

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Lauren Satchwell will preach a sermon titled *Unaided* using the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:4.

Paul tells us in verse 4 that “Love... does not boast, it is not arrogant.” We can see right away that those two characteristics are very closely related. If we did work on aspects of our pride, would we become proud about that? Is it a cycle we can’t get out of? Let’s drop the heavy burdens of “should of, would of, could of” and read between the lines.



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

The Way We Were and Who We Became: A telling of oral histories.
Sanctuary

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K–3rd Grade

4th–7th Grade

8th Grade & High School

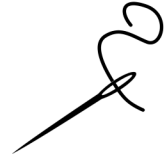


Mennonite
Church
of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA



Making Comforter Tops



Thursdays from 1-4pm in the MRC Community Building

All are invited to join in making comforter tops with Gerry and her Book Group. They have been gathering on Thursday afternoons from 1- 4 pm since June 1 and are continuing every Thursday afternoon throughout the summer. There has been a good response and we thank those who have participated so far. There is no signup, experience, or materials needed to attend. Come join in the fun and help make a comforter top to be knotted at the MCC Comforter Bash on September 15 and 16. What a great way to prepare for the Comforter 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! View more photos [here](#).



Adult Christian Education

A new Adult Sunday School Series will start **this Sunday**, "The Way We Were and Who We Became: A telling of oral histories." Juergen will tell his story, including his family's historically unique immigration experience from Germany.

Check In With Our Commissions!



This Sunday, June 25 after the Christian Education Hour

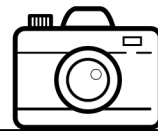
The Vision Team will host a "Commission Check-In" for the congregation on Sunday, June 25, in the conference room immediately following the Christian Education Hour. Representatives of each of our 5 commissions (Administration, Community Life, Discipling, Outreach, Worship) will provide brief updates on their ministries followed by a time of open conversation. We will dismiss at 12:30 PM. Snacks will be provided to get us through to dinnertime! We will plan similar gatherings in August and October.



SMAP

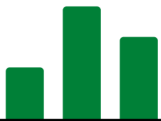
If you are interested in learning more about MCN's Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP), you can view a brochure [here](#).

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



Spending Plan Update

Spending Plan Status as of May 31, 2023

Shared by the Administration Commission

Worship Commission Notes



We made several plans at our recent meeting for the upcoming months:

- For Communion Sundays, we recommend that Leaders visibly use a hand sanitizer at the front of the sanctuary before going to the table to promote safety in the handling of the elements.
- In 2020, Wayne was in charge of planning a Hymn Fest to celebrate Voices Together to which we invited neighbor Mennonite congregations. That had to be cancelled because of Covid. We gave him the go ahead to plan that event again possibly for this fall.
- We will begin a process of finding a backup organist hopefully to take over when Dorothy eventually retires.
- We will see if it is possible to live stream worship from the Menno Haven Retreat on Aug. 13 since there will not be a worship service at our MCN building.
- We plan to have a Ministry Moment for the fall to recognize all the wonderful folk who take part in leading worship.
- Steve has accepted the call to begin as the new Chair of our commission with our next meeting.

As always, we welcome comments and suggestions to help make our worship a vital spiritual experience for us all.

From the Worship Commission



Hosting in Homes

Hosting in Homes is just that! Offering to host church family in your home. It could be for a meal, a sing along with ice cream or tea on the front porch. The event and number of guests are for the host to decide. A sign up for each event will be in the midweek and/or posted on a bulletin board at the back of church atrium. This is a way that Mennonite Church of Normal can practice hospitality. Plus encourage and enrich church relationships and meet a 2023 goal of hosting a percentage of members in homes by end of 2023! If you are interested in hosting, please contact a member of the Community life Commission (CLC) and we will assist you in getting the word out and signup posted.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

Deb and MaryAnn (co-chairs)

Connie

Joanna



"Marinos the Monk" by Dani of And Her Saints on [Etsy](#)

Queer Saints

In 5th century Lebanon, a widower planned to marry off his daughter Marina so he could join the monastery. When his daughter heard this plan they replied, "O my Father, why would you save your own soul, and destroy mine?" Instead, Marina took on the name Marinos, shaved their head, dressed as a man, and joined the monastery. The other monks thought Marinos' soft voice came from constant prayer or thought perhaps he was a eunuch.

