

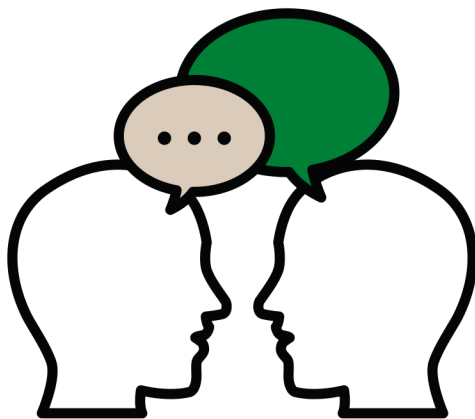
# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Grin* using the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:7 “[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” and James 4:11-12.

What does Paul mean by saying love “bears all things?” It sounds like some herculean feat reserved only for the saints. However, with James, we imagine that this “bearing” might have some concrete expressions in our everyday lives, beginning with how we speak about each other.



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



# 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 TODAY, 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.

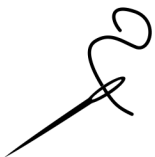
*Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee*

## 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*



## Attention Quilters

The Thursday group that meets to work on Comforter tops for the Bash **will not be meeting this Thursday**. The group will resume next week on Thursday, August 10. Thank you for all your work towards making the Bash happen.

The chance to sign up to volunteer at the Comforter Bash on September 15 and 16 will be coming next week. We need everyone to help make this a success!

*From the Community Life Commission*

# 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 three ways:**

- By using this link: <https://forms.gle/nEHa6m9CoGG3ousH7>
- By email: [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org)
- By printing and returning this form: [click here](#)

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.

*Hosted by the Community Life 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 morning, Aug 5. Thank you!!



## Blessed at Pridefest



The interfaith “blessing booth” at Pridefest enjoyed its first expression in Bloomington this past Saturday. Many thanks to Rebecca Gant from The Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal who organized this effort. Clergy from five faith communities were represented, and I was proud to represent MCN as we offered blessings to all who requested them. Also, along with the ribbons you all inscribed, passersby wrote out blessings of their own and tied them to the archway at the entrance to our tent. There were many tears shed, alongside many joyful moments. Pridefest was a beautiful and powerful place to be, and I am excited to return next year! I am deeply grateful to be a part of a congregation that empowers me to show up for our LGBTQIA+ siblings without reservation. You can read more about this event and our booth [here](#).

-Pastor Kevin



## Updates from the Administration Commission

- We recently had a fire inspection from the Town of Normal. We got dinged on a number of items. We need your help to monitor and help maintain our safety. First, while the fire doors have door stops on them to hold them open, we can't leave them open. They need to stay closed. We're in the process of removing the door stops to make it easier to remember. In addition, we can't keep a rubber door stop handy as the fire inspector always notices. Second, the area behind and to the side of the organ seems to accumulate many items, including music stands. This can't happen as the route to the exit door needs to be available. Third, several exit doors are missing light bulbs; these are in the process of being replaced. Fourth, the pathway from the south door from the sanctuary was blocked with grasses and weeds, including the area around the air conditioners. These have been removed. The fire inspector will be returning to see whether we've corrected these issues or not.
- Lydia drafted a Preventive Maintenance Checklist for the church. The Commission is in the process of finalizing the Checklist for a living document that is updated as preventive maintenance is completed. Then, we should know when the next time the task is to be completed.
- Hopefully, you noticed in last week's Midweek that we are running about \$10,000 below our Spending Plan. Typically, we have run a deficit in the summer, however, in the last five years, it's not been this significant. We would appreciate your assistance in correcting the deficit.

*Frm the Administration Commission*





- **There will be no Sunday School on August 27th.**
- Parents of children in PK-8th grade should watch their email for a survey regarding participation in Sunday school this fall. Completion of these surveys will help our CE committee plan well and steward our resources well.

*From the Discipling Commission*



## Hungry World Farm

Hungry World Farms in rural Tiskilwa, IL has a roof that needs replacing. Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) will supply tools and supplies, but they need volunteer workers to complete the work in August. Please contact Lane Miller (Lynette's son) at if you are willing to help.

Thanks, Phil Dick, Chair, MCN Outreach Commission  
*From the Outreach Commission*

## SMAP Update



### **Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP) update**

Our account balance is at approx. \$16,000 and the amount we need for the fall semester payments is approx. \$23,625. Please make your contributions and/or consider giving in the next two weeks to allow us to send checks to the colleges by the middle of August. Thank you for your continued support of this program!! Any questions can be directed to Darvis King.

*From the SMAP Committee*



## Thank you

Thanks for the cards, words of sympathy, and prayers following the passing of Jan's brother, Carl.

*From John & Jan Gundy*

## Summer Nursery Volunteer Schedule



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

## 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 with questions

**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

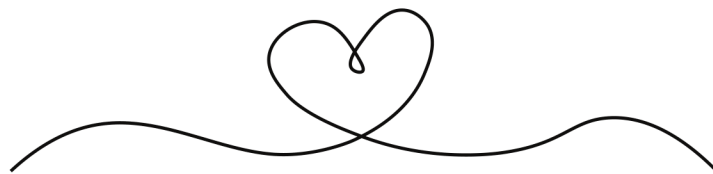


You may have heard about the campaign for wiping out medical debt in Central Illinois on WGLT. Our local effort is being led by First Baptist Church of Bloomington, and we are planning to participate with their “Medical Debt Jubilee” weekend by hosting a special offering here on August 27th.

