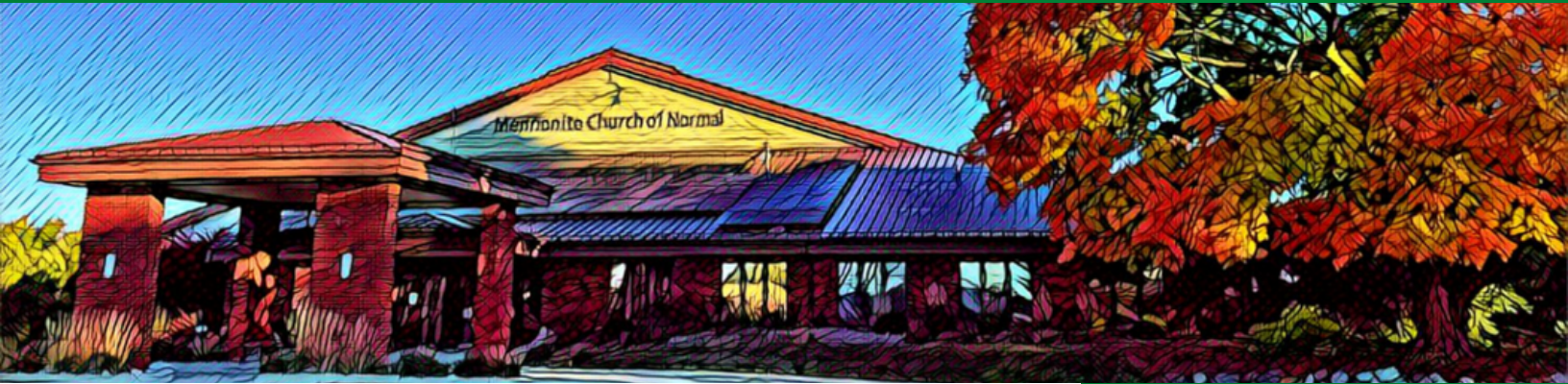


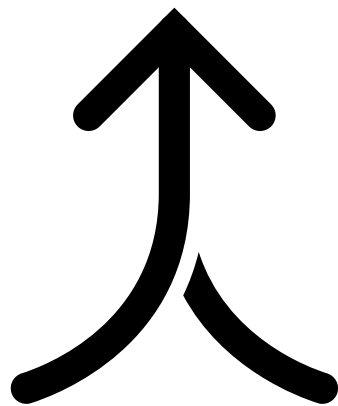
THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Wayne Hochstetler will preach a sermon titled *The Golden Rule Society* using 1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29 and Philippians 1: 27-30.

The issues involved in the division of the Kingdom of Israel seem to be very similar to what we are hearing today in our country. The intersection of faith and politics is a very current issue. Added to that, the Apostle Paul says that we are also citizens of the good news.



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

Sermon Response
all welcome

Civil Rights Bus Trip
Presentation at 11:30am

Journey Groups:

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

Group C (60's and above)
Room 4

Children & Youth CE

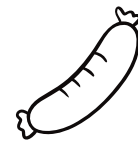
Pre-K-K Grade
2nd-4th Grade
5th-8th Grade
High School



**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](#).



Family Fun Night

THIS 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



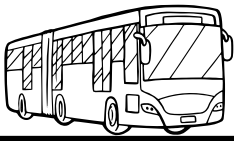
THIS Saturday, October 28th from 8am-12pm

The Blood Drive is coming up this Saturday morning from 8am-noon! We need your help in responding to the national blood shortage!

- You can schedule your blood donation [here](#).
- We are still looking for people to bake cookies! [Sign up here!](#)

If you need help signing up to help or donate, please contact Elsa Raab or the church office.

From the Outreach Commission



Guest CE Presenter

THIS 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

Midwest Food Bank



Midwest
FOOD BANK

Thursday, November 2nd from 5-7pm

Our last scheduled volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank is November 2nd from 5-7pm. That is coming up quickly! **MFB always wants us to sign up early, so if you think you might go, might as well sign up today! Click [here](#).** If you like to plan ahead, here are the dates for next year:

- Thursday, Jan 11 from 6-8pm
- Thursday, May 9 from 6-8pm
- Tuesday, Aug 6 from 6-8pm
- Tuesday, Nov 5 from 6-8pm

From the Outreach Commission

Harvest Potluck



November 12th at noon

Bring your favorite crockpot of soup along with bread or dessert to share with your Church Family on November 12 at noon. Celebrate the harvest and all our many Blessings. Table service and drinks will be provided. **Please sign up [here](#).** (If help is needed in signing up, please contact the church office, CLC or a Fellowship member). The annual Spending Plan Hearing will be held following the meal.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission and the Fellowship Committee