One day, the unmarried daughter of an innkeeper named Marinos as the father of her unexpected pregnancy to cover up the true story of her affair. As a result, the innkeeper brought the child to be raised by Marinos, who underwent great punishment as a result. However, he raised the child, a son, who eventually joined the monastery. It wasn't until after Marinos died and they were preparing him for burial that it was discovered that he, because of his birth gender, could not have fathered the child. It is fitting that this year, the feast day for Saint Marinos the Monk was June 18th—Father's Day. You can read more about Marinos, a patron saint of transgender parenting [here](#).

- Pastor Kevin

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Children & Youth Christian Education

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

The Discipling Commission and the Christian Education Subcommittee have been thrilled with how the children have enjoyed June's focus on Theatre! Current Pre-K thru 3rd graders have been learning more about sharing gifts as 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us! The teaching format requires volunteers to share their gifts with the children and help foster meaningful conversation about blessing others through their own unique talents.

We are busy preparing to focus on Music in July. During this time volunteers will showcase their musical talent and help the kids to learn more about different instruments!

Looking ahead...

- 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 volunteers to join the string session, along with brass and percussion.
- Other volunteer opportunities are still available in August too!
- If you are interested in helping, please contact Spring or Carrie .

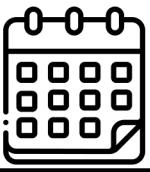
Important Dates to Remember

Summer Sunday School 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.

MCC School Kits



Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) School Kit Challenge: Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families around the world who have been forced to flee their homes or struggle to afford basic school supplies. Without these items, many kids in places like Syria, Ukraine and South Sudan can't get the education they desperately need. Enter, the School Kit Challenge: 10,000 school kits to help 10,000 kids during the month of August. Plus, we've got a fun activity for Sunday School and VBS students! Download the free School Kit Challenge activity resource full of challenges for kids to learn how school supplies help children receive a tangible message of God's love. To learn more about this challenge and to download this free guide click [here](#).



Summer Nursery Volunteer Schedule

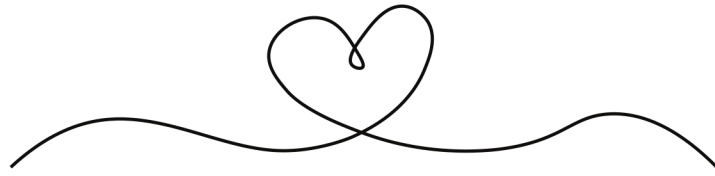
Find the schedule of volunteers for the Infant and Preschool nurseries [here](#).

Pet Sitting/Odd Jobs



My daughter, Claire, 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. You can reach her by text or email.

From Mary



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Thursday, June 22

1:00pm Comforter Tops at the MRC

Monday, June 26

1:00pm Comforter Bash Sub-Committee

Sunday, June 25

11:50am Commission Check-In

Tuesday, June 27

7:00pm Fellowship Commission (Zoom)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: David & Gabriella family
West Greeter: Phylis
Welcome Table: Pam
Ushers: King family
Offering Counter:
Worship Planner & Leader: Joe
Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren
Children's Story: Steve
Scripture Reader: Marianne
Technology: Rick & Jaron
Song Leader: Barry
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa
Infant Nursery – during worship: Janet
Infant Nursery – during CE: Courtney
Preschool Nursery: Emma
Gather Round: Resumes in September

Prayer Requests and Announcements

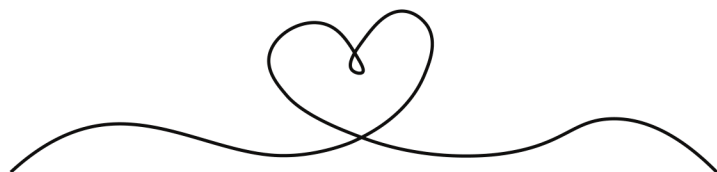
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please send announcements to Lauren so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true whether in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



SUNSET ON THE LONGEST DAY

an act of restorative indigeneity
created by shannon epplert

Sunset on the Longest Day

Today, Wednesday, June 21 at 7:30pm at the ISU Horticulture Center

Join the Illinois State University Horticulture Center for *Sunset on the Longest Day: An Act of Restorative Indigeneity* created by Shannon Epplert. *Sunset on the Longest Day* is the creation of ISU Theatre and Native Studies professor Shannon Epplert, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. It will be performed by eight Native people from Central Illinois, and feature the music of Chicago-based Native American flute player William Buchholtz Allison.

