

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 10 AM AT CAMP MENNO HAVEN

Join us for worship at Camp Menno Haven this  
Sunday, August 13th at 10:00am!  
Find directions [here](#).

There will be no worship at 805 S Cottage this  
Sunday.

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled  
*Love in the Wilderness* using the scripture 1 Corinthians  
13:7 and Numbers 14:1-12.

Paul's description, that love "believes all things," would  
not be representative of the people of Israel in the  
wilderness who collectively couldn't see a way out except  
to go back into slavery in Egypt. What is our wilderness,  
and how do we learn about love there?

The service will not be livestreamed on YouTube this week.  
The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).



Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA



# Escape to Camp Menno Haven

**Sunday, August 13, 2023 at 10am**

Join us at Camp Menno Haven this Sunday for worship and lunch. There will be activities available in the afternoon including use of canoes and paddleboats, swimming in the pool, lawn games, hiking trails, and use of the activity center.

Joe Culpepper will livestream the service through his Facebook account. Find his account [here](#).

There will be no worship at 805 S Cottage this Sunday.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 309-452-6622 or [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org).

*Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee*

*CE Survey*



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please fill out the survey [found here](#) and submit it by August 13 to help the Christian Education committee know how best to survey your family. This will also help us purchase the appropriate number of resources for the year. Many thanks!

*From the Christian Education Committee, Discipling Commission*



*SMAP Update*

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

Our account balance is at approx. \$ and the amount we need for Fall semester payments is approx. \$ dollars, we are close (a similar total amount will then be collected again in the next few months for the Spring semester). Please make your contributions and/or consider giving in the next week 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*

# 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 to attend 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*



## Volunteer Sign Up

Please join us as we gather to assemble comforters that Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) will distribute to those in need around the world. We need everyone's help in completing 50 comforters for MCC on Friday and Saturday, September 15 & 16. Consider signing up for a few hours or all day. Or better yet come both days

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. Please sign up to volunteer [here](#) or at the sheet on Bulletin Board in the atrium at church. Please contact Gerry Schrock, Deb Stenger, or Mary Ann Watkins with any questions.

*From the Comforter Bash Planning Committee, Community Life Commission*

# Connecting with God in the Natural World



"Connecting with God in the Natural World: Spirituality, Nature, and Accessibility" by Sarah Werner

"I have always loved spending time outside, exploring nature, from picking berries in the bramble bushes along the stream at the neighborhood park to camping in various state parks all over Texas with my family when I was growing up. Being able to connect with the Sacred in the natural world is an important aspect of my faith. I have always felt closer to God listening to birdsong at sunrise or watching a meteor shower in a remote field than I ever have in a church building. The Bible is full of passages about the beauty and agency of creation, and so retaining this connection to nature even amid a disability is crucial for me." Continue reading [here](#)

The Outreach Commission at their last meeting (8/7) approved a donation of \$500 to Anabaptist Disabilities Network on MCN's behalf. You can read more about the good work they are doing [here](#).

*Shared by the Outreach Commission*



## Children's CE

There will be no Sunday School on August 27th.

*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 [lanekm@gmail.com](mailto:lanekm@gmail.com) if you are willing to help.

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



# MCC School Kits

## SCHOOL KIT UPDATE!!

With your help, we will surpass our challenge number of 200 kits. It has been a team effort. Deanna Mosier sewed over 50 bags, and Lois Jett was not too far behind. Others who sewed 10 or more bags were Linda Clemmons, Ruth Haney, Gerry Schrock & Louise Reeser. Diane Wiman has been putting the strings in bags that do not have them. Others sewed bags for their own kits. Thank you to each one.

On Sunday during SS, the Junior High youth, and younger, packed bags until we ran out of bags. They did almost 100 kits.

With what was already packed, we have 170 kits. There will be more coming in the future. We will run the project till the end of August. We will continue to take donations till then.

View more photos [here](#).

--Louise Reeser

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 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*



## Offering Envelopes

If you need more offering envelopes, please contact Lydia in the church office at [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org) or 309-452-6622. You are also always welcome to contribute electronically [here](#). Find more instructions [here](#).