CLC members are:

Deb Stenger co-chair

MaryAnn Watkins co-chair

Connie Satchwell

Joanna Oyer

Lynette Miller, Pastoral Team



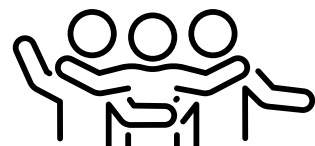
Alternative Gift Fair

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

Women's Ministry Update



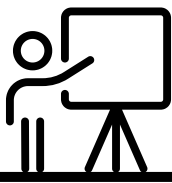
The Community Life Commission (CLC) launched the first meeting of the Women's Ministry at Mennonite Church of Normal on September 23, 2023. Our own Jane Roeschley, MACF Threshold Ministries presented the program Women's Wisdom Across the Seasons. Following this insightful program on women's sharing their wisdom throughout their lives; 30 women met in the Fellowship area for coffee and reacquainting. Two kinds of Women's Ministry groups were introduced- A Women's Bible study entitled "Brave and Beloved" led by Lynette Miller and "Sewing and More" led by Gerry Schrock assisted by Deb Stenger.

Next steps for Women's Ministry include:

- **Women's Bible Study** currently meeting each week at the church. Each lesson is not dependent on the information from previous sessions, so one may join and participate at any point. New attenders are asked to purchase their own book.
- **Sewing and More** – TBA
- **Women's Ministry next quarterly meeting** to be held in Jan. 2024.

Please watch Midweek for more information related to Women's Ministry in 2024. If you have an idea for a Women's Ministry program or book study please contact a CLC member.

From the Community Life Commission



Spending Plan Hearing

November 12th at 1:00pm

Everyone is invited to the Spending Plan Hearing on November 12 at 1:00pm. This hearing is held to gather feedback on the 2024 Spending Plan ahead of the vote to approve the spending plan that will be held during the congregational meeting in January. This Hearing will follow a congregational meal organized by the Community Life Commission and the Fellowship Committee.

Hosted by the Administration Commission



Advent Orchestra Sign-Up

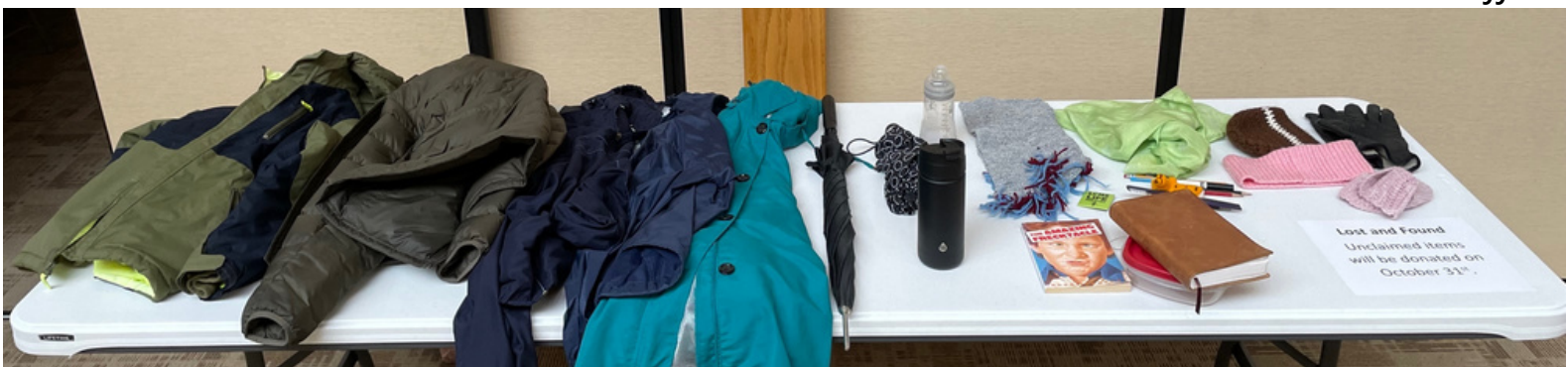
Do you play an instrument? Do you like playing with other people? If so, join the MCN Advent Orchestra! Whether you have been playing for a year, haven't played in years, or play all the time, you are welcome to join us! We welcome all instruments: band, orchestra, harp, recorder, any instrument! There's a part for everyone. **If you are interested, please fill out the sign-up form [here](#).** We will perform during the church service on either December 12th or 17th, depending on participants availability. I look forward to playing with you!

--Lydia Hedberg

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. Currently, all items are laid out at the back of the sanctuary. **Any unclaimed items will be donated NEXT WEEK** on October 31st. Thank you!