- Sunset on the Longest Day is free and open to all. Viewers are welcome to bring chairs and blankets, but the work is best experienced by standing and walking around the performers.
- The piece will begin at 7:30 pm and lasts approximately one hour.
- Parking will be available on the site, located on Raab Rd., 0.2 miles west of the ISU Horticulture Center main entrance. Additional parking will be available at the Horticulture Center lot.
- Accessibility: the site is an unpaved field. Fire will be used in the performance. Sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended.

For more information, please contact Shannon Epplert at drshannonepplert@gmail.com or 773-865-0459. Read the full press release with a description of the work [here](#).

*What was the Anabaptist kingdom of Münster,
and why is it important today?*



What was the Anabaptist kingdom of Münster? The Anabaptist Kingdom of Münster refers to the Anabaptist Reformation in Münster, which lasted from spring 1534 to summer 1535. After the elections in February 1534, the council of the city of Münster was purely Anabaptist; this formed the basis for the Anabaptist reign. **Read about this time in history in Astrid von Schlachta's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Below is a note from the Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) about the deadly shipwreck that happened Wednesday outside Pylos in Western Greece.. Learn more about CPT [here](#).

On Wednesday June 14, an overcrowded boat sailing from Libya to Italy capsized in Greek waters. Rescuers were able to save 104 passengers, and news agencies have reported 79 deaths, but there are fears that this number could be well over 500. This is one of the worst tragedies to occur in the Mediterranean. The European Commissioner Ursula von der Leyen lamented the disaster and promised to crack down further on smuggling. The problem with this tactic is that it just forces people on the move to find longer, more dangerous routes. For example, it has been reported that the boat that sank off the coast of Greece this week had been in contact with the Greek coastguard who offered to help, but the people on the boat refused, communicating that they were planning to reach Italy. Other reports say survivors did call for help, making it Greece's duty to intervene. Either way, European migration policy is increasingly deadly. The fact that the boat, which was in distress, still attempted to reach Italy instead of receiving help from Greece points to the fact that Greece is now known for its unbelievably cruel pushbacks, rounding up migrants who have already landed in Greece and setting them out to sea with no motor and often after stealing all of their money and possessions. If asylum seekers manage to remain in Greece, they are often detained for years and jammed through a court system that is built to criminalize migrants. Von der Leyen's crackdown on smuggling will continue to target unassuming folks who are suddenly forced to drive the boat and arrested on arrival. Since 2014, when the International Organization for Migration began documenting missing migrants, over 27,000 people have died or disappeared in the Mediterranean Sea on their route to Europe. The central route north, from Libya and Tunisia to Greece and Italy accounts for 21,000 of those deaths. Instead of cracking down on smuggling, when will the European Union be held accountable for turning the Mediterranean into a mass grave?



As the church and MCC work together, peace grows in Kikwit

Ever since survivors of brutal fighting in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo fled to the city of Kikwit in 2017, the Mennonite Brethren Church has been ministering to them with faith and action. The Communauté des Eglises de Frères Mennonites au Congo (CEFMC; Mennonite Brethren Church of Congo), which is based in Kikwit, saw their need. Individuals responded by taking people into their homes and giving clothing and food. The CEFMC hospital staff provided medical care, and their churches became temporary shelters. **Read more about CEFMC and Mennonite Central Committee's work [here](#).**



Colorism persists, even in church

Below is an excerpt from Wendy Vado's article for the Anabaptist World.

Read the full article [here](#).

