

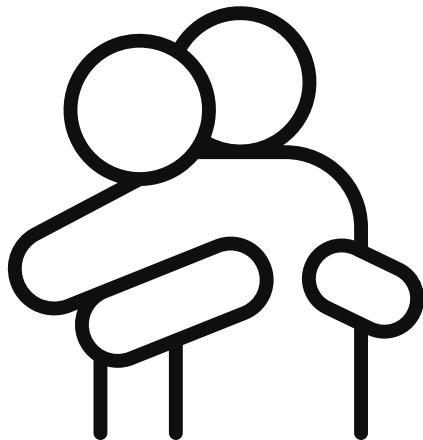
THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *The Faithful Other* using Ruth 1:1-17 and 4:13-17.

What do we make of Ruth's commitment to Naomi? From the beauty of the sentiment behind, "where you go I will go" to the acting out of that deep commitment, we are humbled. How might such unexpected steadfastness inform our own relationships with those with whom we have a complicated history?



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

Journey Groups:
Group A (20's-30's)
First Office

Group B (40's-50's)
Conference Room

Group C (60's and above)
Room 4

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-K Grade

2nd-4th Grade

5th-8th Grade

High School



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA



MDS Opportunity

October 13th and 14th

We received a request for volunteers at the Rehoboth Mennonite Church from Lamar Miller the Mennonite Disaster Service Illinois Unit Chair. Please call him if you can help.

There is an opportunity to volunteer coming up on October 13th and 14th. Earlier this year a derecho took some shingles off the roof of Rehoboth Mennonite Church. Along with that there are a couple other repairs needed. The Illinois unit is responding to this and looking for volunteers. The work will include roof repair, painting, siding repair and gutter repair.

From the Outreach Commission

International Neighbors Night



Saturday, October 21st

On Saturday, October 21st, MCN will be hosting the 6:30pm dinner for students attending the International Neighbors Night at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, located at 201 S Main in Normal. The Fellowship Committee invites your participation by joining with us to serve and fellowship with the international students. If you can come and help by bringing a plate of cookies or bars for dessert, please sign up [here](#).

From the Outreach Commission



Family Fun Night

Friday, October 27

Save the date for family fun night/pumpkin fun on Friday, October 27 - details to follow!

Co-hosted by the Christian Education Subcommittee of the Discipling Commission and the Community Life Commission

Citizen Application Workshop



October 27th from 9am-4pm

The Immigration Project is partnering with State Farm and STAR Adult Literacy to present a Citizen Application Workshop in Bloomington on October 27th from 9am-4pm! They have NAI Scholarships available that could pay the USCIS fees! View a flyer [here](#).

For more information or to register:

- call #309-829-8703, ext 102 or 106
- OR email info@immigrationproject.org
- OR contact Andrea Canales from Star Literacy at canalesa@roe17.org

From the Outreach Commission



Blood Drive

October 28th from 8am-12pm

There is currently a national blood shortage—the blood supply has fallen by about 25% since early August. Help us respond to this great need, by joining us for a blood drive, here at MCN October 28th from 8am-12pm! Donors of all blood types are urgently needed, and there is an emergency need for type O blood donors to ensure patients across the country continue receiving critical medical care. Beyond meeting an important need, donors will be able to enjoy baked goods, will receive a \$10 gift card by email, and will be entered in a drawing for a \$5,000 prize. The Outreach Commission is coordinating this effort and our members will be present for the drive, but we would like to have more volunteers. There are a few ways you can help us:

- Donate blood! Schedule your donation now [here](#).
- Spread the word! Share the flyer ([here](#)) and encourage people to sign up to donate.
- Volunteer to bake cookies for donors ([sign up here](#)).
- Volunteer to join us for at least part of the the drive and help us in welcoming and directing donors ([sign up here](#)).

If you sign up to volunteer, we will keep you in the loop as the day approaches. If you have questions about volunteering or you are unable to sign up online, please contact Elsa Raab.

From the Outreach Commission

Period Project



A student organization on ISU campus is seeking to help all those dealing with monthly periods on-campus and we can help! The Period. student chapter is part of a larger organization called Period. The Menstruation Movement. Their stated purpose is “ending period stigma and period poverty. We strive to do this through service, education, and advocacy, such as distributing period products to those in need, educating menstruators and allies about information surrounding menstruation equity, and advocating for systematic change. We focus on using gender neutral language to include all people who menstruate.”

There will be a container in the library designated for the Period Project at ISU. Please consider donating single pads/tampons or boxes. These will then be made available to students on campus. MCN’s Outreach Commission is making a donation to the group to provide financial support. If you have further questions or would be interested in making your own donation, please contact church@normalmennonite.org. Thank you for making a difference. Period.

