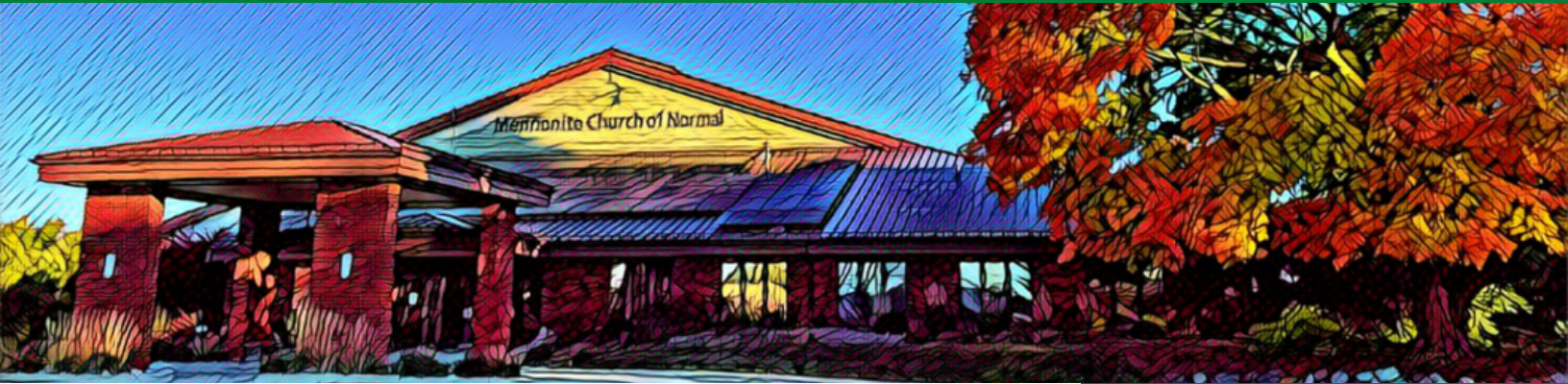


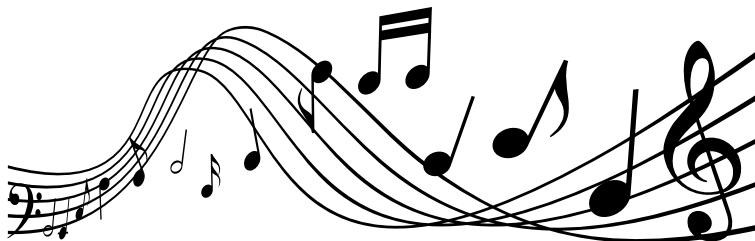
THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Flamboyance* using 2 Samuel 5:1-5 & 6:1-5 and Psalm 150.

As David is anointed king of Israel, the people get a reorientation. The “ark of God” that was ignored during Saul’s time as king is brought back to the center of the Kingdom. As it says, David and everyone in Israel responded by dancing and making loud music. What does this instance tell us about the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of God?



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

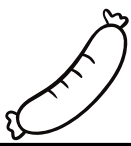
5th-8th Grade

High School



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA



Relief Sale Sausage

Pre-order: October 15th through November 5th

Pick up: November 18th, 2023

Have you been missing Mennonite Relief Sale Sausage? Lucky for you it is being offered right now! *Pre-order* between October 15th & November 5th!! Sausage will be offered in 1lb bulk or 1lb whole link packages! Price: \$5.25/lb - payment due at time of pick up. (Cash, credit card and checks will be accepted.) Pick up will be November 18th, 2023 from 7am-12:30pm at First Mennonite Church, Morton! To order, please fill out the sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or use the online sign-up [here](#).

International Neighbors Night



THIS 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. **We are still in need of volunteers to help serve and to bring cookies or bars.** If you can come and help by bringing a plate of cookies or bars for dessert, please sign up [here](#).

