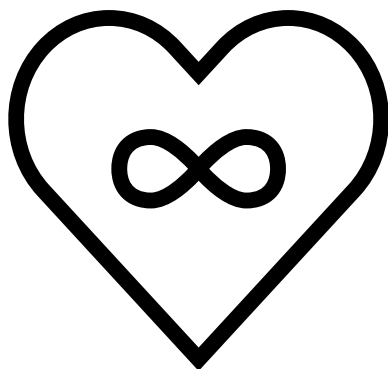


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Steve Benner will preach a sermon using the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:7 "[love] endures all things" and Colossians 1.



The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

After Worship

Christian Education

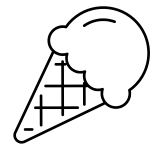
There will be no adult, children, or youth CE this Sunday.



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Back to School Bash



THIS Sunday, August 27 at Darrel and Lynette Miller's home

You are invited to sign up for homemade ice cream and accoutrements at the home of Darrel and Lynette Miller on Sunday evening, August 27 to mark summer's last hurrah. **Please let Lynette Miller or the church office if you are interested in attending.** We have four steps into our home, but have side rails on both sides of the steps. This is a Hosting in Homes initiative.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission



Medical Debt Jubilee

THIS Sunday, August 27th, is the day for the Medical Debt Jubilee! We will be holding a special offering alongside 6 other local congregations.

Already, leading up to the special offering \$7,442.70 has been raised toward our \$12,000 goal. If reached, that goal will pay off 1.2 million dollars of medical debt through the organization, RIP Medical Debt.

This Sunday, you can participate in multiple ways:

- make a contribution to the donation box under the big Medical Debt Jubilee poster.
- give in the regular offering with a check to MCN with a note on the memo line for "Medical Debt Jubilee."
- scan the QR code on the poster and give online.

However you can participate, your dollars go far, so we hope you will be inspired to help this worthy cause! You can hear more about this from WGLT's coverage [here](#), and you can look at the campaign site [here](#).

From the Outreach Commission

MYF Café



Kevin, Jess, & Junia invite the MYF & JMYF to join us for the MYF Café! Following Worship **THIS Sunday (27th)** Kevin will be playing barista, serving espresso (and other) beverages, alongside baked goods, with games for the youth to share. We hope you'll join us for this caffeinated gathering! If you have a chance, the Chupps would be glad for a count, so please reply to Shelly or Shannon if you know whether your youth will be coming. Thanks!

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission



Substitute CE Teachers

Any joyful hearts that are willing to be a substitute teacher for the pre k-1st grade class this fall please contact Carrie Stalter.

Nursery Helpers



Calling all the amazing Nursery Helpers; if anyone wants their names added or deleted to the nursery schedule or Gather Round for the fall, please contact Carrie Stalter or Spring Neely.



"Story of Jo"

There are no words that can say what we feel about the love and support in these last days after Jo's death. The many ways you have expressed your love and support has brought healing in so many ways. Marty shared with me over 300 responses on his email for us. And since he was moved, (as he should be), to set aside Dad's, "Story Of Jo" at the funeral, a copy of it is available here for anyone wishing to read it. God's love to you all. A recording of her funeral service is available to view here.

--Ron Ropp

Condolences



If you saw the condolence email for Phyllis King yesterday, you may have noticed it did not have a date for the funeral service. Below is the complete announcement.



Card Shower

Duane's 50th Birthday is soon, so I would like to request people mail birthday cards by or before 9/7.

--Stephanie Nester
p. 3 of 16

Launching Women's Ministry at MCN



Saturday, September 23 at 10 am

Community Life Commission (CLC) has developed a plan for moving forward with a Women's Ministry based on results of the questionnaire that was completed in the spring. The results showed that many women in the church are interested in participating in such a ministry and that there are many different interests to explore.

The Commission has planned for a Launching of Women's Ministry event to be held on Saturday, September 23 at 10:00 am at the church. Jane Roeschley, MACF Threshold Ministries - Spiritual Direction, Retreat, Pilgrimage, will be presenting a talk entitled Women's Wisdom Across the Seasons. This talk will draw upon Celtic places and stories as we think about women's wisdom in the seasons of women's lives, and how sharing our wisdom strengthens and enriches our community with one another.

Following Jane's presentation, CLC will share more about the initial plan for Women's Ministry. Starting out, there will be two kinds of groups meeting. One is for Bible/book study and the other is for Sewing and more.

Coffee and conversation will take place around the tables in the Fellowship area following the presentations. Childcare will be provided for the event. **Click [here](#) to register for the Launching Meeting on September 23.**

From the Community Life Commission



Open Hours

This week only, the office will be open different hours Thursday afternoon. On Thursday, August 24 the office will be **open: Thursday from 12-1:30pm**. It will be **closed: Thursday from 1:30-3pm**. Thank you for your understanding!