From Cindy Ropp



Christian Education at MCN Updates

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK! We've been back in full swing for over a month now, and it is so exciting to see the kids ready to learn more about Jesus, sing and play together. We recognize there are new faces, as well as some old faces that are attending more regularly now. As such, we wanted to share some updates and frequently asked questions!

- **Who is responsible for Christian Education at MCN?** The Christian Education Committee acts as a subcommittee to the Discipling Commission.
- **What do we believe?** At Mennonite Church of Normal we believe children are a gift from God. We want every child to love the Lord with all his or her heart, soul, mind, and strength. We want them to boldly proclaim that they are children of God and know that they are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. We are intentional about teaching God's amazing love for them in Jesus. We do this through children's time during the worship service, our Sunday school classes, children's choirs and special events. Our teachers are passionate about sharing the good news of Jesus and helping children establish a solid, biblical foundation of truth on which they can build their lives. We want them to:
 - become Jesus' disciples and recognize that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.
 - understand that worship is not just about singing loud, it is living loud for our great God.
 - be the hands and feet of Jesus by shining their light brightly into the world and share the good news of Jesus with others.
- **How are the classes and nurseries structured?** We've established a fun place to learn about Jesus where your child's growth in that relationship is encouraged and nurtured. We have a kid-safe classroom policy, and all classes and nurseries are staffed by individuals who have been screened and approved for work with children. Parental participation is ALWAYS welcome!
 - Infant nursery (ages newborn-24 mo.): Available for use by parents during worship and staffed by volunteers during Adult Sunday school beginning at 10:45 AM. **Note: This is a change for Fall 2023. There will not be volunteers during worship and welcome parental feedback.**
 - Preschool nursery (ages 3-7): Available during worship and staffed by volunteers immediately following children's time during service. Parents are welcome to stay with their child or pop in and out as needed.
 - Gather 'Round Sing-A-Long: Immediately following service (10:45-11 AM), children ages 3 through 4th grade meet for a sing-a-long. This is a fun time for the children where they praise God together through song. After singing, the kids head to their Sunday school classrooms.

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- Sunday school classrooms: We currently have two classes that run from 11-11:45 AM. Our Pre-K-1st (starting at age 3) grade class is co-taught by Carrie Stalter and Holly Zehr. And our 2nd-4th grade class is taught by Spring Neely. Occasionally, we will merge the classes for outdoor activities, crafts, and library time.
- **What curriculum is being used?** Our dynamic, Bible-based curriculum, *Shine: Living in God's Light*, is deeply rooted in Scripture and Anabaptist principles. It is co-published by Brethren Press, publishing ministry of the Church of the Brethren, and MennoMedia, publishing ministry of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. *Shine...*
 - calls children to experience the transforming power of God's love and shine God's light in the world;
 - nurtures trust in God and invites children to follow Jesus;
 - encourages imaginative, interactive biblical storytelling;
 - explores the meaning of the Bible within the gathered community;
 - cultivates the inner life of the Spirit through spiritual practices;
 - expresses faith through lives of compassionate peacemaking and service.
- **When are Family Fun Nights held?** We have been partnering with the Community Life Commission to host a Family Fun Night each Spring and Fall. These nights are an opportunity to come together and share a meal, sing together, and participate in fun games and activities. Mark your calendars! We have an upcoming Family Fun Night, including pumpkin carving and painting, will be held October 27th. All ages are welcome! Look to the midweek for more details soon!
- **How to get involved?** We always need volunteers willing to help in the nurseries following a background screening. We also need assistance planning and volunteers for Family Fun Night. And, if you are interested in joining the CE subcommittee, we would encourage you to let us know. Please contact Holly Zehr, Carrie Stalter, or Spring Neely to get involved.

In Christ,

Christian Education Subcommittee

- Spring Neely (CE Subcommittee Chair)
- Holly Zehr
- Carrie Stalter

Discipling Commission

- Holly Zehr (Discipling Commission Chair)
- Spring Neely
- Lynette Miller
- Shannon Unzicker
- David Voegtlin

Thank You Note



A special thank you to members of the Pastoral Team for the Red Oak tree planted in the front Church yard in memory of Jo. A beautiful symbol of a beautiful life. Thank you.

-- Ron Ropp



Delegates Needed

Illinois Mennonite Conference is meeting on November 4 at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center. We need several delegates. Please let Mary Dyck know if you're interested in attending as our representative.

