

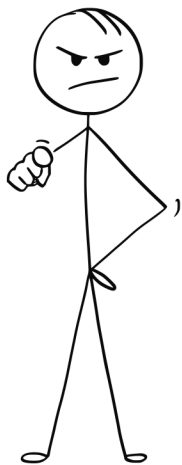
THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Melika Hershberger will preach a sermon titled *Love Stays Curious* using the scripture 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 and 13:4-8a "it is not rude."

What is your personal definition of rude? Paul says love is not rude. After exploring how Paul's definition of love directly addresses the situation in the Corinthian church, we will turn this characteristic around and ask, How does Love treat people perceived as rude?



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.

Room 4

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-3rd Grade

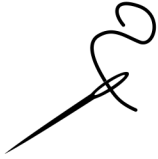
4th-7th Grade

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 Schrock 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! Together we can do this! View (**new!**) photos [here](#).

Office Closed



- The church office will be **closed Friday, June 30th through Wednesday, July 5th**. It will be open for standard hours again beginning Thursday, July 6th.
- There will be no Midweek next week.



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

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team submits Leah as a candidate to serve on the Community Life Commission. Please send any feedback to Kristen by **July 9**. Thank you!

Queer Saints



Saint Paulinus of Nola from [Wikimedia Commons](#)

June 22nd was the feast day for Saint Paulinus of Nola born in France in 353 CE. After a successful career as a lawyer and politician, he became very wealthy and retired to Spain at a young age with his wife. However, in their grief after they were unable to have children, they decided to devote themselves to a life of service. They moved to Nola in Italy, where Paulinus could promote his beloved Saint Felix of Nola. He gave away most of his wealth and worked for the poor. He was asked to become Bishop of Nola because of his popularity, and he served in that role for 21 years. He was a correspondent and friend of Saints Augustine, Jerome, Melania, Martin, Gregory and Ambrose.

Paulinus also wrote poetry about his passionate relationship with the male poet Ausonius, which is included in the Penguin Book of Homosexual Verse. Sadly, Paulinus was forced to distance himself from the poet later in life due to pressures from the increasingly strict religious culture of his time (according to Fordham University's "People with a History: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans History Sourcebook").

- Pastor Kevin

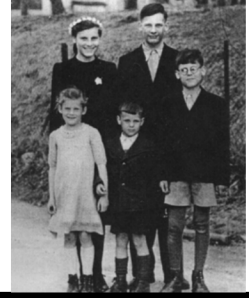


Help MDS in St. Clair County, IL

6/26-6/30, 7/3-7/8, and 7/17-7/25

The IL unit of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) will continue working with those who were affected by the flooding last year in St Clair county. They had originally planned only for May and June but there are still several jobs that need to be completed. For this reason they are asking for volunteers during the dates of 6/26-6/30, 7/3-7/8, and 7/17-7/25. They would appreciate volunteers who could serve from a day or two to a week. They ask you to please consider helping them finish this project. View the project information sheet [here](#). If you are able to help, please contact Jim Showalter at mds2jim@gmail.com.

In case you missed it



If you missed Juergen's story during last Sunday's session of "The way we were and who we became: A telling of oral histories," you can read much of it, and many other immigration stories [here](#).



Peace on the Korean Peninsula

"Women Cross the DMZ", Illinois constituents, Kevin Chupp, and I met in June with staffers from offices of U.S. Representatives Sorensen and LaHood and U.S. Senator Durbin (by zoom) about bringing peace to the Korean Peninsula. The U.S. is still at war with North Korea. And the border between North and South Korea has been blocked for over two years, and there is still a threat of nuclear war. These meetings were set up by "Women Cross the DMZ" who are lobbying senators and congress persons to work toward a more peaceful relationship with North Korea. Hopefully this would allow Korean families to visit their relatives in North Korea and to allow aid again to be delivered to the North Korean people through agencies like the Mennonite Central Committee. We also asked our representatives to be a sponsor of H.R. 1369 - Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act.

In Peace, Phil, Chair, Outreach Commission

Room in your home?



