

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Holly Zehr will preach a sermon titled *True Love* using the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a and John 8:31-32.

Love rejoices with the truth, says Paul. But what is the truth that we rejoice in? And how does rejoicing in the truth enable us to love well?



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

# Hosting in Homes BBQ



**THIS Sunday, July 30 at 5pm**

Enjoy picnicking with members of your church family

Sign up for a Backyard BBQ

Sunday, July 30 at 5pm

Hosts- Steve and Deb Stenger

Sign up on back bulletin board at church or by emailing Deb or Steve.

*Sponsored by the Community Life Commission*

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



# Escape to Camp Menno Haven

**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 next 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*

# 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](mailto: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*



# Menno Movers Needed

**Saturday, August 5 at 9:00am**

ATTENTION MENNO MOVERS: Rita and Kyria are moving to a new apartment on Saturday, August 5. We as a church community would like to help them. We need: (1). Strong willing helpers to carry furniture and boxes down the stairs at the present apartment and carry them up the stairs to the new apartment. (2). Pick-ups for furniture and cars or SUVs for boxes. (3). A veggie plate for lunch to go along with sandwiches, which will be provided. (4). Cookies and brownies for dessert.

If you are able to help in any of these ways, please contact the church office at [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org) or 309-452-6622. We already have a few volunteers, but could use more to complete the move in a timely manner! We will meet at Rita's present apartment on Saturday. Thank you!!

## MCC Comforter Bash



**Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm each day**  
**Registration is requested by September 8.**

Join us as we gather to assemble comforters that MCC will distribute to those in need around the world. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Your participation in the Comforter Bash will go a long way in helping MCC meet the goal of 45,000 blankets by the end of 2023. It is our hope to complete at least 50 comforters.

We invite contributions of pre-made comforters tops (60" x 80") and backs (65" x 85") for assembly at the Comforter Bash. Tops and backs can be brought directly to the Comforter Bash or dropped off at Mennonite Church of Normal in advance. Financial donations are accepted.

We invite all women, men, and children to join us. There will be something for everyone to do - tie knots, thread needles, help with food service, and more! Lunch and snack breaks will be available each day. Please come and go as you are able.

### **RSVP in one of two ways:**

- By using this [link](#).
- By email: [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org)

Registration is requested by September 8 so we can plan for lunch and breaks. If you have questions contact: Gerry Schrock, Deb Stenger, or Mary Ann Watkins.



## Vision Team Update

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Your Vision Team met on July 18. 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. We discussed drafted revisions to the church constitution which are being done following the implementation and evaluation of the church structure and will be shared with the congregation for feedback and ratification later this year.
3. We planned out steps for completing the annual evaluation of our pastors.
4. We discussed the results of our quarterly self-evaluation of the VT.
5. Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the [Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#).

*From the Vision Team*

## Sharing Our Gifts Photos

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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*

## UPDATE ON MCC SCHOOL KITS

WE ARE WELL OVER 100 SCHOOL KITS. **WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

This a great activity to do with your children. **You can buy the contents of 6 kits for under \$20 and then \$1 kit for the ruler and pens**, which we have at church. **If you would just like to donate \$\$\$ and someone else gets the supplies, we are glad to do the buying for you.** If you wish it to be a tax-deductible donation, you need to donate to MCN, marked "school kits" and we will receive the funds from the office.

MCC is very specific about the supplies. Reminder: (4) 70 page, wide ruled, spiral notebook. (8) Pencils are to be unsharpened. Crayola colored pencils are the best, Erasers are 2 to pack, so it can be for 2 bags. We hope you'll help us get past our goal.

**WE STILL NEED LOTS OF FABRIC BAGS FOR THE KITS.** If you could help with this, it would be greatly appreciated.

Call Louise

**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 \$1 FOR 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.

--Louise Reeser



# 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 of 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*

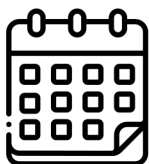
## Spending Plan Update



### Spending Plan Status as of June 30, 2023

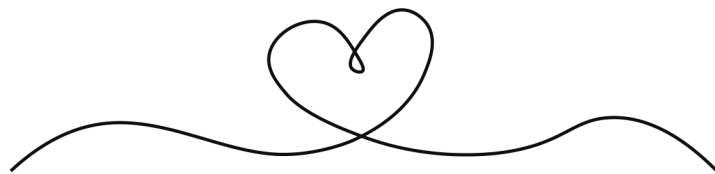
- June Income:
- June Expenses:
- June Income - Expenses:
- Year-to-Date Income:
- Year-to-Date Expenses:
- Year-to-Date Income - Expenses:

