

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Ron Ropp will preach a sermon titled *Feelings and Faith* using the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:5 and Galatians 5:16-26.

What happens when feelings and faith conflict? Is love more than a feeling?



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](#).

Escape to Camp Menno Haven



Save the Date: Sunday, August 13, 2023

Worship: 10:00 am

Lunch: served by camp staff at noon. The cost will be covered by Fellowship Committee. Registration is required by Wednesday, August 2; sign up [here](#).

Afternoon activities at the camp include use of canoes and paddleboats, swimming in the pool, lawn games, hiking trails, and use of the activity center.

Camping: a small number of camping spots are available. This reduction in spaces is due to sharing the camp this year with another congregation. Amy Reiman has agreed to be the contact for camping.

Carpool: if you are willing to share a ride with another camp attendee please indicate on the registration form. If needing a ride, please indicate on the registration form.

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee



CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly *Connector* publication is now available to read [here](#). It's full of photos and sharing about the recent Annual Meeting at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, IN as well as information about this year's Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary graduates with CDC connections. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table beginning this Sunday.

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. To learn more about this challenge and to download this free guide click [here](#).

Let's start gearing up to do MCC School Kits at Mennonite Church of Normal

- The supplies are out at reduced cost at Walmart.
- Several items: 4 pens, ruler, & metal pencil sharpener (not at Walmart) are the most expensive. I can order online at a very reduced price in quantity. I would like to do this to keep costs down for each kit, but would ask you to contribute one dollar to cover the cost, for each kit.
- You can purchase the following items at Walmart :
 - 4 spiral notebooks (8.5 X10.5). 70 SHEETS ONLY = 35 cents each. (\$1.40)
 - 8 new unsharpened pencils = 47 cents for 10 pencils
 - 12 colored pencils (in a box) Crayola is best!! = 97 cents
 - 1 large eraser = 47 cents for 2

TOTAL = \$3.31, PLUS tax and \$1FOR ORDERED SUPPLIES

- The other 3 items we will get online as I said above. (4 pens, ruler, metal pencil sharpener).
- We will have the cloth bag available for your kits.
- More information will be coming. I am planning to challenge another smaller Mennonite Church to see if we can do more bags then they do. They did over 200 bags last year. MCC wants 10,000. Bags. I HOPE EVERYONE CAN HELP!!

THERE WILL BE A TABLE SET UP ON SUNDAY AND I WILL BE THERE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. --Louise Reeser

Student
Mutual
A
Program

The logo for SMAP is the word 'SMAP' written in a green, cursive, handwritten-style font.

Greetings SMAP supporters! Just a reminder that payments to the Mennonite Colleges and Universities will be made the first week of August. If you could make your contributions to the church by that time it would be much appreciated. Remember you can make your contributions on our website under the give section and then select SMAP or click [here](#). Thanks again for your continued support of this program. Any questions can be directed to Darvis King.

Thank you!

THANK
YOU

As many of you know, the Administration Commission has been looking closely at repairs for our sign out front. Lydia planned out the sign protocols for each weekend through the end of the year before the big problems began. The office computer was no longer able to speak to the sign, rendering it useless. Reaching out to the company from whom it was purchased, we were told that it would cost upwards of \$20K to replace. Further, the part(s) that were not functioning were not made anymore, so a full replacement was our only option. Well, we began to look at alternatives. In conversation with Lydia, it became apparent that what was not functioning was the radio connection to the sign. I wondered if perhaps George Wiman (the wizard of all things in my book) would be able to provide some insight and perhaps create a repair. George took a look and determined that there was cable work needed doing and he set to it. Wednesday he brought the repaired pieces back to the building and we held our collective breaths as Lydia rebooted the system. We were delighted to see the sign light up and are thrilled no further repairs appear needed at this time. What a joyful surprise!

Many thanks to you, George, for your insight, your smarts, your ability to isolate problems rather than just pitching things, and your willingness to help. Thank you for the important reminder to always look at the basics before throwing something away for a costly new replacement. We are so grateful!

From the Administration Commission

Wiping Out Medical Debt!