MCC School Kits

SCHOOL KIT UPDATE!!

We are still receiving donations in cash and supplies, and women are still sewing bags. This Sunday, August 27, we will hope to fill the final bags. I hope to get a picture with the children and all of the bags. We are well over 200 bags & counting. We thank you for your support.

--Louise Reeser

MCC Comforter Bash Registration and Volunteer Sign Up

Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm each day
Registration and Volunteer Sign Up are 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. Consider signing up for a few hours, for all-day, or better yet for both days. Please come and go as you are able.

RSVP to attend in one of three ways:

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

There are several ways to participate in the Comforter Bash. Everyone can knot comforters and there are also other specific Volunteer tasks related to hosting the Comforter Bash. Please sign up on the link above to register for the day and sign up on the link here, or on the bulletin board in the atrium of the church to volunteer for specific tasks.

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



Christian Education

There will be no adult, children, or youth Sunday School **THIS Sunday, August 27th.**

From the Discipling Commission

Nature Slideshow



The Worship Commission wants to thank everyone who submitted slides of nature scenes from their home places. Since some of you weren't able to see them at Menno Haven, they are available to enjoy in all their glory as a PDF [here](#) and a video [here](#). Also, a big thank you to Lydia for organizing and labeling all of the slides. We couldn't have done it without her!



Brave and Beloved: A Bible Study for Women

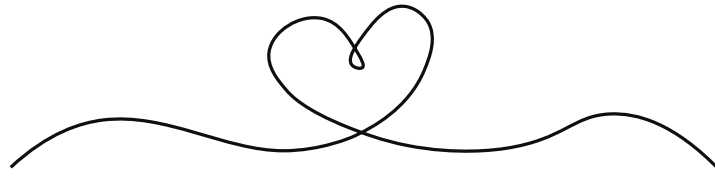
As a component of Women's Ministry, a women's Bible/book study will be offered for women interested in using the book, *Brave and Beloved: A Bible Study for Women Exploring the Wisdom and Diversity of Women in the Bible* by Meredith Storrs. This book looks at the way God weaves the lives of 30 women in Scripture into the redemption story. Reviewers said it is not a "flowers and teacups" Bible study of women, but, using culture and historical context, gives a full picture of these very human women beyond a one-dimensional view. Lynette Miller will lead this study starting the week of September 18. If you are interested, **please contact Lynette, Mary Ann Watkins, or the church office by Tuesday, September 5 so we can order an accurate number of books.** An indication of preferred times to meet would also be appreciated.

From the Community Life Commission

Sharing Our Gifts Photos

Thank you all for sharing wonderful photos of you sharing your gifts! Find a link to the slide show that played before and after the Sunday worship service last Sunday [here](#) (or play the video below!)

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Thursday, August 24

12:00pm-1:30pm Office Open

1:00pm Comforter Tops

1:30pm-3:00pm Office Closed

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, August 27

11:00am No Christian Education

11:00am Visitation Team

Tuesday, August 29

3:00pm Pastoral Team



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



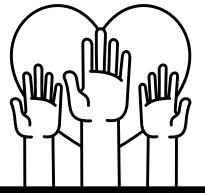
MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE TOP ADMINISTRATORS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2023

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.



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Mary Ann & Paul Watkins

West Greeter: David Voegtlin

Welcome Table: Gail Fisher

Ushers: Chellie & Eric Miller

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Wayne Hochstetler

Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp

Children's Story:

Scripture Reader:

Technology: Wesley Hershberger and Glenn Wilson

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Denise & Lydia Hedberg

Infant Nursery – during worship: Caroline Roeschley

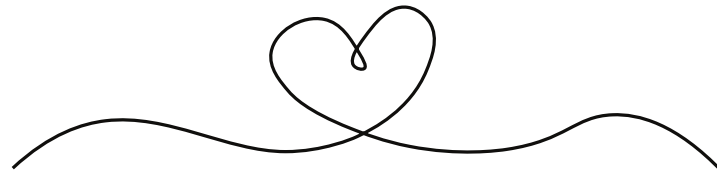
Infant Nursery – during CE: Jane Roeschley

Preschool Nursery: Emma King

Gather Round: Resumes in September

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Green Screen: Film Screenings at Normal Theater



The Illinois State University Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology and the Office of Sustainability are excited to announce the fourth season of the Green Screen Film series this fall. Beginning Tuesday, August 29, four films will be screened at Normal Theater in Uptown Normal on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. The films are free and open to the public. **See the schedule and film details [here](#).**



Second Annual Further Jazz Festival

September 9th from 4-9pm at the Connie Link Amphitheatre

Several Jazz ensembles, including Glenn Wilson/Rory Stuart, will be performing during the second Annual Further Jazz Festival at the Connie Link Amphitheatre from 4-9pm on September 9th. View a flyer with more information [here](#).