From the Outreach Commission and the Community Life Commission



MDS Opportunity

October 20th and 21st

Due to likely rain, we have decided to change the service project days at Rehoboth to October 20-21. Again, this is exterior work, much of which will involve some heights. Safety necessitates a lift, which has been arranged. Meaningful work involves having a GROUP (the Body of Christ), so please consider volunteering yourself and/or inviting your friends, family and congregants so we can enjoy this project together. The weather will likely be cool as it is this week, but no rain, so let's have fun together, providing much needed assistance to the Rehoboth congregation. Please contact Matt Kreeb, Illinois Mennonite Disaster Service Unit Coordinator, with interest and questions at (217) 419-6674.

From the Outreach Commission



Family Fun Night

Friday, October 27

Join us for a Fall Family Fun Night Gathering on October 27th. Pizza will be served and pumpkins will be carved! Please sign-up for the event using the Sign-Up Genius link [here](#). All are welcome!

If you are able to help us out by bringing your own pumpkin, please indicate that when you sign up. (Pumpkin carving tools are a plus, too!) Otherwise, pumpkins will be provided by the CE committee. Wondering what pumpkins have to do with following Jesus? Check out the metaphor Jesus used in John 15:5. Can you see a connection? We can't wait to connect with YOU at Family Fun Night!

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

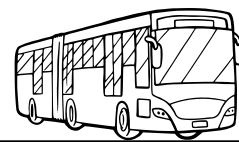
Donors of all blood types are urgently needed, and there is an emergency need for type O blood donors to ensure patients across the country continue receiving critical medical care. Beyond meeting an important need, donors will be able to enjoy baked goods, will receive a \$10 gift card by email, and 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

Guest Presenter



Sunday, October 29th at 11:30am

On Sunday, October 29th, Christian Education will end at 11:30, and we invite everyone to hear from Kathy King-Nobles, pastor at Normal First United Methodist Church. Kathy will be presenting about the April Civil Rights Bus Trip along with someone who has participated with them in the past. Bring your questions and your curiosity!

From the Outreach Commission



Alternative Gift Fair

November 5th and 12th

The Alternate Gift Fair is returning to MCN on November 5th and 12th. In preparation the Outreach committee is asking for help in making and setting up booths. If you are willing to help or plan on making a booth, please let Mark Hodel know.

From the Outreach Commission

Advent Orchestra Sign-Up



Do you play an instrument? Do you like playing with other people? If so, join the MCN Advent Orchestra! Whether you have been playing for a year, haven't played in years, or play all the time, you are welcome to join us! We welcome all instruments: band, orchestra, harp, recorder, any instrument! There's a part for everyone. **If you are interested, please fill out the sign-up form [here](#).** I look forward to playing with you!

--Lydia Hedberg



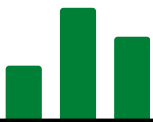
Vision Team Election

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is pleased to report that Erin Ponnou-Delaffon has been elected by the congregation, and has agreed to serve, on the Vision Team beginning January, 2024. Barry Weaver will be stepping down from his role as team member and chair after December. Erin will join other team members, Shelly King, Shannon Neely, and Ben Roeschley.

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



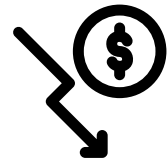
Spending Plan Update

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

About the Spending Plan



Administration Commission would like to share with you about the state of our finances.

Currently, our expenses are \$34,551 more than our income.

We are working on several items to work toward balancing our budget.

- Illinois Mennonite Conference has suggested that we not pay them for the last half of this year. They have no employees so the money is sitting in the bank. That amount is \$8,000 for the balance of the year. At our September 28, we unanimously approved that decision.
- We have been working to purchase a CD for a 13-month period in hopes of earning some additional funds.
- We have also earned over \$7,000 from building rental with outside groups. We may need to increase our rentals to increase our income.

In thinking about our upcoming hearing on the 2024 Spending Plan, Administration Commission has reviewed the proposed spending plans from the various commissions. So far those expenses are up 2.2%. We're not sure that we can afford the increase.