Central Illinois and Statewide

The Power of Unity

A collaboration between MBCR & Local Congregations in Bloomington Normal



Medical Debt Jubilee

You may have heard about the campaign for wiping out medical debt in Central Illinois on WGLT. Our local effort is being led by First Baptist Church of Bloomington, and we are planning to participate with their "Medical Debt Jubilee" weekend by hosting a special offering here on August 27th.

This is being facilitated by an organization called "RIP Medical Debt" who buys unpaid medical debt at \$1 for every \$100 of debt. The goal for our local campaign is to raise \$12,000, which would pay off 1.2 million dollars of medical debt! That may sound like a big goal, but we are already over halfway there, with over \$6,300 having been raised to date. You can read or listen to WGLT's coverage of this [here](#), and you can look at the campaign site [here](#).

We hope you will mark August 27th on your calendars, and will be ready to give whatever you can for this special opportunity to partner with the wider religious community to be a blessing to those in need here.

From the Outreach Commission

A note from Melika



A note from Melika Hershberger following her July 2nd sermon: I had several people ask me for more information about the diolkos - the road across the Corinthian isthmus that I mentioned in the sermon July 2. It was used for 1500 years to move ships overland between the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea. [This link](#) takes you a website which includes a video using CGI to demonstrate and explain how the road was used. If you don't have 20 min, the part about hauling a ship starts at 9:15 minutes. This imagined scenario paints quite a rosy picture, but if you remember that most of the people providing the labor would have been slaves, the picture turns darker. Among historians the idea that the diolkos was used routinely to haul ships is disputed, as the second video suggests.

Melika Hershberger



Menno Haven Photo Slide Show

Our annual worship service at Menno Haven Camp is Sunday, Aug. 13. The Worship Commission would like to put a slide show together for the morning service with your assistance. They are asking for pictures of the outside of your home. Think of it as a virtual garden tour of your home—and as a way to honor God's creation. Suggestions are pics from your vegetable garden, fruit trees, flowers, native grasses, bee keeping, or landscaping. Please send up to four pictures with short descriptions to Lydia at church@normalmennonite.org. Feel free to submit pics even if you won't be attending the service that morning. We hope to post them in the Midweek later for everyone to enjoy. Please talk to Annette Harnish if you have questions.

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 Stenger and MaryAnn Watkins (co-chairs), Connie Satchwell, & Joanna Oyer



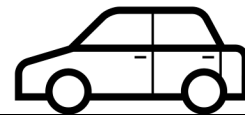
Update from the Vision Team

Your Vision Team met on June 13 and 28. Following the meetings, 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. As several commissions will experience significant turnover in personnel at the end of 2023, we acknowledge the importance of the commissions onboarding and transitioning to new commission members the important work being done. We are prepared to support the commissions in this work.
3. We discussed plans to review and update the congregational objectives. Rick Satchwell is helping Vision Team with the initial steps of this process. Later on in the process, the revised objectives will be presented to the congregation for input.
4. We are working to make updates to the commission and team ministry descriptions with a goal of making them more approachable and condensed.
5. We discussed preliminary plans from the Discipling Commission as it is working to review the topic of church membership.
6. We will be completing our quarterly self-evaluation of the VT and discussing it at our next meeting.
7. We held a Commission Check-In meeting on June 25 where verbal updates from representatives of each commission were provided to interested members of the congregation. This event was well attended with approximately 20 people from the congregation present. The intent behind these sessions is to improve communication between the commissions and the congregation and/or provide different channels of communication (compared to a written update in the Midweek, for example).
8. We discussed preliminary plans from the Discipling Commission as it is working to review the topic of church membership.
9. Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the [Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#).

From the Vision Team

Drivers Needed



The Congregational Care Committee is looking for volunteer drivers to pick up and/or take home individuals who are no longer driving, but would like to attend Sunday Worship Service. Volunteers can be put on a list as "regular" or "as needed" basis. Contact the MCN office if you are willing to provide this service.