## Office Closed



The church office will be closed Friday, August 11th. Thank you for your understanding!



## Blessing of the Backpacks and Ice Cream Social

On August 20 during the Children's time, Holly Zehr will present a blessing of the backpacks. Anyone returning to school or work is invited to bring their backpack, but we especially hope that children will. This is for all students whether they attend homeschool or public school. We will also distribute backpack tags with a loving message so that our students will know their church family supports them!

Also, **during the CE hour on August 20** the entire congregation is invited to join in an Ice Cream Social celebrating our "back to school / back to CE / back to routine" season. (Ice cream for lunch anyone?)

## Back to School Bash



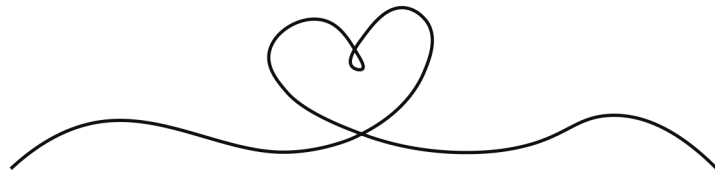
You are invited to sign up for homemade ice cream and accoutrements at the home of Darrel and Lynette Miller on **Sunday evening, August 27 at 5:00 p.m.** to mark summer's last hurrah. Please let Lynette Miller or the church office if you are interested in attending. We have four steps into our home, but have side rails on both sides of the steps. This is a Hosting in Homes initiative.

*Sponsored by the Community Life Commission*



## Summer Nursery Volunteer Schedule

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



## Those Serving This Week



**Worship Planners:** Annette Harnish & Joe Culpeper

**Worship Leader:** Joe Culpepper

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Kevin Chupp

**Children's Story:** Annette Harnish

**Scripture Reader:** Amy Reiman

**Technology:** Rick Harnish

**Song Leader:** Wesley Hershberger

**Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude:** Wesley Hershberger

## *This Week at MCN*



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### **Thursday, August 10**

**1:00pm** Comforter Tops

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

**7:30pm** Vision Team (Zoom)

### **Friday, August 11**

**All Day** Office Closed

### **Sunday, August 13**

**10:00am** Worship Service at Camp Menno Haven

### **Tuesday, August 15**

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

**7:00pm** Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

**7:00pm** Mama Bears (Zoom)



# Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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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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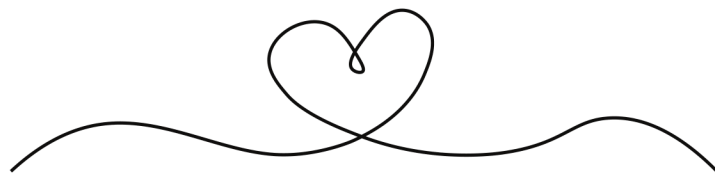
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please send announcements to Lauren Satchwell so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true whether in person or livestreaming on YouTube.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

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As part of their worship together during Builders Weekend (July 15-16), Camp Friedenswald was welcomed into the Supportive Communities Network (SCN) as a publicly LGBTQ+ affirming organization – the first camp to join the network. SCN is a program of the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interests (BMC) and is a network of communities who are publicly affirming of LGBTQ+ members/participants. The network resources and supports communities who are working toward welcome and provides opportunities for dialogue among congregations and organizations. [Learn more about SCN [here](#).] Karl Shelly, pastor at Assembly Mennonite Church (Goshen, IN), and long-time supporter of Camp Friedenswald, spoke on behalf of SCN, welcoming Camp into its fold. Karl reflected on how Camp's public affirmation and welcome to LGBTQ+ persons brings together two important attributes of God – God's justice and God's creativity – in the peaceful woods. Joining the SCN was a natural "next step" in our journey towards greater inclusion and welcome. Over the past number of years, Camp Friedenswald has been on a journey of seeking to become a place where LGBTQ+ folks are affirmed and find belonging. Read more about the "steps along the way" Camp Friedenswald has taken [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