We ask that you think about options and prayerfully consider the proposed 2024 Spending Plan. We hope to have that available for you by October 30 in preparation for the hearing on November 12.

From the Administration Commission



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.

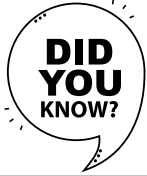
From the Administration Commission

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.

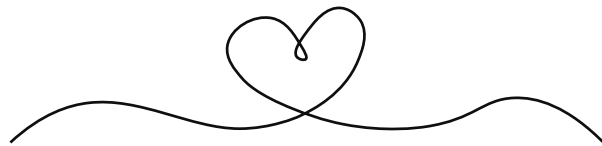
From the Discipling Commission



Did You Know?

-
- The current members of the Outreach Commission are Phil Dick (chair), Mark Hodel, Pam Hodel, and Elsa Raab, with Kevin Chupp as the Pastoral Team representative.

From the Administration Commission



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 18

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, October 19

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

9:00am Brave and Beloved: Women's Bible Study

6:00pm Vision Team and Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Sunday, October 22

Monday, October 23

7:00pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 24

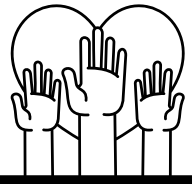
3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 25

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Deb & Steve Stenger

West Greeter: Mark Roeschley

Welcome Table: Mary Ann King

Ushers: Janelle & Jon Friesen

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Ben Roeschley

Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp

Children's Story:

Scripture Reader: Becky Josefson

Technology: Glenn Wilson & Caleb Augspurger

Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Dorothy Loepp

Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery – during CE: David Harnish

Preschool Nursery: Shannon Unzicker

Gather Round: Carrie Stalter

Prayer Requests and Announcements

Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please send Lauren Satchwell your announcements 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



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



Citizen Application Workshop



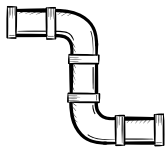
October 27th from 9am-4pm

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



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

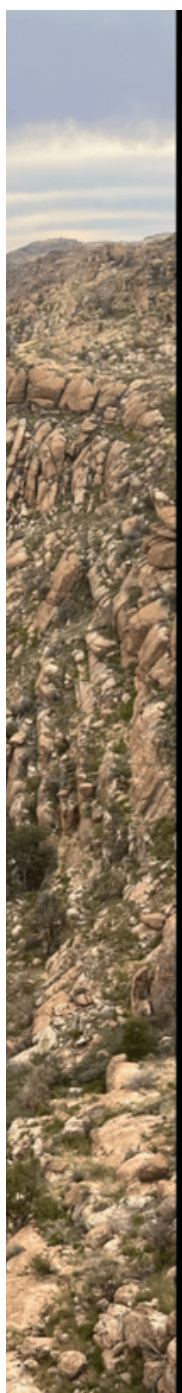


Civil Rights Bus Trip

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



NOVEMBER 4TH

Prayer-Rising for Oak Flat

A Resolution Copper mine threatens to destroy Oak Flat. From the beginning of time, Apache Stronghold has grounded their resistance in the strength of their religious practice and spiritual relationship with the land.

Apache Stronghold asks people of other faiths to join them in this spiritual struggle. On November 4, Apache Stronghold will amplify these intercessions into a prayer-rising for the preservation of Oak Flat. Indigenous people will gather at Oak Flat to pray according to their ways. People of other faiths will also gather to encounter the Holy and to confront, through prayer, the forces of destruction brought by Resolution Copper.

Come pray with us at Oak Flat November 4 from 10am-4pm! Prepare yourself in prayer and plan your transportation to this sacred site, located an hour east of Phoenix, Arizona. Or, organize prayers in your own community.