Are you able to host an international student chaplain for a year? Mother Mollie Ward and Carle BroMenn Medical Center Spiritual Care are looking for housing for the ACPE-accredited clinical pastoral education residency student chaplain they are welcoming this fall. Please contact Ron Ropp with any questions. Details are below:

"We just received the good news that Domitila got her J1 Visa required to do this one-year student work. Originally from Mwanza, Tanzania, she is an exceptional woman of faith with degrees in both law and Christian theology. We expect her to arrive in the U.S. in early August, with our program beginning Sept. 5, 2023. While we have found a possibility of a host for her for up to two months, she still needs to find housing for the balance of the program, which concludes August 31, 2024. Like all of our residents she will receive a stipend and can eventually pay some rent, but as you can imagine coming from out of the country it will be a little more difficult for her to attain housing."

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 last Sunday [here](#) (or play the video below!)

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



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](#).

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...

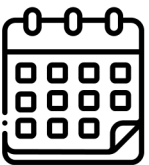
- August will focus on art with an event on August 5th where we will decorate the classroom doors together! And there will be an Ice Cream Social & Back to School Bash on August 19th.

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.

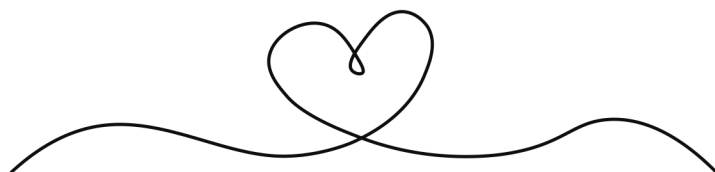
Important Dates to Remember

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.



Summer Nursery Volunteer Schedule

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





This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Thursday, June 29

1:00pm Comforter Tops at the MRC

Friday, June 30

Office Closed

Monday, July 3

Office Closed

Tuesday, July 4

Office Closed

Wednesday, July 5

Office Closed

Thursday, July 6

1:00pm Comforter Tops at the MRC

Tuesday, July 11

3:00pm Pastoral Team

5:30pm Community Life Commission

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Connie & Rick

West Greeter: Kristen

Welcome Table: Mary Ann

Ushers: Louise & Larry

Offering Counter: Lotus

Worship Planner & Leader: Holly

Sharing Prayer Leader: Ron

Children's Story: Meredith

Scripture Reader:

Technology: Wesley & Caleb

Song Leader: Cindy

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa

Infant Nursery – during worship: Jane

Infant Nursery – during CE: Carrie

Preschool Nursery: Marcia

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 Satchwell 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.

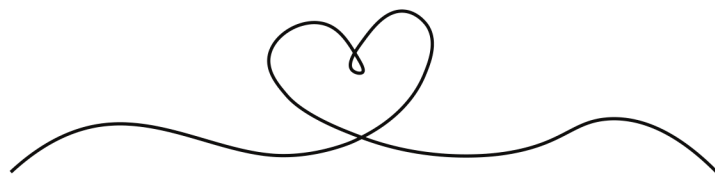


Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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

- Stephanie asked for prayers for Bryce and Nevaeh as they prepare to attend Chi-Rho camp at Walter Scott Camp.
- Gerry shared two ways to use your gifts with MCN. Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) has extended their openings for work needed in St. Louis in July. The Quilt Bash at MCN will be Sept. 15 & 16, and you can help prepare for this event by crafting quilt tops with them every Thursday afternoon at 1pm.
- Bess shared the joy of the birth of a new great-granddaughter.
- Ron Ropp shared that he and Kevin Chupp attended the Central District Conference (CDC) meeting last Thursday through Saturday and it was a joy to hear all the things in the works and be a part of it.
- Elsa thanked the congregation for their prayers for her cataract surgery that went well last Monday and also shared that her daughter Katara is home recovering and doing well after her surgery last Tuesday and a complication of high blood pressure for a few days after.
- Shelly shared that she and Darvis would be sponsoring the high school youth at Mennonite Church USA's convention in Kansas City next week and that Darvis would be having gallbladder surgery Tuesday, so they are asking for prayer for a speedy recovery for him.
- Barry shared that his mother Mary passed away last Sunday and he thanked the congregation for their prayers.
- Joe shared that there were 11 households online worshiping live and thanked Elsa for playing the piano so soon after her cataract surgery.
- Meredith shared that she heard from Sue , who started hospice care seven months ago after cancer. She reports no pain and that she is doing well. Thanks be to God!
- David had an emergency appendectomy on Monday. He had been recovering from gall bladder surgery on June 6. Prayers of healing for both surgeries are appreciated.