From the Church Office





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.

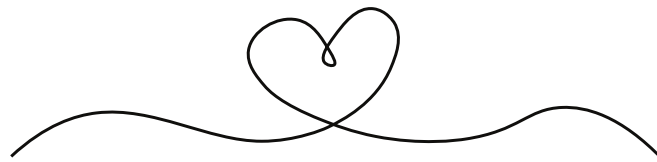
From the Discipling Commission



Did You Know?

- The current members of the Administration Commission are Mary Dyck (chair), Rick Harnish, Mark Roeschley, and Cindy Ropp, with Lauren Satchwell as the Pastoral Team representative.

From the Administration Commission



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.



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Larry & Louise Reeser

West Greeter: Marcia Rossi

Welcome Table: Pam Hodel

Ushers: Adam Augspurger & Mark Roeschley

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Joe Culpepper

Sharing Prayer Leader: Ron Ropp

Children's Story: Jaron

Scripture Reader: Marianne & Margaret Israel

Technology: Caleb Augspurger &

Song Leader: Glenn Wilson

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery – during CE: Miriam Kennell

Preschool Nursery: Carrie Stalter

Gather Round: Spring Neely

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

- Phil Dick, who experienced Israel and occupied Palestine firsthand, asks us to do our part by asking the U.S. to call for a stop to unlimited bombing in Palestine.
- Duane Nestor shared that his kidney stone procedure has been moved to this Thursday.
- Ron Ropp calls for us to thank and support those who are involved in peacemaking in Palestine-Israel, which is an impossible task.
- Holly Zehr shared that several of our youth competed with their marching bands at the state marching band competition: Lexi, Phil , Jaron, and Jordan.
- Tanya Kasongo celebrated that her and Emmanuel are celebrating 15 years of marriage. She offers thanks to those who have helped them along the way and asks for prayer.
- Shelly King shared the celebration that Erin has accepted the call to serve as a member of Vision Team.
- Shelly shared that her and Jordan were in a car accident and she is waiting on an MRI to know what is going on with her shoulder.
- Spring Neely shared that this Friday is Family Fun Night at MCN and invites all to join. [Sign-up [here!](#)]
- Mark Hodel shared about the Alternative Gifts Fair that will be held at MCN on November 5th & 12th.
- Deb Stenger shared that the Fellowship Committee recently hosted & provided the meal for the International Students Fellowship held at the Wittenberg Center.

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 25

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, October 26

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

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

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Friday, October 27

Family Fun Night (Sign-up [here!](#))

Saturday, October 28

8:00am Red Cross Blood Drive (Sign-up [here!](#))

9:00am Worship Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, October 29

11:00am Visitation Team

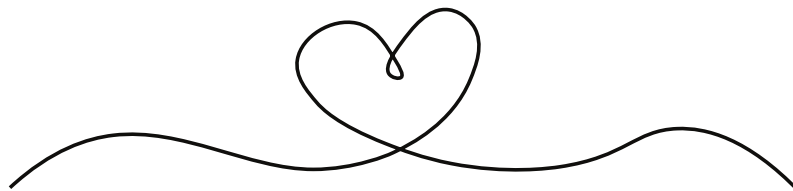
Tuesday, October 31

1:00pm Menno Haven Board Meeting

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 1

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group



Citizen Application Workshop

October 27th from 9am-4pm

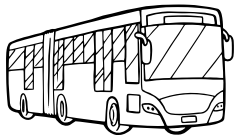
The Immigration Project is partnering with State Farm and STAR Adult Literacy to present a Citizen Application Workshop in Bloomington on October 27th from 9am-4pm! They have NAI Scholarships available that could pay the USCIS fees! View a flyer [here](#).

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

Evelyn Good Memorial Service



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

5  Le courage d'aimer
ZURICH LE 29 MAI 2025

PRENEZ DATE :

Commemorons ensemble les 500 ans de l'anabaptisme dans la ville où le mouvement a commencé !

Pour plus d'informations : mwc-cmm.org



Mennonite World Conference

Congreso Mundial Menonita

Conférence Mennonite Mondiale



5  The courage to love
ZURICH 29 MAY 2025

SAVE THE DATE:

Let's commemorate 500 years of Anabaptism together in the city where the movement began!