For more updates and to RSVP visit dismantlediscovery.org/novfour

APACHE STRONGHOLD

POB 766 SAN CARLOS, AZ 85550



Apache Stronghold continues prayerful struggle to protect sacred places



Situated in the [Tonto National Forest](#) of central Arizona, Chi'chil Biłdagoteel, or "Oak Flat" in English, is a region of significant cultural, ecological and historical importance. It is known for its unique geological formations, diverse flora and fauna, and its significance to multiple Indigenous communities. The Tonto National Forest was officially designated as a national forest on Oct. 3, 1905, through a proclamation signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. This designation recognized the forest's ecological and recreational significance and the need for its conservation. The Tonto National Forest covers a vast area and includes diverse landscapes, ranging from desert lowlands to mountainous terrain, making it an important and varied ecosystem within the United States' national forest system. This geographical wonder, 70 miles east of Phoenix, Arizona, has been the dwelling place of the San Carlos Apache's ancestors for centuries, if not millennia. The Apache Nation is comprised of several distinct groups — all of which are part of the larger Athabaskan language family — and are believed to have migrated to the American Southwest from the north, possibly crossing the Bering Land Bridge thousands of years ago. In December 2014, Arizona Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake included the transfer of Oak Flat to Resolution Copper — a subsidiary of the multinational mining and metals corporation Rio Tinto — in a National Defense Authorization Act. Resolution Copper plans to use Oak Flat to build the largest copper mine in North America, effectively ignoring the 1905 proclamation and destroying the sacred site. [Apache Stronghold](#), a grassroots, non-profit organization, made up of San Carlos Apache, other Indigenous tribes and their allies, work tirelessly to prevent the land transfer. Under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, they filed a lawsuit Jan. 12, 2015, in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona. The case, known as "Apache Stronghold v. United States of America," was a legal effort to prevent the transfer of Oak Flat to private ownership for mining purposes. The lawsuit raised concerns about the potential violation of religious freedom and the rights of Indigenous peoples, particularly the San Carlos Apache Tribe, whose cultural and religious practices are closely tied to the land. **Read more and learn what you can do in Michaela Esau's article for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**



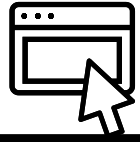
Ten Thousand Villages

Below you can find a message from Emily King, Executive Director of Ten Thousand Villages Champaign. Read more [here](#).

As many have heard, after serving the Champaign-Urbana community for 38 years SelfHelp Village Crafts, Inc. (dba Ten Thousand Villages Champaign) is expanding to Peoria Heights! After learning that Global Village would be closing after operating in downtown Peoria Heights for 20+ years, we felt called to action. Our mission is to bring artisan products and stories to communities through long-term fair trade partnerships. We want our communities to have access to these fair trade products and stories and feel strongly about continuing efforts to bring these to Peoria Heights. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the sales of products help us pay our operating expenses (which we do our best to keep minimal) and help us place consistent orders with our artisan partners. Volunteers have been at the heart of our operations since we opened in 1985. They are our most passionate supporters, who love spending time surrounded by beautiful products and sharing our fair trade stories with customers. We couldn't do what we do without volunteers and are hoping you will consider joining us in Peoria Heights!

Our store hours in Peoria Heights will be Tuesday-Saturday 11-5 (and 12-4 on Sundays in December). Volunteers will be asked to work two 3-hour shifts per month with two time options (11-2 or 2-5 and 1-4 on Sundays). We welcome you to volunteer more than twice a month if you are able, but it will not be required! Shifts will be self-scheduled through a SignUp Genius calendar and can be regular or spontaneous each month, depending on your schedule and preferences. We will have a paid staff person in the shop as well, so no one will have to work alone. As we get established, we hope to expand both our hours and our volunteer opportunities to offsite sales, educational events and speaking engagements. Our soft opening is planned for October 19, 2023. We are looking for volunteers willing to be trained and ready to start shifts by late October. If you are ready to jump in, you can email me your availability for October 23-31 and we can set up a time for training! Please reach out to me with any questions about volunteering or the shop and feel free to forward this email to any friends and family members you think might be interested! We are grateful for your consideration of this opportunity and look forward to seeing each of you (in any capacity) at our new store soon!