Reflections from the Hope for the Future Conference: We Are the Church



Josué Coy Dick was born in Guatemala and grew up in North Newton, Kansas. He is currently a student at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas. He is majoring in peace and conflict studies and music performance. He has long attended Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton, Kansas, and remains an active member. **Read an excerpt from his reflection (shared by MC USA) on his experience at the Hope for the Future conference below. Read the whole blog post [here](#).**

I was recently given the opportunity to attend the Hope for the Future conference [learn more [here](#)] as a representative for Bethel College, in North Newton, Kansas, and it was an enriching experience. The conference gave me optimistic energy about the future of the Mennonite church. The strength of our active and inclusive theology was evident. It was my first time attending, and I had never been around so many devout, active BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) Mennonites. I appreciated hearing from academic scholars of the Bible, as well as from activists, who all provided valuable insights, including new interpretations of biblical passages and new ways of applying our faith to the many injustices in our world. I remember distinctly that the theme of not just belonging in, but claiming possession of, the church was something that came up several times. Being one of the few BIPOC Mennonites in my community, this was not an idea I was very familiar with. It was empowering to hear it said with pride that BIPOC folks are not just visitors or additions to the Mennonite church, but we, in fact, are the church. There were people at the conference who were the only person of color in their congregations, and there were others who came from congregations that were majority non-white in non-white communities. Our different perspectives on what it means to be Mennonite made for rich conversation. There was a great energy and commitment to the Mennonite faith and tradition that gave me hope for the future of the church. I was amazed that, despite such trials and tribulations, many BIPOC members of the church were still willing, and even proud, to be Mennonite. I was re-energized to go back to my own mostly-white community to keep engaging, despite our differences and difficulties. There was a strong commitment to Mennonite values and theology that resonated with me.



Resources from Carle

Carle Faith Community Health program shared the following useful resources: [Make the most of your preventative health visit](#) and [Tirez le meilleur parti de votre visite de santé préventive](#).

When Peace Theology is Violent: Nurturing Genuine Global Partnerships in the Postcolonial Church



The Postcolonial Mindset and Mutual Gift Sharing: Nurturing Genuine Global Partnerships in the Postcolonial Church

"In a recent meeting of the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Board, César García, General Secretary of Mennonite World Conference, talked about theological education as a form of sharing gifts in the Global Church. He drew on Philippians 2 to make the case that a beginning way to deal with the risk of perpetuating colonialism is to have the right attitude. This doesn't just mean having good intentions: it means having the attitude of Christ. This attitude is rooted in doing "nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:3-4). Having the mind or attitude of Christ also has to do with self-emptying, as Jesus emptied himself. Rather than exploiting his position of "being in the form of God," Jesus humbled himself, becoming like human beings (v. 7). Those who live into the mind of Christ, those who take on Christ's attitude, will find it impossible to act in a colonialist way or support colonial systems. We (Henok and Rachel) work at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, a place where we are living with the reality of the ongoing effects of colonialism and also trying not to be controlled by them. When we heard César's comments, we wondered several things: What does it take for global relationships and partnerships to be both relational and examples of actual partnership? And what gets in the way of genuine relationships and actual partnerships?" *Read the full Anabaptist World article by Henok T. Mekonin and Rachel Miller Jacobs [here](#).*



Bible Study

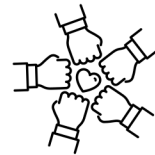
Find below an excerpt from an article by Adelle M. Banks first published in Religion News Service and re-printed by Anabaptist World.