For more information: mwc-cmm.org



Mennonite World Conference

Congreso Mundial Menonita

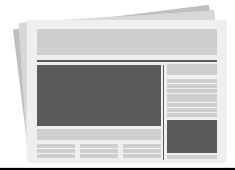
Conférence Mennonite Mondiale



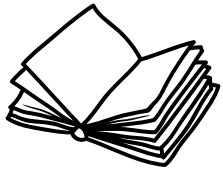
SAVE THE DATE!
FEBRUARY 9-11, 2024
DALLAS, TEXAS



Voices Together in the News



A recent NPR article by Jason DeRose titled “Churches confess and repent for sins against Native and Indigenous people” included a section on the *Voices Together* hymnal published by MennoMedia in partnership with Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. **Read DeRose’s article for NPR [here](#).**



Connecting with Indigenous communities through *Voices Together*

Katie Graber, Anneli Loep Thiessen and Sarah Kathleen Johnson share a glimpse into the new resource, *Guide to Voices Together Songs and Resources with Connections to Indigenous Communities in Canada and the United States*, which was recently released by the Voices Together team. **Read their article published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**



Responding to the **Palestine and Israel** conflict

Help provide emergency support to families affected by the violence.

DONATE ONLINE AT
MCC.ORG/PALESTINE-ISRAEL



Propaganda, lies, and the rights of civilians in war times

Below is an excerpt from Kathy Kern's article for Community Peacemaker Teams titled "Propaganda, lies, and the rights of civilians in war times."

When Hamas fighters began their invasion of Israeli communities near the Gaza border, horrifying accounts filled the Western media. Propaganda functions to convince us that our enemies are the worst humans imaginable. Hamas has committed war crimes in these communities, this is irrefutable. And, the Israeli propaganda machine is using these crimes to enact genocide. The massacres in Israeli communities and at the music festival shock one's conscience—as it should—but where was the world's conscience during the dozens of times that pre- and post-state Israel massacred or aided in the massacre of civilians in Deir Yassin, Tantura, Kafr Qasim, Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, Jenin refugee camp, and its seven bombing operations on Gaza in the last two decades? Why are there no cries of outrage for the dead Palestinian babies pulled from buildings destroyed by Israeli weapons of mass destruction? Within the last eight days, Israel has killed more than 700 children in Gaza. Here are some foundational truths that apply to the current war between Hamas and Israel: Israel signed the Geneva Conventions, [which forbids killing civilians](#) in time of war. Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), [Islamic law](#), and the [Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam](#), have all forbidden the killing of civilians in wartime. The Israeli military occupation of Palestine and siege on Gaza violates the Geneva Conventions and [numerous other international laws](#). To end the killing of Israeli and Palestinian civilians, Palestinians must be free. **Read the full article by Kathy Kern for Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#). (Please be aware the full article contains sensitized content due to the nature of the topic.)**

Lament for Gaza



In a blog post that is part of Mennonite Church USA's ongoing *Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of War* initiative, Michael George, a Palestinian-American, laments the recent attacks from Hamas and ongoing war in Israel/Palestine. Michael George is a high school social studies teacher at Lancaster Mennonite School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and attends Landisville (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Church. He serves on a committee with the Mennonite Palestine Israel Network ([MennoPIN](#)), which builds relationships between congregations and groups in Gaza that are doing wonderful work in their communities. **Read his Lament for Gaza published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

MCC Action Alerts



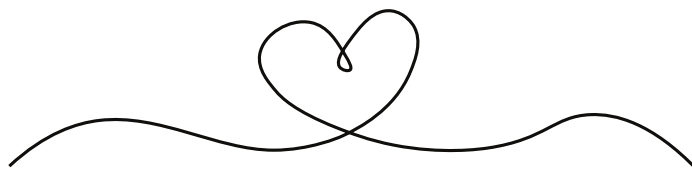
View two Action Alerts from Mennonite Central Committee US National Peace & Justice Ministries below:

- [Address the underlying causes of violence in Palestine and Israel](#). Click [here](#) to urge President Biden and members of Congress to address the underlying causes of violence rather than support militarized responses.
- [Call for an immediate ceasefire and aid for Gaza](#). Click [here](#) to send a letter to congress to call for an immediate ceasefire and aid for Gaza.



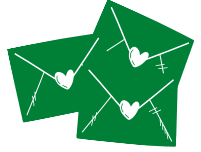
BMC Welcomes Jaylon Tasby

Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) is pleased to welcome Jaylon Tasby as a seminary field education intern for the 2023-24 academic year. Jaylon writes, "My path is one that stands at the crossroads of marginalization, being a Black, queer man. It is from this unique vantage point that I derive my inspiration and purpose. The core of my mission centers around youth, specifically queer youth. In a world where the lives and bodies of queer, trans, and non-binary young people face constant challenges, I am deeply committed to the vital work being undertaken by BMC." **Keep reading Jaylon's bio and introductory reflection [here](#).**



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

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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Item Check-Out Request Form

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

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