MCC concludes German book-selling ministry

Mennonite Central Committee is closing the book sales activities of *Die Mennonitische Post*, effective March 31. This includes the closure of the brick-and-mortar bookstores in Steinbach and Winkler, Man. It also signals the end of book orders and shipping to locations across North America. *Die Mennonitische Post* is a newspaper published by MCC to connect readers in German-speaking communities across several countries and promote literacy and education. The *Post* and *Das Blatt* magazine for children and teachers will continue. The paper is printed and distributed biweekly; the magazine is monthly. **Read about the history of this book ministry and the impact it has had in Laura Kalmar's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

 Anabaptist Disabilities Network

ADN Summer Newsletter

The summer edition of the Anabaptist Disabilities Network's (ADN) *Connections* newsletter is available to read [here](#).

Online encyclopedia becomes more global



One of the most widely used sources of information about Mennonites and other Anabaptists continues to grow in quantity of articles and in global diversity of contributors. The Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO) added 117 new articles in the past year, bringing the total to 17,091. "Over 830 users access and read GAMEO articles each day," said Elizabeth Miller, the general editor. "We anticipate that GAMEO will become even more relevant for global users as the list of contributors, publishing languages and entries expands." Miller, who directs the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism at Goshen College, is one of three new members of the GAMEO management board. The other two are Anicka Fast, secretary of the Faith and Life Commission of Mennonite World Conference; and Roberta Yoder, representing the Mennonite Church USA archives. In 2022 GAMEO welcomed the D.F. Plett Historical Research Foundation as an institutional partner. Foundation executive director Aileen Friesen subsequently joined the GAMEO board. GAMEO counts recent entries by Mennonites in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso. Goshen College students adapted biographies by members of the Brethren in Christ Church of Zimbabwe. GAMEO is maintained and expanded by a network of historians, librarians and archivists. **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

Couple experiences shalom and community across the United States

“We love it. We are having a great time.” That is how Carolyn Tice responded when asked how her SOOP experience was going. She was describing the past six months, during which she and her husband, Enos, have served in six states, where they have grown, cooked and served food; repaired homes; driven a tractor with a front-end loader; and taken groups of 11-year-olds on nature walks. That is just a sample of all the work they are doing. Both Carolyn and Enos did short-term voluntary service as young adults before they were married. They remained active in their church as they reared their family, and when they neared retirement, they knew they wanted to spend a year in service. They wanted to serve for a year but not in one place; they wanted to travel and worship with different fellowship groups and experience different community cultures. **Read more about Enos and Carolyn's work with Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Displaying signs of the new creation: The church in mission

Below is the first two paragraphs of Nelson Okanya's post for Mennonite Church USA's #BeTransformed series. Okanya is the Global Missions President for the Center for Serving Leadership in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and chair of the Global Mission Fellowship.

During election seasons in America, we get flooded by advertisements. The main purpose of these advertisements is to shape our perspectives about the candidates whom we may choose to vote for in the elections. The advertisements are quite expensive, but candidates buy the airtime or printed spaces in the media to make a direct appeal to voters to vote for the advertisement-buyer, or at least not to vote for their opponents. The advertisements are effective, because they tell a story of the kind of community the advertisement-buyer promises. Such a promises — although not always delivered — are intended to shape the potential voter's thinking and leads them to determine how to cast their votes. These advertisements are effective, because they tell a story and inspire voters to imagine a desired reality that aligns with their values. Stories are powerful! They shape our minds, create imaginations and move us to act in certain ways, as the, albeit imperfect, advertisement story above does in political elections. In a similar manner, a community's story shapes its people's lives, and those lives display the truth of its story. For the church, Hauerwas starkly states, “The truthfulness of Jesus creates and is known by the kind of community his story should form.” What kind of community are we known to be? How is our location in a pluralistic context in the world displaying the truth of the story of Jesus? **Read the full post [here](#).**

Elton DaSilva, national director for the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (CCMBC), will leave that role in October and become global director of the International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB). ICOMB announced the change in leadership at its annual gathering May 10-14 in Abbotsford, B.C. DaSilva will succeed Rudi Plett, who will conclude his work with ICOMB next year after serving two three-year terms. DaSilva will continue with CCMBC until October and begin with ICOMB in January. A member of the ICOMB Executive Committee, DaSilva has “strong spiritual leadership qualities, an impeccable reputation, a clear and aligned theological position and extensive familiarity with conferences in both the Global North and South,” said Paul Dück of Brazil, who chairs the Executive Committee. “His ability to connect with additional resources will greatly aid in the expansion and consolidation of conferences.” CCMBC Executive Board interim moderator Cam Stuart thanked DaSilva for moving the denomination forward “with a sharper vision for what God has called us to be and do in building his kingdom in Canada, following our principal value of scriptural authority.”