# How the gift of school supplies can change a life

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What does school look like without school supplies? For lots of us shopping for notebooks, pencils and erasers can be just as strong a memory of school as sitting at our classroom desks. But for many children around the world, getting those supplies is difficult or outright impossible, whether due to conflict, disaster or affordability. That's why Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) created school kits. MCC's school kits offer children who don't have access to basic school supplies their educational essentials: pencils, pens, an eraser, a pencil sharpener, ruler, colored pencils and four spiral-bound notebooks. Last year, MCC sent out nearly 90,000 school kits to children on five continents, but one of the countries that received a lot was South Sudan. Students at Rumbek Comboni Primary School in Rumbek, South Sudan, have incredibly limited access to basic school supplies. Even if they were able to find all the items in a school kit at the local market, they could easily cost more than 5,000 South Sudanese Pounds (around \$8.30 U.S.) — an entire month's wages — for the items in a single kit. Mary Aniong Achien, 16, is a student at Comboni. She's in her eighth and final year of primary school and wants to be a doctor when she graduates. She's received a school kit both of the last two years at Comboni and says it's made a huge difference for her as a student.

"How do you take notes without notebooks? I did not understand well in class before I had them, but now I can take notes in all my classes," says Achien. "And the bag makes everything easy to carry around — otherwise we just leave our materials on the ground." Achien also noted that she's very aware of how difficult it would be for her parents to buy her supplies like these. "We girls — our mothers are not educated, so it is very difficult for them to get enough money. But with the school kit, my parents can buy food instead of books. May God bless the people who gave us these books." Read more [here](#).

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## Suggested Reading from CPT



Find reading recommendations from Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) below:

- [From Olive Trees to Superpowers: Unveiling Shireen, a Palestinian Superhero for Authentic Representation](#)
- [The U.S. promised Ukraine cluster bombs. In Laos, they still kill civilians](#)
- [Say NO to Marvel's Israeli Mossad Agent Superhero](#)
- [The House of Hip-Hop Making Waves in Medellin](#)
- [West Bank Dispatch: What Israel's judicial overhaul means for Palestinians](#)
- ['Era of Global Boiling' Has Arrived, UN Chief Says](#)



## "Can I really use the blue sequins?"

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Below is the beginning of an article by Ruth Goring, a picture book illustrator and contributor to MennoMedia and Brethren Press's jointly published new storybook Bible. It is part of Mennonite Church USA's [series on The Peace Table](#).

My assignment was to create child-friendly images to accompany the seven Psalms that had been selected for inclusion in [The Peace Table](#) Bible storybook. Author and project editor Chrissie Muecke had seen my multimedia collage illustrations for my book, "Picturing God," and she wanted me to work in a similar style. It proved to be a joyful collaboration. As I meditated on each Psalm and began to put together a collage to express its heart, I felt a little like a medieval monk creating an illuminated manuscript. Psalm 139 is a congregational song in the great hymnbook of the Jewish people, but it focuses on God's loving, attentive knowledge of each individual. I decided to outline my child's body in colors, to emphasize the delight God takes in them. Was the warmth and brightness too much, though? Too Latino? Would the sequins take it over the top in the editors' and art director's eyes? I may have squealed with delight when the answer came: The sequins were not too much. I could glue them in place. **Read the rest of Ruth Goring's article on making artwork for *The Peace Table* [here](#).**

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## Myanmar youth take pledge for peace



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Mennonite young people in Myanmar gathered 13-17 April 2023 for a peace conference in Akaw, Bogale Township in the Delta region. The conference focused on Ephesians 2:17: the gospel of peace. The subject is very relevant for young people living through the trauma of civil war in Myanmar. After democratic national elections, the military in Myanmar seized power and installed their own leaders in February 2021. They responded with violence to pro-democracy protests which soon developed their own militias. "We don't want our youth to get involved in armed revolution," says Amos Chin, Mennonite church leader and conference presenter. "As these young people are living in the civil war and threatening by the extremists, they are strongly inspired and empowered by the message [of peace during the conference]," says John Stanley Puia, church leader and conference organizer. "All youth are convinced [about] the peace movement and made a declaration for peace not to get in armed revolution and political conflict," says Amos Chin. He was one of four evangelists who spoke to the youth. 168 youth between ages 16 and 35 registered for the weekend conference that included baptism of seven people. **Read the article from Mennonite World Conference [here](#).**





