

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Pastor Ron Ropp will preach a sermon titled *The Commandment to Love God* using the scripture Deuteronomy 5:1-21 & Matthew 22:34-40.

His sermon will cover the topic of "How do we understand a command to love 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

Blood Pressure Checks



This Sunday, October 8th after Worship

Mennonite College of Nursing students will be doing blood pressure checks again this Sunday after the worship service. Please avail yourself of this opportunity in the third office (next to the mailboxes).

Congregational Care Committee



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



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

Offering My Gifts



We received some "Offering My Gifts" forms from the congregation (thank you!) but are hoping we can hear from a few more of you! Please take a moment to give us this valuable feedback! These forms will be go such a long way to guiding us in calling people to serve in a variety of capacities – in both long-term and short-term ways. And remember, you are not committing to anything through these forms. They simply gives us the gift of a place to start. You can fill out an electronic version [here](#). Please take a moment to fill this out, today if possible. We sincerely appreciate it!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



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

Update from Worship Commission



Your Worship Commission (Steve Benner, Joe Culpepper, Annette Harnish, and Kevin Chupp) met by Zoom last Saturday. Kevin led the gathering in a centering moment. After reviewing recent worship services, we discussed various scheduling issues. We approved a proposed solution to protect our relatively new hymnals against further deterioration. We approved our budget request for 2024, which, for the first time, includes requests for a monthly organist/pianist and a choir director stipend. We believe it is important to acknowledge the value of the services currently being provided by Dorothy Loepf, Elsa Raab, and Cindy Ropp.

Worship leaders will gather for our annual check-in on Sunday, October 22, immediately after worship. We expect this meeting to last only 15 minutes so everyone has time to attend Sunday School afterwards. This is a great opportunity to invite others to join our Sunday morning teams and/or worship commission. If you're curious about the level of commitment required, we'll be glad to fill you in! Leading worship is a tremendous privilege and sacred duty and we hope many others will consider offering their gifts to this essential part of being church

From the Worship Commission



School Kits and Medical Debt

Outreach is celebrating the generosity of our congregation as we recently sent off 314 school kits to MCC—a BIG thank you to Louise Reeser for coordinating that larger than anticipated effort! Also, as we shared on Sunday, the Medical Debt Jubilee raised a final total of \$27,301 across Bloomington-Normal.

From the Outreach Commission

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



Office Closed

Please be aware that the office will be **closed Thursday, October 5th**. In addition, in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day, the office will be **closed Monday, October 9th**.

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!

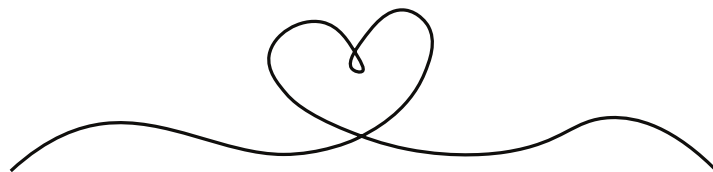
From the Outreach Commission

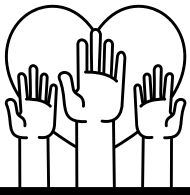
Did You Know?



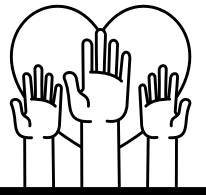
- We have quite a few memorial trees. Administration Commission is working on a listing to share the information.
- Anyone can add a note to the "Did you know?" section. You can email church@normalmennonite.org with your request.

From the Administration Commission





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Linda & Roger Clemmons

West Greeter: Sheila Kuria

Welcome Table: Stephanie Company

Ushers: Nancy Fisher &

Offering Counter: Stephanie Company

Worship Planner: Holly Zehr

Worship Leader:

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story:

Scripture Reader:

Technology: Jaron Zehr & Rick Harnish

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab

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.

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 4

Thursday, October 5
All Day Office Closed

Sunday, October 8
After Worship Blood Pressure Checks

Monday, October 9
All Day Office Closed

Tuesday, October 10
3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)
7:00pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

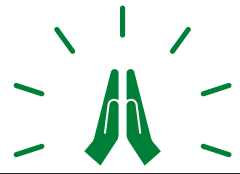
Wednesday, October 11
4:30pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)
7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

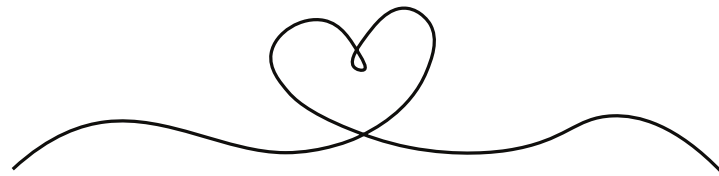
CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



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



EveryBODY In!

an open mic variety show featuring people with disabilities

Thursday, October 5
7:30 pm Eastern



Hosted by

Jon-Erik Misz

People with disabilities and mental illness take the virtual stage to share their talents. Our featured performer and host is JE Misz, poet and licensed clinical therapist, whose verses touch on themes of resilience, hope, inclusivity, and the beauty that comes from belonging fully.

LIVE EVENT

Part of ADN's Fall Fundraiser
#AccessingBelonging

LIVE EVENT



The State of Hate

Tuesday October 10
7:00 pm CT

The Anti-Defamation League was founded in 1913 by Bloomington's own Sigmund Livingston. The goal of the ADL is to "stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure fair justice and treatment for all."

Join us in the fight against hate!