From the Congregational Care Committee



Bike Trip

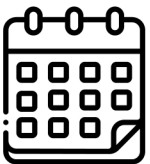
An update from Joe Culpepper: My second tour of the year, a ten day loop around the Selkirk Mountains, began last Sunday & goes through Idaho, British Columbia, & Washington. There are fourteen of us, self-contained (carrying everything on our bikes), camping, & group cooking. If you wish, you can follow my daily posts on Facebook & Instagram & a more detailed daily journal with more pics [here](#). Please keep us in your prayers for a safe & fun adventure. 😊

From Joe Culpepper

Help MDS in St. Clair County, IL Mennonite Disaster Service

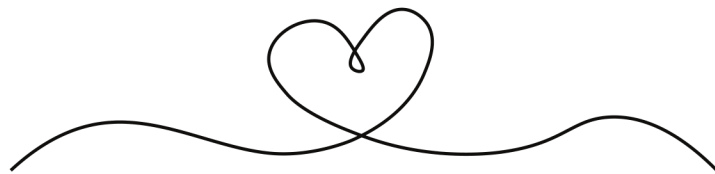
7/17-7/25

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.



Summer Nursery Volunteer Schedule

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





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Jeff & Amy Reiman

West Greeter: Gail Fisher

Welcome Table: Nancy Fisher

Ushers: Zehr family

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner: Holly Zehr

Worship Leader: Jessica Hall

Sharing Prayer Leader:

Children's Story: Jane Roeschley

Scripture Reader: Addy

Technology: Wesley Hershberger & Adam Augspurger

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery – during worship: Shannon Unzicker

Infant Nursery – during CE: Nancy Fisher

Preschool Nursery: Jessica Hall

Gather Round: Resumes in September

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Thursday, July 13

1:00pm Comforter Tops

Sunday, July 16

6:00pm Sharing about MDS

Monday, July 17

1:00pm Comforter Bash Planning Committee



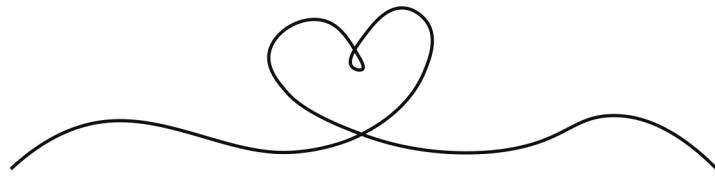
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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 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.



Singing Southern Gospel favorites
from Bill Gaither and Ernie Haase & Signature Sound



SUNDAY

July 30, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Wesley United Methodist Church

502 East Front Street • Bloomington, Illinois

FREE ADMISSION: A freewill offering will be taken with all proceeds going to support the construction costs of the Bill McConnell Memorial Duplex at 1305 and 1307 Bunn St in Bloomington.



Anabaptist Disabilities Network has released a new resource for congregations: *Believing and Belonging, an accessible membership and baptism curriculum*. You can learn more and purchase the curriculum [here](#).



Hungry World Farm

RSVP for Wood-fired pizza at Hungry World Farm

[RSVP](#) by Thursday, July 13

Event on Tuesday, July 18 from 5:30 to 7:30pm

Come enjoy fellowship and delicious pizza featuring fresh, local ingredients at Hungry World Farm! Our next wood-fired pizza event will be Tuesday, July 18, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at our Farm Learning Center (19183 Plow Creek Road, Tiskilwa). Please RSVP [here](#) by Thursday, July 13. (Follow the link or e-mail hungryworldfarm@gmail.com to let us know how many 10" pizzas your party would like to eat.)

MDS turns old store into base camp



Mennonite
Disaster
Service

Eleven Goshen College students spent two weeks in May helping convert an old grocery store into a base camp for Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) in Red Lake, Minn. As part of the college's Environmental Disaster and Response course, the students were in the northern Minnesota community to help MDS get ready to receive volunteers this summer to repair homes damaged by a tornado in 2021. **Read the full article by John Longhurst, MDS Canada Communications, published in the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



Generosity of the Congregation

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA (MC USA), Rachel Ringenberg Miller reflects on incredible way congregations come together to pay pastors and the way that has evolved over the centuries. Rachel Ringenberg Miller serves as denominational minister for ministerial leadership for Mennonite Church USA and has served as associate pastor for Portland (Oregon) Mennonite Church and as pastor of Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton, Kansas. Read her Menno Snapshot [here](#).



New books spotlight women's leadership in New Testament

Several new books are taking a fresh look at the roles of women in Jesus' ministry and in the early church. The scholars argue much of what they're writing isn't new.

"It's not that we're making new discoveries about women. It's not that we're trying to rewrite history. It's simply that women have been obscured, and women's actual roles in the Bible have been obscured," said Beth Allison Barr, the James Vardaman Professor of History at Baylor University and author of the 2022 book, *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth*.