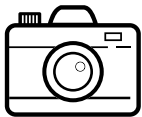
From the Administration Commission

Meeting Recording



On behalf of the Vision Team, I would like to say thank you to those of you who were able to attend the congregational meeting on September 24th about the future staffing needs of the Pastoral Team. We had a very fruitful discussion about what the Vision Team feels is needed moving forward and what potential next steps look like. For those of you who were unable to attend, a link to the Zoom recording for your viewing can be found [here](#).

From Shannon Neely for the Vision Team



Sharing Our Gifts

The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found alcove is getting full! Please take a look to identify and pick-up any of your items that may be there. Any unclaimed items will be donated on October 31st. Thank you!

From the Church Office



Apple Pie Coordinator

Outreach Commission is in search of a volunteer to coordinate and volunteers to make the apple pie filling from Eric and Chellie Miller's apples for the MCC Relief Sale Pies. If you are interested, please contact Phil Dick or Eric Miller. Gerry Schrock has coordinated this in past years but cannot do it this time. This will need to be done pretty soon!

From the Outreach Commission



Nursery Schedule

You can view the Fall nursery schedule [here](#). The infant nursery will not have a volunteer during the service but will be open for parent's use.

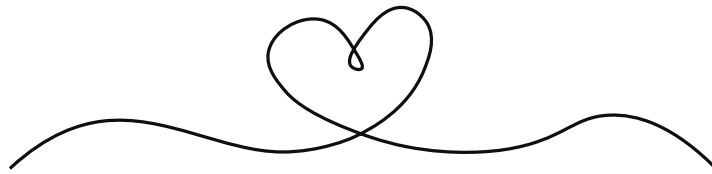
From the Discipling Commission

Did You Know?



- The current members of the Community Life Commission are Joanna Oyer, Connie Satchwell, Deb Stenger (co-chair), and Mary Ann Watkins (co-chair), with Lynette Miller as the Pastoral Team representative.

From the Administration Commission



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 11

- 9:30am** Wednesday Morning Book Group
- 4:30pm** Community Life Commission (Zoom)
- 7:00pm** Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, October 12

- 7:00am** Next Man Bible Study
- 9:00am** Brave and Beloved: Women's Bible Study
- 6:30pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

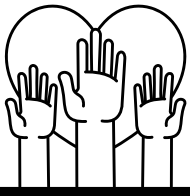
Sunday, October 15

Tuesday, October 17

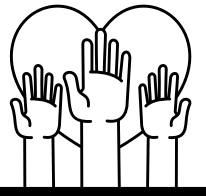
- 7:00pm** Mama Bears (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 18

- 9:30am** Wednesday Morning Book Group



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Chad & Robin Gundy

West Greeter: Pam Hodel

Welcome Table: Phylis VerSteegh

Ushers: Zehr family

Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger

Worship Planner & Leader: Steve Benner

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Shelly King

Scripture Reader: Diane Wiman

Technology: Jaron & Wesley Hershberger

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Dorothy Loepf

Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery – during CE: Nancy Fisher

Preschool Nursery: Beth Reeser

Gather Round: Shelly & Darvis King

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



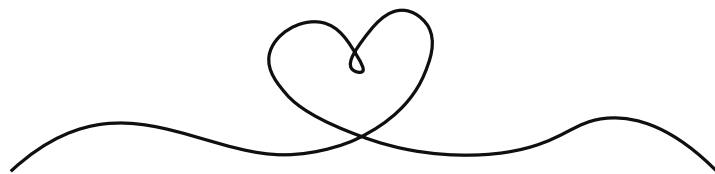
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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.



Anabaptism and U.S. Gun Culture

 October 12, 2023

 7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT on Zoom

A webinar hosted by Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, with theologians Malinda Berry and Andrew Suderman.

Intérprete al español disponible.

END GUN VIOLENCE
Learn. Pray. Join



Join Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) to explore the issues that drive today's violent gun culture in the U.S. and examine how our Anabaptist faith informs our response. This is part of MC USA's upcoming "Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence" initiative. Register [here](#).



Stuckey Amish Presentation

THIS Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mennonite Heritage Center

About a century ago, Bishop Joseph Stuckey was the leader of a group of congregations in Central IL known as the Stuckey Amish. These congregations included Danvers, East White Oak, Meadows, Flanagan, Bloomington, Boynton, Washington, Congerville (now Rock Creek) and possibly others. After Rev. Stuckey's death, they eventually joined the General Conference Mennonites, now part of the Mennonite Church-USA. Some of these congregations no longer exist or no longer identify as Mennonite, but your congregation may include persons and their descendants who were once part of the "Stuckey churches" of Central IL. A direct lineal descendent of Bishop Stuckey, Dr. John Stuckey of the Washington DC area, has researched Bishop Stuckey and this movement in detailed fashion. He will be the main speaker at the Fall Meeting of the Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society (IMHGS) on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mennonite Heritage Center between Metamora and Germantown Hills on the south side of Illinois Route 116 east of Peoria (look for the big red barn). A discussion period and fellowship lunch will follow. Admission is free. This event is part of a series as the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement approaches. It is our intent to record the meeting and make it available for streaming AFTER the meeting at the Facebook page of the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center. Contact me or Dr. John Stuckey for more details and please spread the word to others. Thank you very much.