Moses Montifiore Temple
102 Robinhood Lane

Join us as Midwest Associate Regional Director Trent Spoolstra discusses the latest wave of hate and antisemitism impacting our country. The presentation will cover FBI hate crime statistics, ADL reports on antisemitism, and how the community can respond.


The presentation will be preceded by a dedication plaque in honor of ADL founder Sigmund Livingston.

Q&A will follow the presentation.

[For more information, please contact the MMT Office at 309.662.3182](#)



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

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. Thank you very much.

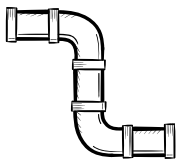
From Mike Yoder, Eureka, current Board Chair of IMHGS

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](#).

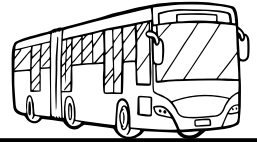


Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour

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 [here](#).

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 Right 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

WHY?

Here With Purpose

Every organization has a purpose; an answer to the deceptively simple question, "Why?" At Mennonite Mission Network, that "why?" is to lead, mobilize and equip the church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ — across the street, all through the marketplaces and around the world. In their new Q&A series, Mennonite Mission Network asks staff members to consider their role in the agency, and how they see their daily work joining into what God is doing around the world. In this interview, Eric Frey Martin reflects on his role as Interim Director for Constituent Engagement. **Read his interview [here](#).**

Peace Education Coordinator



Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is hiring a Peace Education Coordinator! The Peace Education Coordinator leads MCC's church education efforts nationwide in the U.S. related to peace and nonviolence. This includes peace theology, conflict transformation, and response to violence (including gun violence prevention, anti-militarism, and mass incarceration). Education efforts involve engaging MCC's constituency on these peace-related topics by working with MCC regional staff and with denominational and other partners. **Apply [here](#) by October 16.**



Beyond Trauma Care

MCC Great Lakes partners learn to practice self-care.

Renee Dodson loves her role as director of employment services at Lexington Rescue Mission in Kentucky. But last year she started to feel the signs of burn-out and knew she needed to make some changes. The launch of a new co-hort program from MCC Great Lakes came at just the right time. "Beyond Trauma Care: Care and Concern for Yourself" is bringing together MCC partners from throughout the Great Lakes region to practice self-care with the help of trauma healing facilitators, spiritual directors and lots of personal practice. For Dodson, the co-hort has been a lifeline. "2022 was an extremely hard year personally and then also professionally," she said. Three of her clients passed away due to overdose or suicide, and two other individuals she had placed in jobs had relapses and violent outbursts. "I kept thinking, 'What have I done wrong?' The exhaustion was really hard." The co-hort has been an answer to Dodson's prayers. "MCC has been able to bless my soul is the best way to put it," she says. "The topics and support that they're giving literally brought tears to my eyes. It's such a gift. I really appreciate how it has been a blessing to me personally - that MCC is doing this and investing in people's lives that are helping other people. It's been life changing." **Read the full article by Jennifer Steiner for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

END GUN VIOLENCE

Learn. Pray. Join

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) invites all congregations to deepen their understanding about the complex, intersectional issue of gun violence in the U.S. and to explore how our Anabaptist faith can inform our response. Learn more about MC USA's "Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence" initiative and upcoming webinars [here](#).



Volunteers Needed

If you are bilingual in Spanish/English or French/English and willing to volunteer to interpret/translate for Western Avenue Community Center, please email Ana at awilson@westernavenueecc.org. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Helen Dick Brandon.

First be reconciled: U.S. policy on sanctions



Sanctions are often seen as an attractive alternative to warfare. But are sanctions truly nonviolent? Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) provides humanitarian relief, promotes sustainable livelihoods and invests in peacebuilding in complex locations, including in countries sanctioned by the U.S government. We have seen the pain sanctions inflict on those most vulnerable. The fall/winter issue of the Peace & Justice Journal explores the impact of sanctions and the responsibility of people of faith to name the harmful policies of governments, including our own. Two steps you can take right away: 1. [Download your copy of the Peace & Justice Journal here](#) to learn more about the history of sanctions, the impacts, and what policy changes are needed. 2. [Send a letter to the White House here](#) urging that Cuba be removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, a designation which complicates humanitarian aid efforts and impacts the most vulnerable in Cuba.

Behavioral Health Urgent Care

The McLean County Center for Human Services, in collaboration with McLean County government, established a behavioral health urgent care center for those over 18 years of age. The services at the Urgent Care Center are free of charge and located under the “big radio tower” in downtown Bloomington, so easy for anyone to find. Please spread the word about these services. Questions can be directed to Joan Hartman, the Chief Operating Officer, at 309.827.5351. Learn more at mcchs.org.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH | URGENT CARE

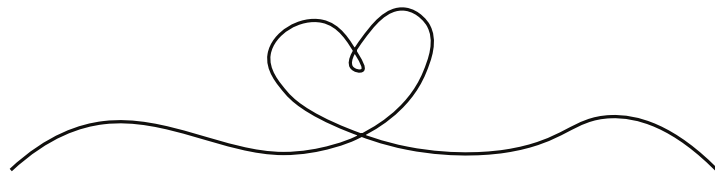
This service is available free of charge to individuals 18 and older experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Services include:

- Crisis screening
- Crisis intervention
- Short-term counseling
- Linkage to resources

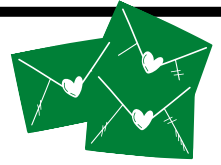


mcchs.org



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.

Upcoming Changes:

Closed: Thursday 10/5 all day and Monday 10/9 all day

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](#)

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Commissions and Teams Contact List

[Commissions and Teams Contact List](#)

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.