The long campaign for reparations for slavery in the United States has taken numerous forms. Members of Congress have supported a commission to study the matter. Last month, nearly 30 faith and human rights groups, including the Presbyterian Church USA, the Union for Reform Judaism and the United Church of Christ's social justice ministry, sent a [letter](#) to President Biden seeking an executive order to move the debate along. The [National Council of Churches](#), which recently also spearheaded a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden, is trying a new tactic: a six-week Bible study. **Read more [here](#).**

South Central to revisit MC USA withdrawal proposal

South Central Mennonite Conference delegates will consider [a proposal to withdraw](#) from Mennonite Church USA at the conference's assembly July 21-23 at Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church in Harper, Kan. Two years ago, [a similar proposal received 53% support](#), less than the two-thirds majority needed to pass. The conference's Network Leadership Team hosted four regional discernment meetings in January. The team reported that "it seems clear that the majority of SCMC congregations no longer find affiliation with Mennonite Church USA to be helpful, desired or consistent with our core beliefs and practices." If adopted by two-thirds of delegates, the team's proposed resolution would begin a process of disassociating from the denomination by Oct. 31, 2024, and complete the process of joining another Anabaptist conference, network or organization by the same date. SCMC network chair Phil Rosenberger said in [an announcement to the conference](#) that the leadership team has had preliminary conversations with several other Anabaptist organizations. "We anticipate that those conversations will continue and expand in the coming months," he said. ". . . It is our hope and prayer that most of our churches will find agreement regarding a common future affiliation." Read the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).

Mennonite Voluntary Service



Learn how you can join an intentional community with peers, serve with a local nonprofit, and plug into your neighborhood and local congregation with Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS). MVS is a one-year volunteer service experience for individuals age 20+, with the opportunity for a placement extension for an additional one to two years. Learn more [here](#).

Mennonite singing part of Smithsonian events in Washington

Mennonite four-part harmony congregational singing will be part of a cultural festival on the National Mall in Washington this summer. The Smithsonian Folklife and Cultural Heritage Center will host the event June 29, July 1, 3, 4 and 6. The theme is "Living Religion: Creative Encounters in the U.S." Singers from progressive and conservative Mennonite backgrounds will lead and participate in public hymn-sings and will discuss the role of hymn singing as social music in a range of Mennonite contexts. **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**



Summer Events

JUNE 20

Pizza Event, Farm Learning Center
5:00 - 7:30pm RSVP by June 17

JULY 1

Bees and Blooms Workshop with
John Simms, Farmstead 10:00am

JULY 8

Livestock on the Land Documentary
Farm Learning Center 7:30

JULY 18

Pizza Event, Farm Learning Center
5:00 - 7:30pm RSVP by July 13

AUGUST 12

Creek Stomp, Willow tree by Farm
Learning Center at 10:00am

AUGUST 22

Pizza Event, Farm Learning Center
5:00 - 7:30pm RSVP by August 17

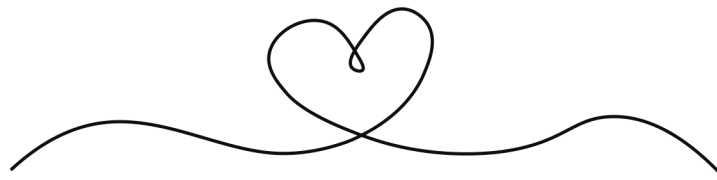
SEPTEMBER 16

Hornbaker Artisan Market
Hornbaker Gardens



Farmstead - 9295 County Rd 1925 E
Farm learning Center - 19183 Plow Creek Rd
Learn more: hungryworldfarm.com/events





Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open:

Standard Hours:

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

Closed:

Friday, 6/30 through Wednesday, 7/5

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:

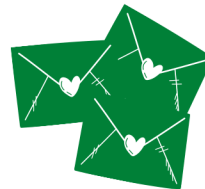
Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lauren Satchwell:

Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Items for the Midweek



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

Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Commissions and Teams Contact List

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.