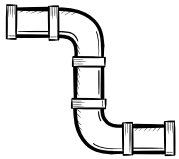
From Mike Yoder, Eureka, current Board Chair of IMHGS

Coffee & Conversation



Sunday, October 29 at 6 pm Central (7 pm Eastern)

Join Mennonite Women USA's next Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, October 29 at 6 pm Central (7 pm Eastern) to discuss "Bridging the Gaps" amongst our saints, elders, young people and the future. Just after Hispanic Heritage Month and inspired by the upcoming Dia de Muertos holiday, we'll embrace the lovely Hispanic tradition of respecting and continuing on with the deceased. We'll expand the tradition to include all intergenerational relationships. The gathered group will talk about important women who've impacted us and how we can live into relationships and teamwork that bridge the gaps between our various ages, stages, and seasons of life and death. Register now and start thinking of an ancestor, historical figure or older living relative that has made a difference in your life! Register [here](#).



Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour

November 1-3 in Goshen and Elkhart

Join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes' three-day Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour to focus on the complexities of the U.S. criminal justice system as seen in northern Indiana. Participants will learn about the systemic forces at play that have led to mass incarceration and the criminalization of marginalized groups. The group will hear diverse perspectives from community organizations and people experiencing arrest, incarceration and re-entry. Find more information and register no later than 10/23 [here](#).

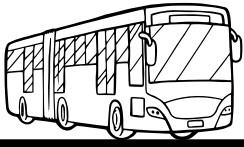
Evelyn Good Memorial Service



November 6 at 10:30 am at First Mennonite Church in Urbana

Long-time attendee of First Mennonite Church in Urbana, Evelyn Good passed away in September. She had deep ties to East Bend and other Mennonite churches in Illinois. Her obituary is available to read [here](#). A memorial service will be held for her on Monday, November 6 at 10:30 am at First Mennonite Church (902 W. Springfield Ave., Urbana, IL). A luncheon in the FMC fellowship hall will follow the service.

From First Mennonite Church in Urbana



Civil Rights Bus Trip

April 11-19, 2024

Join clergy and members from Normal First, Bloomington Wesley, and Normal Calvary United Methodist Churches; and Moses Montefiore Temple in a Civil Rights Bus Trip. You will visit sites of the Civil Rights Movement and learn more about America's history of systemic racism. You will learn some of the stories that were left out of our history classes. And you will share the experience with others who are committed to the work of restoration, reconciliation, and a new way forward! Learn more [here](#).

Shared by Outreach Commission

War in the Holy Land - A MennoPIN Statement



Below is a statement from MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestine-Israel Network) on the recent war in the Holy Land. Learn more about MennoPIN [here](#).

As people committed to nonviolence, MennoPIN strongly condemns the current violence carried out both by Hamas and by the Israeli military. MennoPIN urges an immediate ceasefire between Hamas and Israel and calls on the US and the wider international community to support a diplomatic solution to the situation at hand.

MennoPIN likewise recognizes that the Hamas attack was not unprovoked. For decades the people of Palestine have been oppressed by the violence and occupation of apartheid Israel against them with home demolitions, child detentions, separation walls, settler colonialism and violence, seizures of land and controls over water and food supplies. And Gaza has been an open air prison where Israel controls how much water, electricity and food Gazans can have. The extreme measures taken by the recent Netanyahu ultra-right government have made life increasingly hostile for Palestinians. The praxis of U.S. one-sided and national interest driven diplomacy and unwillingness to effectively address the apartheid reality have contributed deeply to these extreme measures. Additionally, the Biden administration's attempts to normalize diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel have become the final straw for the militant Palestinian resistance. Ultimately, hopelessness breeds violence.

We pray for leadership that has the courage to address the problems, injustices and racism that perpetuates this violence. We especially pray for wisdom and restraint between Hamas and the Israeli government.

Read the monthly update this statement is from [here](#).