Suggested Reading from CPT



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

- [The Fight for Oak Flat: Indigenous voices in the green energy transition](#)
- [Stop Fossil-Fueled Forest Fires](#)
- [Why was there no water to fight the fire in Maui?](#)
- [How the Bible has been used to colonize Palestine](#)
- [Stop Cop City Coalition says city will use voter suppression technique](#)
- [Indigenous resistance challenges Ontario's 'mining boom'](#)
- [Tell Congress To Vote No On Another \\$24 Billion For The War In Ukraine- Diplomacy, Not More War!](#)
- [Stop the Silica Sand Mine Near Lake Winnipeg and Riverfront Communities](#)



Un esprit de repentir et de Renouveau

Voici le début d'un article sur les 500 premières années de la Réforme radicale écrit par César García, secrétaire général de la Conférence Mennonite Mondiale.

« Je prie pour que tous soient un. Père, qu'ils soient unis à nous, comme toi tu es uni à moi et moi à toi. Qu'ils soient un pour que le monde croie que c'est toi qui m'as envoyé. » (Jean 17/21). C'est avec ces paroles de l'Évangile de Jean que nous saluons chaleureusement nos sœurs et nos frères des Églises anabaptistes du monde entier, ainsi que ceux des autres communions chrétiennes. Aujourd'hui, à ce point de notre histoire, nous réfléchissons aux 500 premières années de la Réforme radicale. '[Renouveau](#)' est le nom que la Conférence Mennonite Mondiale a donné à la décennie d'événements régionaux célébrant la mémoire de cinq siècles de notre existence en tant que communauté spirituelle. Nous abordons ces 10 ans de commémorations en nous focalisant sur notre histoire dans une perspective globale, œcuménique et transculturelle. Nous nous souvenons du passé pour regarder vers l'avenir. Nous voulons nous rappeler nos racines en exprimant notre gratitude à Dieu pour l'héritage spirituel que nous avons reçu. Mais nous nous présentons aussi devant le Seigneur dans un esprit de repentance et de renouveau, déterminés à apprendre du passé pour grandir dans notre relation avec Dieu ici et maintenant et dans les années à venir. [Lire la suite.](#)

A Spirit of Repentance and Renewal



Below is the beginning of an article about the first 500 years of the Radical Reformation written by César García, general Secretary of Mennonite World Conference.

That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:21). With these words from the Gospel of John 17:21, we warmly greet the sisters and brothers of Anabaptist churches worldwide and also those from other Christian communions. At this moment in history, we reflect on the first 500 years of the Radical Reformation. “[Renewal](#)” is the name that the Mennonite World Conference has given for a decade of regional events around the memory of five centuries of our existence as a community of faith. We are approaching these 10 years of commemorations by focusing on our history from a global, ecumenical and transcultural perspective. We remember the past to look toward the future. We want to recall our roots as we express gratitude to God for the inheritance of the faith we have received. But we also come before the Lord in a spirit of repentance and renewal, committed to learning from the past to grow in our relationship with God both here and now and in the years to come. **Read more [here](#).**

Project Update

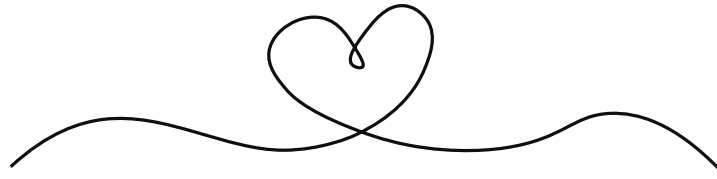


Read an update on the Anabaptism at Five Hundred project from Project Director John D. Roth and Managing Editor Mollee Moua [here](#).



Recipe of the Week

Everyone is invited to sign up for MennoMedia’s new weekly email containing a free, full-length recipe from a Herald Press cookbook, as well as a discount on that cookbook! **Subscribe or submit your favorite recipe to be included in future emails [here](#).**



Our Members in Care Facilities

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

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](#)

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.