Nijay Gupta — professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary and author of *Tell Her Story: How Women Led, Taught, and Ministered in the Early Church*, which was released in March with a foreword by Barr — said he was forced to reconsider his belief that the Bible forbid women from leadership in the church when he was in seminary. Gupta started teaching and writing about the stories of women found in the New Testament because, he said, "I was wrong, and I was so sure of being right before."

Phoebe, whose name appears in a list of greetings from the apostle Paul at the end of the Book of Romans, takes center stage in Susan Hylen's book, *Finding Phoebe: What New Testament Women Were Really Like*, which was published in January. The two verses about Phoebe describe her as "sister," "deacon" and "benefactor." Hylen offers historical context to help readers reach their own conclusions about the roles women may have played in the early church and beyond, which may look different than they had assumed. **Read the rest of Emily McFarlan Miller's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

For the battle is not (y)ours, but God's 

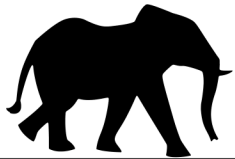
The members of [Open Door Mennonite Church](#) (ODMC) in Jackson, Mississippi, a congregation built on community and faith, have been praying for God's provision. During the pandemic, Jackson residents were affected by disasters that displaced people from their homes: severe storms, the city sanitation department's refusal to service impoverished areas — causing living conditions that are unhealthy and unsanitary — and a major water crisis caused by the city's failing water infrastructure. **Read about the work ODMC is doing with Working Together Jackson (WTJ), a broad-based group of community organizers presently made up of 24 organizations and churches from the area, in Ann Jacob's article for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Pastor recibe el primer Premio Mundial de la Paz Michael J. Sharp

El Pastor Victor Dogos de N'djamena, Chad, es el primer ganador del nuevo Premio Internacional para Artífices de la Paz Michael J. Sharp. El premio, creado por el Comité Central Menonita (CCM) en 2023, reconoce a los valientes artífices de la paz de todas partes del mundo. [Lire la suite.](#)

Pastor receives first Michael J. Sharp Global Peacemaker Award

Pastor Victor Dogos of N'djamena, Chad, is the first recipient of the newly established Michael J. Sharp Global Peacemaker Award. Created by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in 2023, the award acknowledges courageous peacemakers across the world. **Read more [here.](#)**

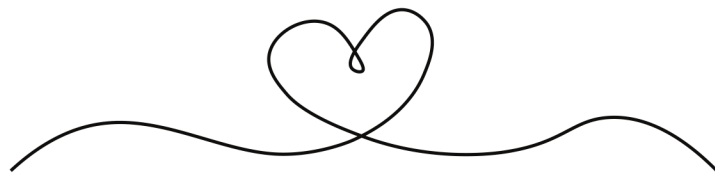


Elephants & Mice



There can be no peace among nations without peace among religions. — Hans Küng

We might paraphrase Küng's words to ask, "How can we spread a gospel of peace without demonstrating peace among ourselves?" While nice folks like us might not be openly unpeaceful, we are all too prone to give up on each other and go our separate ways. In that sense we (peacefully?) "ex-communicate" one another — usually not by actually expelling congregations with whom we disagree but by withdrawing from them and no longer "communicating" in fellowship. I once asked a member of a congregation that left Virginia Conference of Mennonite Church USA if those of us who stayed would still be welcome at their communion services. "Of course!" he assured me. "We will always welcome you to the Lord's Table." "What?" I asked. "You're not OK with working with us in conference assemblies, but you would welcome us to be one with you in the most sacred part of your church life?" To me it felt like a divorcing couple announcing they could no longer tolerate being in the same household but would be OK with occasionally spending an intimate night together. **Read more about the "Christ-based, covenant-bound unity" that author Harvey Yoder prays for in his article for the *Anabaptist World* [here.](#)**



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:

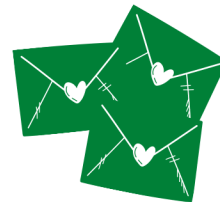
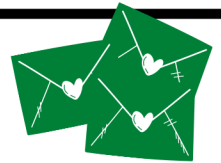
Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lauren Satchwell:

Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

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.

Directory