Dismantle the Israeli occupation of Palestine

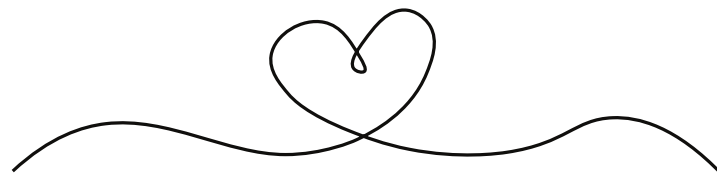
[Below is a statement from Community Peacemaker Teams on Israel's recent declaration of war.](#)

On Saturday, 7 October, in a surprise attack, Hamas fighters broke through the prison walls of Gaza via air, land, and sea. This unprecedented resistance is the result of Israel's violent occupation of Palestine and the continuous human rights abuses that the Israeli military carries out against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. This year alone, the Israeli occupation has killed 227 Palestinians, including 47 children. In mainstream media, the predominant narrative of Israel's occupation of Palestine has—for decades—been deliberately constructed on the pillars of colonial, imperial and racist discourse. The terms “terrorism” and “self-defence” are permeated with bias and weaponized to tell one story. CPT demands media outlets use journalistic integrity to appropriately address the historical events leading up to today's reality and to question state narratives. We also challenge everyone consuming the current media storm to educate yourself, be critical of your sources, and understand the power structures at play that have historically silenced Palestinian voices. A large majority of the international community is calling for Hamas' adherence to international law. CPT urges these governments to examine their hypocrisy of condemning Palestinian resistance to occupation while at the same time refusing to hold Israel accountable for the [blatant flouting of international law](#) through 75 years of occupation, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing. International human rights and humanitarian laws are not conditional. Violence is cyclical. As long as the Israeli occupation exists, Palestinian resistance will continue. A generation of Palestinians have lived their whole lives under military occupation with the constant threat of surveillance, detention, arrest, and murder while the United States funds Israel. CPT calls on the US government to stop the cycle: refrain from sending military ships and aircraft and stop the yearly \$3 billion in military aid which continues to perpetuate the Israeli occupation and apartheid in Palestine. Israel has declared a 'state of war.' The [CPT Palestine team](#) in al Khalil/Hebron is under a military-enforced curfew where the Old City is completely closed off and any movement in the city is threatened with gunshots. Israeli forces have shuttered all 260 checkpoints in the West Bank and killed 17 people, seven of whom are residents of the al Khalil/Hebron governorate. Israel has also ordered a complete siege of Gaza, cutting off water and electricity and prohibiting the entrance of fuel and food. Almost 600 people have been killed by Israeli bombardments, including 91 children, and over 120,000 people displaced. This Israeli declaration of war does not change anything for Palestinians. Israel's response over the last few days is being portrayed as retaliation against Hamas for the deaths and kidnappings of Israeli military and citizens, but Palestinians have been living this war for 75 years. CPT works towards collective liberation, and a society where the values of dignity, equality and peace are upheld and shared by all people. CPT continues to accompany our partners in nonviolent resistance and advocate that the safety of Palestinians and Israelis can only be achieved through complete dismantling of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. We demand a solution that includes equality not apartheid, demilitarization not occupation, and decolonization and freedom for all.

Sculpture for Mennonite Church USA Unveiled



Mennonite Church USA arranged for a sculpture designed and built by [Emma Zuercher](#), a 2023 graduate of Goshen College from Apple Creek, Ohio, under the mentorship of [John Mishler](#), sculptor and Goshen College associate professor of art. The sculpture was installed at the Mennonite Church USA offices building at 3145 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN. As Goshen College Maple Scholars, Zuercher and 17 other awarded students spent eight weeks focusing on a particular area of research alongside a professor who serves as both supervisor and colleague. Zuercher was chosen as the artist for this project. The 11-foot sculpture was built with aluminum from OmniSource Corporation, a processor and distributor of scrap and secondary metals. Zuercher describes the design as reminiscent of the burning bush and the pillar of fire in the Bible's Book of Exodus. She painted the piece with 10 colors to create complex layering resembling fire and motion. The continuity of color and repeating patterns is intended to draw the eye up. She also intentionally rubbed the paint off in places. **Read the full article by Jane Morrow for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**



Items for the Midweek



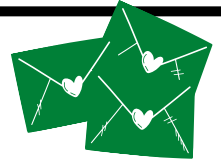
Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

Item Check-Out Request Form

[Google Form Version](#) & [Printable PDF Version](#)

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.

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

Commissions and Teams Contact List

[Commissions and Teams Contact List](#)

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Structure Documents

Updated structure documents, including ministry descriptions, vision statement with commission assignments for the goals, structure changes, and a list of individuals called to serve in the new structure, are available at this [link](#).

Please click [here](#) for past meeting and other recordings.

Commission Meeting Minutes

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