*Shared by the Administration Commission*



## Summer Nursery Volunteer Schedule

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





# Those Serving This Week



**South Greeters:** Andy & Beth Reeser family

**West Greeter:** Judy Hershberger

**Welcome Table:** Mary Dyck

**Ushers:** Adam Augspurger & Glenn Wilson

**Offering Counter:** Lotus Hershberger

**Worship Planner:** Holly Zehr

**Worship Leader:** Shannon Neely

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Lynette Miller

**Children's Story:** Darrel Miller

**Scripture Reader:**

**Technology:** Ryan Miller & Wesley Hershberger

**Song Leader:** Cindy Ropp

**Accompaniment:** Dorothy Loepp

**Prelude & Postlude:** Illinois Chamber Music Festival Musicians

**Infant Nursery – during worship:** Janet Wilson

**Infant Nursery – during CE:** Connie Yoder

**Preschool Nursery:** Alexandra Neely

**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

## This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### Thursday, July 27

**All Day Office Closed**

**1:00pm** Comforter Tops at the MRC Community Building

**6:30pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

### Saturday, July 29

**9:00am** Worship Commission (Zoom)

### Sunday, July 30

**11:00am** Visitation Team Meeting

**5:00pm** Backyard BBQ

### Monday, July 31

**7:00pm** Discipling Commission (Zoom)

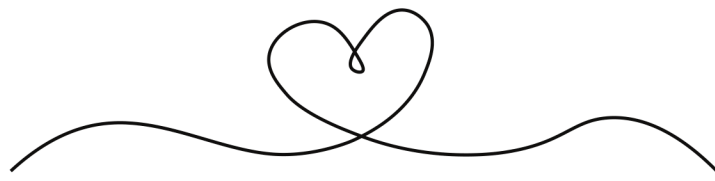
### Tuesday, August 1

**3:00pm** Pastoral Team (Zoom)

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





## ***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.

*Biennial Schedule Kept*



*Mennonite Church USA delegates vote to keep biennial schedule.*

Mennonite Church USA delegates on July 7 narrowly rejected a recommendation to lengthen the delegate assembly cycle from two years to three. With 65.6% support, the resolution fell just short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass. The vote was 210 to 110. Delegates met July 7-8 at the Kansas City Convention Center immediately after the national convention of MC USA. The Executive Board, which brought the recommendation, estimated a triennial schedule would increase attendance and cost 30% less for both delegates and the denomination over a six-year period. It also would allow more time to implement delegate assembly actions. Although the recommendation dealt only with delegate assemblies, most of the discussion focused on conventions, which traditionally have been held with delegate meetings but do not have to be. **Read more in Paul Schrag's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



## Ministry credential restored

Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA has reinstated the ministerial credential of Keith Schrag 36 years after he relinquished it in 1987 during a ministerial meeting in which he was questioned for being a gay man. Central District restored Schrag's credentials June 23 at the conference's annual meeting, hosted at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind. Schrag was ordained in 1971 in Wichita, Kan., and served as pastor of Ames Mennonite Church in Iowa from 1977 to 1987 and continued to pastor the congregation as a lay leader until his retirement earlier this year. The relinquishment followed Schrag's public acknowledgment of his sexual orientation as a gay man and his advocacy for the welcome of all into the church regardless of sexual orientation. He was also asked to step down from the Peace, Service and Justice Committee. The emotional and redemptive power of reconciliation played out in the life and ministry of Schrag, who continued his advocacy for LGBTQ people.

Conference minister Doug Luginbill offered a tearful apology on behalf of the conference and gave Schrag a certificate of ordination. "On behalf of the Central District Conference, I apologize for the pain, marginalization and separation that you experienced from the conference," he said. "We recognize your prophetic and pastoral gifts, walking with and ministering to many who were marginalized. You were a pastor to many throughout your nearly 60 years of ministry in Kansas, Iowa and other communities. Today we recognize you as a credentialed leader in Central District Conference and Mennonite Church USA. Keith, continue to preach the word, share your gifts and bear witness in word and deed to the gospel." **Read the rest of Sarah Werner's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

*Hear creation's groan, without anxiety*



Creation is groaning. Climate change is warming the globe, and ecosystems are overwhelmed. That doesn't mean individuals should also be overwhelmed. Just over 300 attendees were called to action and hope — but not anxiety and depression — July 7 at the Youth and Young Adult Climate Summit in Kansas City, Mo. The new event for the Mennonite Church USA convention featured keynote speaker Talitha Amadea Aho. The author of *In Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis*, Aho spoke on Romans 8:22-26, lamenting the groaning of creation and hope for what is not yet seen. Aho said hotter and colder weather and the increasing intensity of natural disasters are theological concerns because poor people suffer more from severe weather's impacts. "There is one vocation we all share when it comes to the climate crisis," said Aho, pastor at Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland. "God calls us all to take care of one another." **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article about the Youth and Young Adult Climate Summit for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## MennoCon23 opens with call to be transformed in God's image

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*Okanya: 'What is forming and shaping your love?'*

