

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Three Ways* using the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:4 ("Love is Kind") & Micah 6:1-8.

Too often, weakness is in the background of our understanding of kindness. We imagine kindness as timid, naive, or soft—just another word for being friendly. Paul seems to have something more potent in mind when he tells the highly unstable church in Corinth, "love is kind." The prophets talk about kindness as being linked to things like justice and humility. How can we reassemble our concept of kindness in a way that is useful, and not just "nice."



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

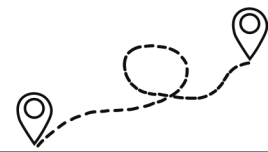
8th Grade & High School



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

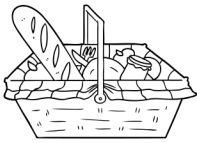
A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Journey Groups



All three Journey Groups will continue to gather in the sanctuary during the CE hour on June 11th and 18th. 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.

- **This Sunday**, June 11: Amy Reiman will be moderating the discussion for *Grace Will Lead us Home* (housing insecurity).
- June 18: A member of Journey Group A will be moderating for *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. **RSVPs are kindly requested for food planning and can be texted or called to Eric and Chellie Miller.**

Summer Nursery Volunteer Schedule



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](#).



Queer Saints

"Sts. Perpetua and Felicity" by Br. Robert Lentz, O.F.M.

I first learned the story of Perpetua and Felicity in a book called, "Getting to Know the Church Fathers." As that title might illustrate, Perpetua's story and voice were compelling in a world who had never before encountered a text written by a Christian woman. Her diary chronicles her arrest and martyrdom alongside her servant and companion Felicity in Carthage in 203 CE. The diary was so popular that Augustine, 200 years later, preached 3 sermons commemorating Perpetua and Felicity and had to remind people that the diary was not Scripture.

The story includes Perpetua assisting Felicity in premature childbirth in prison and giving the child away to a Christian woman. They resisted multiple opportunities to recant their faith. Perpetua's final vision was of a fight in which she was transformed into a man to face a final battle. Before their final day, Perpetua and Felicity shared a Christian "love feast" as their final meal. And when the final day came, they were sent in to the public arena to face a savage cow and shared a kiss before finally being beheaded. Scholars and queer people of faith have long been inspired by the story that includes gender fluidity as well as a close relationship that led these two women to die by each other's sides apart from their families—including the fathers of their children. You can read more about Perpetua and Felicity as "patron saints of same-sex couples" [here](#).

- Pastor Kevin

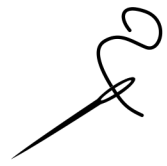


**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

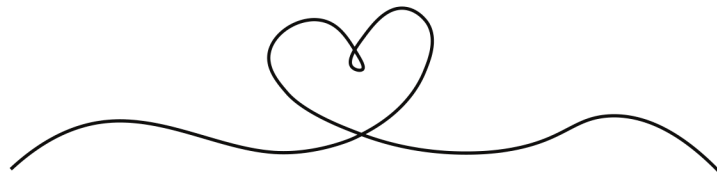
MDS Volunteers Needed

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is currently responding to July 2022 flooding in St. Clair County, IL and is in need of volunteers. The schedule of work for this project will be based upon volunteer availability. Volunteers may come for a week, a day, or a few days. A Friday & Saturday time may allow for "weekend" work. **Volunteers should contact mds2@gmail.com to make their availability known.** MDS Volunteers will be staying at Second Baptist Church, Granite City, IL. Volunteers must bring their own bedding and towels. Cots and air mattresses will be provided for sleeping in group sleeping rooms in the church. Food and tools will be provided. View the Project Information Sheet [here](#).

Making Comforter Tops



All are invited to join in making quilt tops with Gerry Schrock and her Book Group at the MRC Community Building. They will be sewing at the MRC 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 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.





