportive Communities Network (SCN): Queer Justice and Collective Liberation*
- Weds 7/5 @ 4:30pm ET BMC/SCN Worship
- Come visit BMC and SCN in the exhibit hall

Climate adaptation and building peace



Rath Morn, a farmer in rural Cambodia, knows firsthand that climate change impacts not only his family but also his community. Scorching temperatures and dried-up water sources are causing crop failures and forcing families to migrate in search of work. Despite these challenges, Morn and others are finding innovative ways to live sustainably and peacefully. Explore Mennonite Central Committee's Climate Action for Peace campaign website for more inspiring stories of hope and transformation from communities around the world adapting to a changing climate [here](#).

Read the May issue of Central District Conferences *Connector* publication [here](#). It is packed with stories and updates from congregations around the conference, including: a preview of the upcoming Annual Meeting, sharing about several Friedenswald retreats, and an update from the ministerial committee. Physical copies are also available.



Cleanliness is next to godliness

*Below is an excerpt from Nontokozy Moyo's article for Mennonite World Conference (MWC). Nontokozy S Moyo was the GYS (Global Youth Summit) delegate for Ibandla Labazalwane kuKristu eZimbabwe (Brethren in Christ Church). **Read more** [here](#).*

Climate change has posed many risks to human beings and nature in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is highly affected by extreme high temperatures and high rainfall leading to droughts, veld fires (wildfires) and floods. The church in Zimbabwe is now beginning to play an active role in environment protection and is taking management steps to restore the environment and sustain economic and social actors in areas affected by climate change.

The churches in Zimbabwe have seen to it that they rise and not only preach the gospel of Jesus to the world but to assist in many ways in adjusting to the negative impacts that come with climate change.

Some churches now engage awareness campaigns that educate the community about climate change, its effects and how best to help in reducing its causing factors. The people in the church are educated on how best to adjust to the climate change effects and also what to do during the climatic change events like floods, heat waves, droughts, veld fires (wildfires), etc. Knowing that burning of fossil fuels like coal emits gases that pose danger to the environment and climate, the church and people are adopting new ways reducing CO₂-emitting fuels and substances. People are now advised to use more eco-friendly fuels. Instead of burning plastics that give off harmful gases, they now have clean up campaigns that engage the church and the community to pick up plastic containers and papers and take all the collected containers for recycling. There is a saying that "cleanliness is next to Godliness", therefore collecting all plastic containers not only is the church keeping its environment clean but also reducing global warming and climate change, hence achieving two goals with one effort.

It is believed that God has entrusted the earth and its resources to our care as church and world to our care, and we must act responsibly with them. It is everyone's duty as an individual to be a good steward in reducing climatic factors and educating others about climate change.

La propreté accompagne la piété



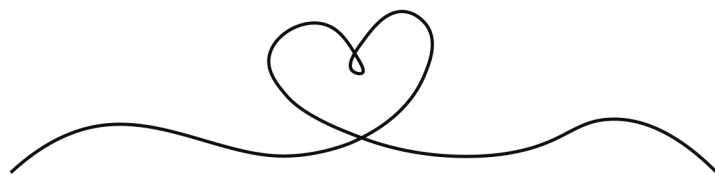
Below is an excerpt from Nontokozo Moyo's article for Mennonite World Conference (MWC). Nontokozo S Moyo était la déléguée au GYS (Sommet Mondial de la Jeunesse) pour Ibandla Labazalwane kuKristu eZimbabwe (Église Frères en Christ). [Lire la suite](#).

Le changement climatique présente de nombreux risques pour les êtres humains et la nature au Zimbabwe. Des températures extrêmement élevées et de fortes précipitations entraînent des sécheresses, des feux de brousse et des inondations. L'Église au Zimbabwe commence à jouer un rôle actif dans la protection de l'environnement et prend des mesures pour sauvegarder l'environnement et soutenir les acteurs économiques et sociaux dans les zones touchées par le changement climatique.

Les églises du Zimbabwe ont décidé d'agir, de ne pas seulement prêcher l'évangile de Jésus au monde, mais d'apporter leur aide pour s'adapter aux impacts négatifs qui accompagnent le changement climatique.

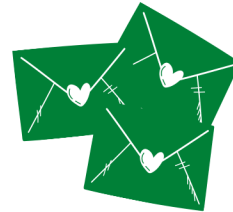
Certaines assemblées locales lancent maintenant des campagnes de sensibilisation pour éduquer la communauté sur le changement climatique, ses effets, et la meilleure façon d'aider à en réduire ses causes. Leurs membres apprennent à s'adapter à ses effets, à savoir quoi faire lors de ses conséquences comme les inondations, les vagues de chaleur, les sécheresses, les incendies de brousse, etc. Sachant que brûler des combustibles fossiles comme le charbon émet des gaz qui présentent un danger pour l'environnement et le climat, les membres des paroisses adoptent de nouvelles méthodes pour réduire les émissions de CO2. Il est désormais conseillé d'utiliser des carburants plus respectueux de l'environnement. Plutôt que de brûler des plastiques qui dégagent des gaz nocifs, des campagnes de nettoyage encouragent maintenant les paroisses et les communautés à ramasser tous les contenants en plastique et les papiers pour les recycler. Il y a un dicton qui dit [en anglais] que 'la propreté accompagne la piété', donc la collecte de tous les récipients en plastique permet non seulement aux paroisses de garder leur environnement propre, mais aussi de réduire le réchauffement et le changement climatiques, atteignant ainsi deux objectifs à la fois.

Dieu a confié à l'Église la terre et ses ressources – et aussi le monde – pour qu'elle en prenne soin, et elle doit agir de manière responsable. Il est du devoir de chacun d'être un bon intendant en contribuant à réduire les changements climatiques et en éduquant les autres à le faire.



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

Building Open:

Standard Hours:

Monday & Wednesday–Friday 9AM-11AM
and Monday-Friday 1:30PM-3PM.

Lydia Hedberg:

Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org; 309-452-6622

Rita Munkakusi:

Custodian

Kevin Chupp:

Pastor for Outreach Commission, Worship Commission, Congregational Care Committee, and the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team;
kevin@normalmennonite.org

Lynette Miller:

Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions

Ron Ropp:

Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lauren Satchwell:

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.

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.