On opening night of MennoCon23, the national convention of Mennonite Church USA, a crowd of about 1,300 heard a call to turn away from the world's habit-forming practices and be transformed by Jesus Christ. The biennial event, with the theme "Be Transformed," opened July 3 in the Kansas City Convention Center. Nelson Okanya, global missions president for the Center for Serving Leadership in Pittsburgh, spoke on Romans 12:1-2, which says believers should present themselves to God as "living sacrifices" who are "transformed by the renewing of your minds." Originally from Kenya, Okanya chairs the Global Mission Fellowship, a support network for Anabaptist-related churches and mission groups. He is a former president of Eastern Mennonite Missions. "I am the product of Mennonite mission," Okanya said. "I am here because Mennonites went to East Africa in obedience to God. . . . A number are buried there. They gave it their all." He believes the church is able to shape God's people for sacrificial obedience if we set aside earthly loyalties. "He calls us to be agents of that salvation," Okanya said. "God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. How are we doing at that, friends?" **Read more about Nelson Okanya's message in Paul Schrag's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



## Working for peace, one relationship at a time

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*Korean Anabaptists pursue justice in churches and beyond.*

Peace churches exist in South Korea, but their numbers are tiny relative to the [numerous Protestant and Catholic steeples](#) that poke above the buildings in every community. The six Anabaptist churches in the nation today trace their roots to a Christian book study group in 1993 that sought a return to early church practices. Mennonite Central Committee operated a vocational school from 1953 to 1971 as part of its response to the Korean War. But no mission agency sent church planters, and no Mennonite church was established. The book study turned into Jesus Village Church, which was formed in 1996, followed by the Korean Anabaptist Center in 2003. It shares office space with MCC in Chuncheon. On June 4, after a joint worship service of two Anabaptist congregations, Jesus Village Church and Jesus Heart Church, KAC board chair Sang-Uk Nam explained about education and publishing projects the center carries out to introduce Anabaptist values in Korean society. "We also do book clubs and work to translate books about Anabaptism and peace, and that enlarges our network," he said. "I know people who hate churches but want to be a Christian. And those people are often attracted to us." **Read more about Anabaptism in South Korea in Time Huber's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Still seeking peace, 70 years after war in Korea



*Pain and division linger generations after armistice.*

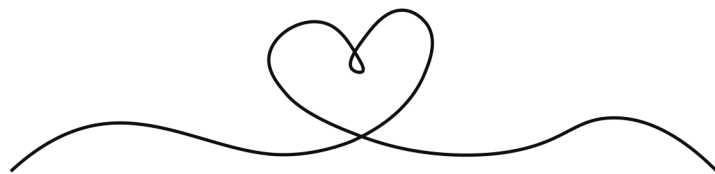
Kim Young-Ae carries a vision of peace and reconciliation that reaches far beyond the razor-wire fence hugging her island's coast. Gyodong Island is one of South Korea's most northwestern points, separated by only about a mile of water from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, also known as North Korea. A bridge built in 2014 connects the island to the mainland, via a military checkpoint with gun-toting soldiers. The security measures are reminders that the Korean War technically continues, though fighting ended with an armistice 70 years ago this month. No treaty was signed to end the war, imparting a legacy of militarization and divided families that continues to this day. The war's active period, from 1950 to 1953, claimed some 5 million lives and displaced an estimated 5 million others. Confusion and panic reigned as the U.S. military dropped more bombs and napalm than in the entire Pacific theater during World War II. MCC seeks to be a reconciling presence with the people of two Koreas, resisting hostility and isolation. Based in Chuncheon, South Korea, it has a history of supporting orphanages and pediatric hospitals with canned meat and other resources, Stacy Nam (MCC's DPRK program director) said. Kim shares those goals on her island out west. Where others see a rusting metal building abandoned as a military observation outpost on the northern tip of the island, she sees the blueprint of a kids' camp that could gather youth from both sides of the water. **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



## Christ's call, God's love encountered

*Christ's call, God's love encountered amid diversity of opinions and ages.*

Speakers at MennoCon23 worship services July 6 suggested God's love can be encountered in seemingly awkward relationships that often overlap: those that involve different generations and different opinions. Such transformational relationships can also be a significant source of hope for the church's future. Spanning birth years from 1957 to 2005, a morning worship panel at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Kansas City, Mo., shared about where each person has seen the church at its best, how it has changed, and their hopes for what comes next. **Read more about the panel in Tim Huber's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



# Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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Building Open:

**Standard Hours:**

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

**Closed:**

Thursday 7/27 - All day

Lydia Hedberg:

Office Administrator; [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto: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](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org)

Lynette Miller:

Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions

Ron Ropp:

Pastor for Pastoral Care

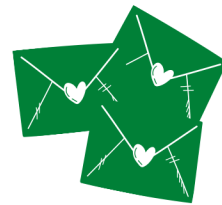
Lauren Satchwell:

Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

## Our Members in Care Facilities

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



# Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

## Items for the Midweek

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

## Commission Meeting Minutes

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

## Commissions and Teams Contact List

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[Commissions and Teams Contact List](#)

## Structure Documents

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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.