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Kay & John Reimer
West Greeter: David Voegtlin
Welcome Table: Bernice Valverde
Ushers: Chellie & Eric Miller
Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger
Worship Planner & Leader: Marge Weaver
Sharing Prayer Leader: Ron Ropp
Children's Story: Annette Harnish
Scripture Reader: Tania Kimbembe
Technology: Rick Harnish & Glenn Wilson
Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab
Infant Nursery – during worship: Nancy Fisher
Infant Nursery – during CE: Miriam Kennell
Preschool Nursery:
Gather Round: Resumes in September



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, June 7

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

Thursday, June 8

1:00pm Comforter Tops at the MRC

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Monday, June 12

1:00pm Comforter Bash Committee

Wednesday, June 14

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

7:30pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



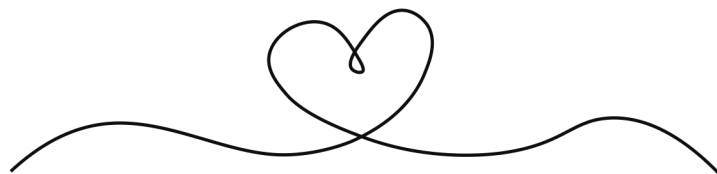
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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 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.



SUNSET ON THE LONGEST DAY

an act of restorative indigeneity
created by shannon epplert

Sunset on the Longest Day

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.

Read the full press release with a description of the work [here](#).

MCC Peace & Justice Journal



**Peace & Justice
Journal**

A publication of Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
VOLUME LV, NO. 2

Read Mennonite Central Committee US National Peace & Justice Ministries' *Peace & Justice Journal* [here](#). This edition is titled "Breaking down dividing walls: US Policy on walls." It invites us to reflect on walls, specifically the separation barriers in Occupied Palestine and the physical walls along the U.S.-Mexico border.



South Dakotan still thrifty at 100

At 100 years old, Alice Graber volunteers twice a week at the Freeman Et Cetera Shoppe in South Dakota. **Read the rest of Mennonite Central Committee's post [here](#).**

Hesston College officials vow to 'earn back trust' after sexual violence report



Hesston College outlined areas in which it needs to improve its response to reports of sexual and gender-based harassment and violence following the April 14 release of a report by an external team of investigators. "We found reading this report and its descriptions of how we have failed our students painful, humbling and saddening," wrote President Joseph Manickam and board chair Ken Kabira in a letter to the Hesston College community. "To our students who were impacted by the college's failures, we extend our own and the college's most sincere apologies. We commit to doing all that we can to earn back your trust in the college." The report by Cozen O'Connor Institutional Response Group, attorneys who investigate sexual and gender-based harassment and violence, said the college failed to consistently respond to reports of harassment and violence, failed to provide complainants with consistent care and information, and improperly used resolutions focused on forgiveness to resolve student concerns. **Read the full article by Time Huber for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



When Peace Theology is Violent

Susannah Griffith is an assistant professor of biblical studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and interim assistant pastor at Keller Park Church, a Mennonite Church USA congregation in South Bend, Ind. Read an excerpt from her article below.

"The findings of an investigation reported in "[Hesston College officials vow to 'earn back trust' after sexual violence report](#)" [see above] are tragic but not surprising. The college's mishandling of sexual violence reports and spiritual abuse of survivors under the guise of forgiveness and reconciliation matches my own experience in Mennonite institutions. The spiritually abusive weaponization of forgiveness and reconciliation runs deep through the veins of Mennonite culture. These distortions of forgiveness and reconciliation, devoid of accountability or justice, figure into peace theology and hurt vulnerable people. It's time for Mennonites to own up to the violence that privileged peace theology does to survivors and victims." **Read the full article by Susannah Griffith for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

The Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests shared a Pride Month Note, found below.

Pride Poetry, Events & Worship Resources

We hold heaviness alongside the joy, beauty and celebration of Pride this season, especially with the escalated physical and spiritual violence our trans, nonbinary and genderqueer siblings face around the country and world. We call on allies -- individuals, congregations, and organizations -- to “come out” loud and proud in your support for all trans folks right now. We hope these gifts of LGBTQIA-inspired faith will nurture your worship, activism and spiritual practice this Pride season.