## Une déclaration pour la paix

Les jeunes mennonites du Myanmar se sont réunis du 13 au 17 avril 2023 pour une conférence sur la paix à Akaw, dans le canton de Bogale, dans la région du Delta. La conférence s'est concentrée sur Ephésiens 2:17 : l'évangile de la paix. Le sujet est très significatif pour les jeunes qui vivent le traumatisme de la guerre civile au Myanmar. Après des élections nationales démocratiques, les militaires du Myanmar ont pris le pouvoir et installé leurs propres dirigeants en février 2021. Ils ont répondu aux manifestations en faveur de la démocratie par la violence, ce qui a rapidement donné naissance à des milices. "Nous ne voulons pas que nos jeunes s'engagent dans une révolution armée", déclare Amos Chin, responsable d'église mennonite et orateur de la conférence. "Alors que ces jeunes traversent la guerre civile et sont menacés par les extrémistes, ils sont profondément inspirés et renforcés par le message [de paix de la conférence]", déclare John Stanley Puia, responsable d'église et organisateur de la conférence. "Tous les jeunes sont convaincus du mouvement pacifique et ont fait une déclaration en faveur de la paix afin de ne pas s'engager dans une révolution armée ou un conflit politique", déclare Amos Chin. Il était l'un des quatre évangélistes qui se sont adressés aux jeunes. 168 jeunes âgés de 16 à 35 ans se sont inscrits à ce week-end de conférence, au cours duquel sept personnes ont été baptisées. [Lire la suite.](#)

## Collective Bible project to include art



The Anabaptism at 500 project has commissioned four artists to create 40 line drawings to illuminate the text of the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. To be published in 2025, the Bible will commemorate the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. It will feature study material generated by [more than 500 study groups](#) from Anabaptist communities. In a news release, the publisher, MennoMedia, cited the visual arts' capacity to communicate truths about God and God's people beyond the written word. "We hope that the artwork accompanying the *Anabaptist Community Bible* will evoke a sense of the inner word — the surprising movement of the Holy Spirit — that sometimes illuminates meanings that are not apparent in the written text alone," the release said. Four artists — Lisa Oberik, Dona Park, Randy Horst, Matthew Regier — will each make 10 illustrations in the woodcut or linocut style. **Read more in *Anabaptist World* article [here.](#)**





## Celtic Pilgrimage

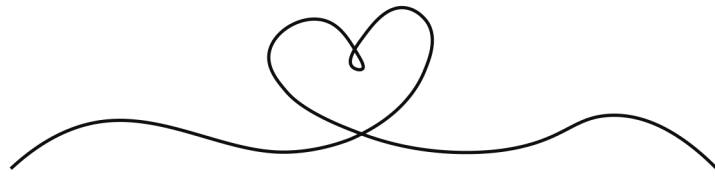
*Pilgrimage as a spiritual practice offers the opportunity to travel slowly and mindfully, with the intention of connecting spiritually with God, with fellow pilgrims and with sacred places.*

**An Iona Pilgrimage:** September 13-22, 2024. Led by: Jane Thorley Roeschley and Jana Schrag Schopp. Learn more [here](#).

Come away for refreshment and renewal to one of the world's most beloved Celtic "thin places". You are invited to join us on a pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona, a holy island on the western coast of Scotland. We will engage in daily prayers and worship, soulful wandering, personal solitude and group reflection in a place beloved by pilgrims for centuries.

**CELTIC PILGRIMAGE: IONA & HOLY ISLAND LINDISFARNE:** May 16-31, 2025. Co-led by Spiritual Directors Cathy Roby and Jane Roeschley. Learn more [here](#).

This 2-week pilgrimage focuses on Celtic Christian spirituality as experienced through the stories of Celtic Christians living on the Isle of Iona (Scotland) and at Holy Island Lindisfarne (England). We will be following the path of Celtic monks from Iona to Melrose to Holy Island, pondering how their stories guide and inspire us today.



## 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!

# Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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## Building Open

### **Standard Hours:**

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

**Closed:** Friday 8/11

## 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; 309-452-8534

## 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!



# *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.