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*



## 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

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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.



## Those Serving This Week



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**South Greeters:** Chellie & Eric Miller

**West Greeter:** Mark Roeschley

**Welcome Table:** Marge Weaver

**Ushers:** Robin & Chad Gundy

**Offering Counter:** Mark Roeschley

**Worship Planner & Leader:** Steve Benner

**Communion Leader:** Joe Culpepper

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Ron Ropp

**Children's Story:** Kevin Chupp

**Scripture Reader:** Lynette Miller

**Technology:** Caleb Augspurger & Wesley Hershberger

**Song Leader:** Wayne Hochstetler

**Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude:** Elsa Raab

**Infant Nursery – during worship:** Ben Roeschley

**Infant Nursery – during CE:** Shannon Unzicker

**Preschool Nursery:** Jordan

**Gather Round:** Resumes in September

# This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

**Wednesday, August 2**  
Afternoon Office Closed

**Thursday, August 3**  
6:00pm Pastoral Team and Vision Team (Hybrid)

**Monday, August 7**  
5:00pm Outreach Commission  
7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

**Tuesday, August 1**  
4:30pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



## Immunization Awareness

There is a lot of concern about whether or not to get vaccinated. The concern could be for the flu shot, COVID shot or anything else. Is it safe? Will it make me sick? Does it actually help? Do I have any choice? Here are some helpful links from the Community Wellness & Faith Community Health Services at Carle that answer those important questions so you make an informed decision for yourself and your family.

- [Nemours Kids Health: Common Questions about Vaccines](#)
- [Gavi The Vaccine Alliance: How Vaccines Work](#)



Learn about what happened at the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) MennoCon 2023 convention! MC USA has all of the blog posts they published during the event listed [here](#). Linked below are some articles that our delegates recommended in particular.

- “[Seminar combats climate anxiety with strategies for hope and resilience](#).” I attended initially because Sarah Werner is a Central District Conference pastor and staff person. But the seminar was a really vulnerable place for people to talk about the hopelessness and anxiety around climate crisis, and prepared us to talk about those things in ways that were more helpful and productive, even while being realistic. I was also glad to learn about Sarah’s upcoming book release! -Pastor Kevin
- “[Seminar on queer and decolonize movements overflows rooms](#).” It was incredible how many people were stuffed in there! I think the turnout and conversation in that room illustrates how much energy there is around justice movements in MCUSA. It feels like we are really moving forward. -Pastor Kevin
- “[Christ’s call, God’s love encountered amid diversity of opinions, ages](#).” I thought the intergenerational panel was great. It was powerful to see different generations express hopefulness about the future of the church in very different terms. -Pastor Kevin



## Indiana-Michigan adopts nondiscrimination policy for ministry credentialing

Indiana-Michigan Conference of Mennonite Church USA has adopted a policy to “not deny credentials to someone called to ministry . . . because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status.” Delegates passed the policy revision with 90.6% approval at the conference’s annual meeting June 9-10 at Amigo Centre in Sturgis, Mich. The conference reviewed its policy on credentialing people in same-sex relationships after MC USA delegates rescinded the denomination’s Membership Guidelines at a special delegate assembly in 2022. The Indiana-Michigan policy reaffirms congregations’ freedom “to be the deciding bodies about their pastoral leadership.” Congregations can “choose to call or not call as a pastor any person equipped for pastoral leadership.” The meeting’s theme was “Unity in Love,” based on Philippians 2:1-5. Cyneatha Millsaps of Mennonite Women USA and Sharon Yoder, Indiana-Michigan Conference co-minister, preached on the need for listening and relationships. The closure or release of five congregations was recognized. **Read the article from *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



# Upcoming MCC Benefit



## Upcoming Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Benefit

**Where:** Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ (where Madison Mennonite Church meets) at 1501 Gilbert RD Madison, WI.

**When:** Saturday, September 16, 2023

**Time:** Noon to 4:00pm CDT

### Schedule:

- 12-1pm Donation BBQ or Vegetarian lunch
- 1:30pm Mini Auction
- 2:45pm Celebrating MCC and My Coins Count Blessing
- 3:15pm Hymn Sing

Free Admission | Free Parking

My Coins Count designated for Ukraine

Cash or check for all donations and auction purchases with checks made out to MCC

Donations may be sent to:

V. Richard Wildermuth, Event Coordinator

PO Box 654 Deforest, WI 53532

**Questions:** 608-320-2724



## The Doctrine of Discovery Continues to Exploit

*Below is the beginning of an article by Sierra Ross Richer for the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative's [The Climate Pollinator](#) newsletter.*