- A BMC Call to Gather ([here](#))
- Pride Poetry ([here](#))
- Prayer – We Say Yes to What You Have Created Us to Be ([here](#))
- Songs for the Holy Other ([here](#))
- Trans-led Bible Study June 21 ([here](#)) and Worship June 23, from our friends at Transmission Ministry Collective. ([here](#))
- Queering the Bible series June 18 - July 16 with Wildwood, a LGBTQ-centric Brethren church ([here](#)). Sundays at 4:00pm Pacific Time. Join in person or online here. ([here](#))

Make a Pride Donation to BMC Today

We invite you to give and receive this Pride season! Please make a Pride donation and be part of BMC's work to support, care for, and resource LGBTQIA+ Brethren and Mennonite kin and our communities. Before Pride was a celebration it was a protest; Stonewall 1969 reminds us that trans women of color are at the forefront of this struggle, and that our work for collective liberation continues. Join BMC as we continue to build justice-seeking Anabaptist communities grounded in queer and trans resistance, wisdom and resilience —for the long haul. [Donate here](#). We resource one another in many ways beyond money! BMC welcomes donations of your time, skills, curiosity and ideas. Email bmc@bmclgbt.org to get plugged in.

Bible Project Exceeds Goal

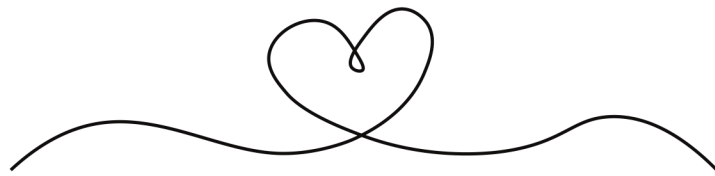


The Anabaptism at 500 Project is proud to announce that it has exceeded its goal of 500 study groups contributing to the Anabaptist Community Bible. The project, which was launched to mark the five hundredth anniversary of Anabaptism, invited groups from around the world to participate in the creation of a new Bible with annotations that reflect the values and perspectives of the Anabaptist tradition. **Read the full news release written by Alyssa Bennett Smith for MennoMedia [here](#).**



Forced out of conference, congregation moves on from conflict over LGBTQ welcome.

It's been a year since Cedar Park Mennonite Brethren Church in Ladner, BC was taken over by the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches after the congregation showed interest in exploring human sexuality and LGBTQ inclusion. Lee Kosa, the lead pastor, was stripped of his ministerial credential. After the takeover, the church's three pastors, Kosa, Megan Simpson, and Darren DeMelo, resigned. About two-thirds of the congregation of about 250 people left Cedar Park, with around 70 deciding to start a new congregation, called Estuary, led by Kosa and DeMelo. The new congregation has been meeting twice a month since January in rented space at a local United Church. Other Sundays, they meet for discussion times. Currently, the church is spending time talking about how to deal with religious trauma, the result of their experience with the British Columbia MB Conference. One thing Estuary is clear about is it is a fully affirming congregation. This public declaration is proving attractive for some. New people are showing up at services saying they are looking for an affirming church, said Carol Johnson, who is on Estuary's leadership team. "They say they had given up on finding a church that is truly welcoming. Estuary is their last shot." While starting a new church this way has its challenges, it is also a cause for joy. "It's great to be able to go to a church that is a safe space," said Johnson. "Everyone is welcome here. They can come as they are." As for what they would say to other Mennonite Brethren churches facing removal from membership over LGBTQ welcome and affirmation, "there is joy on the other side," Kosa said. "We are living it." **Read the full article by John Longhurst for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



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.

Directory

THIS [LINK](#) WILL TAKE YOU TO OUR CURRENT DIRECTORY. IT TAKES A BIT TO DOWNLOAD.
IT LISTS EVERYONE WHO IS A MEMBER, ACTIVE NON-MEMBER.