Read the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).

AMBS Online Short Course



Resisting Christian Nationalism with the Gospel of Peace: Online Short Course

Taught by Drew Strait, PhD

October 25 – November 21

Early registration deadline: Oct. 4

Final registration deadline: Oct. 18

This four-week short course defines White Christian nationalism and offers practical suggestions for how pastors and leaders can challenge White Christian nationalism. During this course, you'll join Drew Strait, PhD, for conversation in online forums and weekly hour-long synchronous meetings. Drawing on the disciplines of biblical studies, theology and peace studies, this course will explore what realistic, everyday and effective nonviolent resistance can look like in the context of congregations. This course will give special attention to defining White Christian nationalism, political idolatry, nonviolent civil resistance and strategies for animating the whole life of Jesus for disorienting theologies of oppression. Drew will host live video meetings from noon-1:15 p.m. EDT on Wednesdays during this short course. Attending the live meetings is not required to take the course, and the meetings will be recorded for those who can't attend. Designed for students of various backgrounds, whether or not you have completed graduate-level work. **Learn more and register [here](#).**



A scam in the congregation

Members of Manitoba church lose more than \$1 million to affinity fraud.

If there's one thing people of faith are told to do, it's to trust and support members of their place of worship — to bear each other's burdens, to use the language of the Bible. That includes being always being ready and willing to assist. And it's what can make places of worship susceptible to affinity fraud. Affinity fraud happens when people take advantage of a community's trust to carry out financial scams. In some cases, it happens when people join faith communities with the intent of committing fraud. But it can also be perpetrated by longtime members. Affinity fraud in faith groups can be like Ponzi or pyramid schemes, where people are promised high returns for investing in a project. Or it can be asking for loans because the borrower has fallen on hard times. Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Man., knows about affinity fraud all too well. Earlier this year, the church discovered a scheme within its membership that resulted in 35 households losing about \$1.1 million. According to the church, the son of two longtime members claimed to need money to pay for child support and legal fees related to a lawsuit that was expected to result in a large settlement. The son had attended the church at one time, but no longer does. **Read the rest of John Longhurst's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

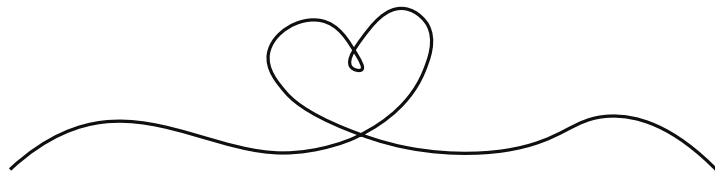
Virginia Conference to evaluate implications Mennonite Church USA

Virginia Conference delegates passed a resolution with 91% approval to create a Denominational Affiliation Work Group to examine “legal and practice implications” related to discernment about Mennonite Church USA affiliation options over the coming year. They made the decision on July 15, the final day of their summer assembly at Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Va. Virginia Conference announced in a release that the resolution grants immediate permission for congregations to consider themselves members of the conference but not of MC USA. It commits the body to a year of spiritual renewal and discernment together with prayer, fasting and worship the first Sunday of every month. A “Community of Faith Statement” resolution pledging to support and work together to practice mutual trust and respect and to “strengthen our unity as a peace church” passed with 77.4% approval. A third resolution, which called for reaffirmation of a 2013 policy statement on suspension of ministerial credentials in response to conducting a same-sex wedding, failed after receiving 50% approval. The resolution asked for creation of a means to hold credentialed and conference leaders to that statement and the 1995 Confession of Faith, which define marriage as between one man and one woman. Delegates approved a motion to raise the threshold for passage of resolutions to 75% the day prior to voting to assure “broad consensus” of decisions. **Read more about the resolutions and their context [here](#).**

Artist Spotlight: Rachel Epp Buller

Read *Anabaptist World's* interview with artist Rachel Epp Buller [here](#). Buller talks about the Mennonite influence on her work and the recent themes of motherhood and women's bodies in her work.

Image: Rachel Epp Buller, "We owe them a complicated debt," scratchboard, 2017.



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.

Closed: Thursday from 1:30-3pm. **Open:** Thursday from 12-1:30pm

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

Item Check-Out Request Form

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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!

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Commission Meeting Minutes

Structure Documents