"In Nicaraguan Anabaptist churches, we generally have envisioned Jesus as a white man. What impact has this image had on us, whether we are mestizo (mixed Indigenous and European ancestry), Indigenous or Afro-descendants? Can we talk about colorism in our churches? We rarely do. I visited a friend at her Mennonite church. She introduced me to her mother and her pastor. The pastor called my friend's mother the "dark sheep" of the Christian family — a clear reference to her skin color. Later I asked my friend's -mother how this made her feel. She said, "That's just the way he is." Such comments are common in Mennonite and evangelical churches here in Nicaragua. It's a reflection of our colorist society. We define beauty and intelligence by European standards. Colorism persists. Even in Mennonite churches, people discriminate and bully because of skin color. This happens every time someone tells an Indigenous or Black girl she should be whiter to be prettier or when we say "race should be improved." We perpetuate colorism when we make fun of a Black person or laugh at the way Indigenous or Afro-descendant people talk or dress, comparing them to animals and saying, "Don't be a native." Latin American Anabaptists cannot remain silent. We must abolish the systemic racism in which we are rooted. We need to recognize our Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples and give them the voice they deserve. In the 1980s, there was an attempt to build a more just society. With the emergence of liberation theology, many Christians, especially Catholics, began to reflect on the reality of the peasant and all who are oppressed. But our Anabaptist churches lost a great opportunity. Our biblical institutes, serving a population scourged by war and the conscription of young men, promoted a theology of peace but not of greater justice. I believe this was partly because Anabaptism was imported from North America."

Envisioning the Future Together



Read Andi Santoso's Mennonite Church USA Menno Snapshot on the topic of solidarity across barriers in times of crisis [here](#). Santoso is from Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia. He is an ordained minister of Gereja Kristen Muria Indonesia (GKMI), also known as the Muria Christian Church of Indonesia. He earned a Master of Arts in theology and peace studies from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in April 2022 and now serves as Mennonite Mission Network's regional director for Asia and the Middle East and on the Deacons Commissions of Mennonite World Conference.

Les mennonites plaident pour une paix totale en Colombie

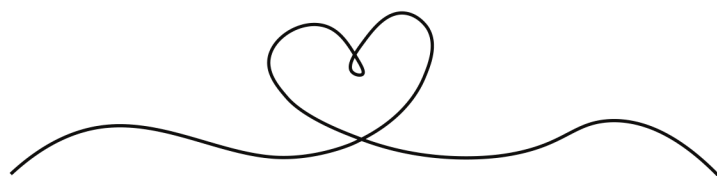
Below is an excerpt from an article by Mennonite World Conference (MCC). [Lire la suite](#).

Pendant des décennies de violence entre l'État, les paramilitaires et les guérilleros, l'Église mennonite de Colombie a travaillé dans les régions touchées en accompagnant les victimes, dénonçant la violence et appelant à la paix. Aujourd'hui, un mennonite a été nommé pour représenter le Conseil œcuménique des Églises (COE) dans les pourparlers de paix du gouvernement. En 2016 le nouveau président Gustavo Petro a élaboré une politique de « paix totale » visant à mettre fin au conflit armé, à améliorer la sécurité publique dans les campagnes et à accroître le développement rural. Le Conseil œcuménique des Églises a été invité à participer à ce processus (en tant qu'observateur). Le COE a nommé Fernando Enns, théologien mennonite du Brésil et d'Allemagne, comme l'un de ses représentants.

Mennonites advocate for total peace in Colombia

Below is an excerpt from an article by Mennonite World Conference (MCC). [Read more here](#).

Over decades of violence between state, paramilitary and guerillas, the Mennonite church in Colombia has been working in the affected regions, accompanying victims, denouncing violence and calling for peace. Now a Mennonite has been appointed to represent the World Council of Churches (WCC) in government peace talks. In 2016, new president Gustavo Petro drafted a "Total Peace" policy to end armed conflict, improve public security in the countryside and increase rural development. The World Council of Churches has been invited into that process (as an observer). WCC appointed Mennonite theologian Fernando Enns from Brazil and Germany as one of their representatives.



Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

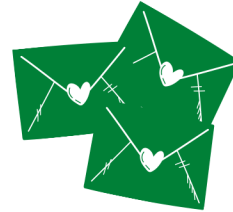
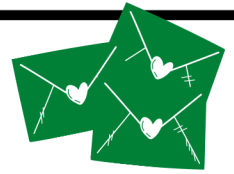
Items for the Midweek



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

Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS.
SEND A CARD IF THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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

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.