Members of Waterford Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana, USA, are baptized in a small pond behind the church that is home to beavers, fish and all kinds of insects. The Waterford Wetland, a 55-acre area of undeveloped land along the Elkhart River, is a source of pride for the congregation. A brief history of the land on the church's website begins in the 1950s, when a previous owner dug a pond to raise fish. But what about before that? Like most of the United States, the land owned by Waterford Mennonite Church was taken from the indigenous people who lived on it (in this case the Pokagon band of the Potawatomi) through treaties and forced relocation in the 17 and 1800s. Mennonite settlers didn't usually participate directly in the removal of indigenous peoples, but they often moved in soon after, setting up homesteads in places like Goshen within the first decade of them being vacated. "We're living on Potawatomi land here and it was not taken in a just way from the people at all," said Luke Gascho, a member of Waterford Mennonite Church who helped the church connect with The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. His question is: "So what does one do?" **Read the rest of Sierra Ross Richer's article for the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative [here](#).**

## Anabaptist Climate group names executive director



Douglas Day Kaufman began serving July 1 as executive director of the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative (ACC). He previously was ACC's director of pastoral ecology. In that role since 2018, he led pastoral and leadership retreats on climate change, helping congregations reduce their carbon footprint and engage in climate action. Kaufman became passionate about creation care while serving as a pastor of Benton Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind. He discovered pollutants compromise the Elkhart River, a frequent baptismal location. His commitment to theologically grounded climate justice advocacy deepened as he completed a master's degree in theology and ecology at the University of Toronto and became trained as an Indiana Master Naturalist. "Addressing climate justice is the critical issue of our time, and I am proud of the work we have done first as the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions and now Anabaptist Climate Collaborative," he said. "I am pleased to be able to help sustain and grow the organization as we become both independent and more collaborative." **Read the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**



## Train trip to mark Canada migration

One hundred years ago, the first of 21,000 Mennonites who left the Soviet Union boarded a train in Quebec City for new lives across Canada. Some of their descendants and others will replicate that journey when they board a train July 6 for a trip that will conclude in British Columbia as part of "Memories of Migration: *Russlaender* (Russian Mennonites) Tour 100." The cross-country tour is the brainchild of Ingrid Riesen Moehlmann. She came up with the idea when her father made a last request to her before he died to find a way to celebrate the arrival in Canada of Mennonites who experienced civil war, famine and disease in revolutionary Ukraine and Russia. "That story was an all-consuming passion for him," she said. "He was afraid it was being lost and forgotten." Participants will re-enact the historic migration of the thousands of Mennonites who left communities decimated by violence and tragedy in the Soviet Union to come to Canada between 1923 and 1930. The tour will include stops in Montreal, Kitchener, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Rosthern and Edmonton before ending July 25 in Abbotsford, B.C. It is organized by the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, together with Canadian Mennonite scholars and heritage enthusiasts. In addition to lectures and music along the way, the tour will include a gala sponsored by the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway in Montreal and tours of Mennonite-related sites along the way. Some presentations will address the migration's impact on Indigenous communities in western Canada. **Read the rest of John Longhurst's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## *The Rev. Amos Brown, vice chair of California's reparations task force, calls for action*

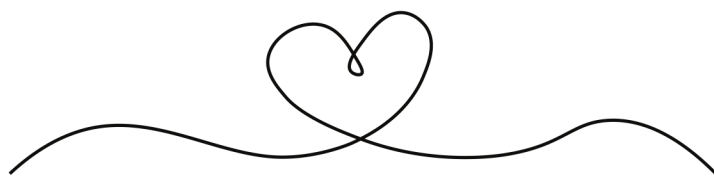


The Rev. Amos C. Brown is a civil rights veteran and onetime student of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Brown is the namesake of a fellowship that has brought young adults to Ghana with leaders of the NAACP and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to learn the history of slavery. Now, the 82-year-old senior pastor of San Francisco's Third Baptist Church is vice chair of California's Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, which released its final report on June 29. "If anyone says 'Y'all don't deserve nothing. Stop complaining. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps,'" he said, "I contend they are heartless and they don't know anything about that dictum that's found in all of the world religions. What is that dictum?: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Brown, Third Baptist's senior pastor since 1976, is particularly proud that his historic church affiliated with the National Baptist Convention, USA, and the American Baptist Churches USA, was the site of the first in-person public meeting of the task force. At its most recent meeting, held in Oakland, the task force recommended monetary compensation be part of the reparations that state officials consider when they receive the task force's final report. **Read Adelle M. Bank's interview with Rev. Amos C. Brown for *Religion News Service* and republished by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



## *Peace and Justice Ministries & MCCN*

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Executive Board is strengthening its ongoing commitment to creation care and climate justice by expanding its Peace & Justice ministries to include [Mennonite Creation Care Network \(MCCN\)](#). The transition is the result of a mutual agreement with [Everence®](#), an agency of MC USA that has previously provided administrative services for MCCN and continues to provide financial support, and [Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center](#) of Goshen College, which has managed the daily operations since its [formation in 2005](#). The transition process will begin Aug. 1, 2023. **Read about the work being done and what the transition will entail in MC USA's blog post [here](#). Read a statement by director of MCCN Jennifer Schrock [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:** Wednesday 8/2 in the afternoon

## 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.