

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Lynette Miller will preach a sermon titled Whole-hearted using 1 Kings 18:16b-39.

The prophet Elijah is a towering figure in a wild contest on Mt. Carmal with the prophets of Baal. What characteristics of whole-heartedness set Elijah in distinct contrast to those of his fellow Israelites?



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

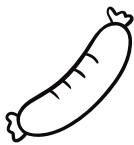


Thursday, November 2nd from 5-7pm

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



Relief Sale Sausage

Pre-order: October 15th through **this Sunday, November 5th**

Pick up: November 18th, 2023

Last chance! 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](#).

Alternative Gifts Fair



This Sunday, November 5th and 12th

A reminder that the Alternative Gifts Fair starts this Sunday and will also be held on November 12. Shopping lists for both adults and children are in your mailboxes. The fair will be open before and after the service on both dates. Catalogues are available in the church library, booth tables and at the checkout table. **If shoppers would like their gifts to be tax deductible, they should make their checks out to the Mennonite Church of Normal.**

From the Outreach Commission



Blood Pressure Checks

This Sunday, November 5th after Worship

Blood Pressure checks will be available this Sunday, November 5 in the office by the mailboxes. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this service.

Congregational Care Committee

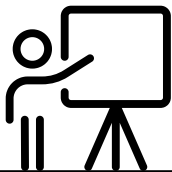
Spending Plan Hearing



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), Mary Ann Watkins (co-chair), Connie Satchwell, Joanna Oyer, Lynette Miller (Pastoral Team)*



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. **View the proposed 2024 Spending Plan [here](#).**

Hosted by the Administration Commission

Grateful for What Unites Us

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

YMCA

202 St. Joseph Dr.
Bloomington

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

3:00pm

- ASL interpreter will be present
- A freewill offering will be taken for persons experiencing homelessness



Doll Dress Sale



November 26th after worship

Mark your calendars for November 26th! Our own Lois Jett (ISU Professor Emerita of Fashion Design and Merchandising) has crafted many doll dresses that fit American Girl Dolls. Just in time for Christmas shopping, you can buy something for your doll-lover that is truly special! Simply stick around after worship on the 26th to take a look at all of the beautiful options. Lois is generously donating all of the proceeds directly to our Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF).

From the Outreach Commission



Family Fun Night

A huge thank you to everyone that helped in making family fun night a success last Friday! We had a great turn out!

From the Discipling Commission and CE Committee

A Note from MCC



Mennonite Central Committee's top Facebook post in October was about MCN's recent Quilt Bash! It had the most engagement of all their posts during the month. Thank you for everyone who worked to make the Quilt Bash a success! You can view the post [here](#).



Advent Ensemble Sign-Up

Do you play an instrument? Do you like playing with other people? If so, join the MCN Advent Ensemble! 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

Nursery Schedule



Did You Know?

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- The current members of the Discipling Commission are Spring Neely, Shannon Unzicker, David Voegtlin, and Holly Zehr (chair), with Lynette Miller as the Pastoral Team representative.

From the Administration Commission

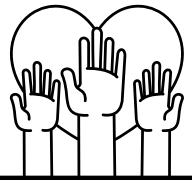


Prayer Requests and Announcements

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: Vivian & Cal Hubbard

West Greeter: Connie Satchwell

Welcome Table: Gail Fisher

Ushers: Robin & Chad Gundy

Offering Counter: Stephanie Company

Worship Planner: Meredith Schroeer

Worship Leader: Lynn Reha

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story: Shelly King

Scripture Reader: Annette Harnish

Technology: Adam Augspurger

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment: Dorothy Loepp

Prelude & Postlude: Adam & Caleb Augspurger

Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery – during CE: Gabriella Harnish

Preschool Nursery: Emma

Gather Round: Spring Neely

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 1

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

7:30pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Thursday, November 2

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

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

6:00pm Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, November 5

Monday, November 6

5:00pm Outreach Commission

7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 7

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 8

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Birthdays & Anniversaries

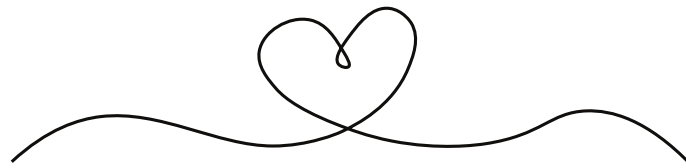
CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



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



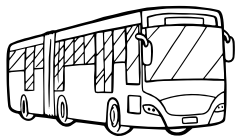
Evelyn Good Memorial Service



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



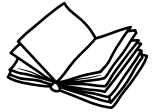
Civil Rights Bus Trip

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

Book Review: Amplifying our Witness



Below is an excerpt from Cindy Warner Baker's review of the book Amplifying Our Witness: Giving Voice to Adolescents with Developmental Disabilities by Benjamin T. Connor.

In the introductory pages of *Amplifying Our Witness: Giving Voice to Adolescents with Developmental Disabilities*, Benjamin Conner writes: "This book is about the witness of the church and how a plurality of voices and perspectives enhances our understanding of God and our community's witness to that God." The premise of the book and Conner's work as a youth minister is that practice-centered ministry—in which friendships can develop—witnesses to the love and character of Christ with those within the church community and those beyond. Conner is a theologian, and his writing style reflects this. Though not as dense as many books on theology, I found some parts to be a bit challenging. Fortunately, these relatively short sections are offset by the fact that Conner's writing style is engaging and reflects his passion for youth ministry. The book also includes stories of individual youth, which add to the power and readability of the book. As a person involved in youth ministry, I found *Amplifying Our Witness* helpful and encouraging. It affirms the value of engaging youth in the practices of Christian life together: shared prayer, meals, work and service, and learning. When we are the church together, we embody Christ for each other and those around us. When each unique individual's voice is welcomed, we enrich the witness of the whole. **Read the rest of Cindy Warner Baker's book review published by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

Dignity kits part 1: Impact in South Sudan/Anne Kuria

The latest episode of *Relief Development and Podcast*, a podcast published by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), covered how reusable pads, along with other hygiene tools in a bucket, can make a big difference in a girl's life. It can be a part of keeping her in school and adding to her education. At Loreto Rumbek School in South Sudan, Anne Kuria shines some light on the bigger context of why these simple hygiene tools are needed and the impact they have. This episode is part one of a two episode story; the next episode is about a group of women from South Sudan, who now live in Canada, that make dignity kits for MCC. **Listen to or read a transcript of the podcast [here](#).**

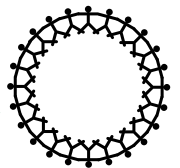
CO\$T OF POVERTY

Learn. Pray. Join.

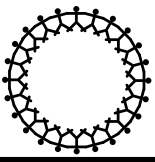


Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) encourages people and congregations to “Learn, Pray, Join” about the Cost of Poverty. The topic of poverty from theological and practical perspectives will be explored, addressing its intersectional nature and the impact of the pandemic. **Find resources from MC USA for Cost of Poverty [here](#).**

La règle de l'ayni : la relation réciproque



En kichwa, un mot, ayni, décrit la règle et la pratique de l'interdépendance. « On ne peut exister que si la communauté existe », déclare Julian Guamán. Dans la vision du monde des Kichwa, cette communauté englobe toute la création, et pas seulement les êtres humains. L'ayni stipule qu'en tant que membres de la communauté, les humains ont la responsabilité d'entretenir la réciprocité entre eux et tous les autres membres, y compris les plantes, les animaux, l'eau et le sol. « Dans un monde marqué par le changement climatique, les crises environnementales et un système économique qui détruit la nature et exploite les gens », déclare Julian Guamán, « nous, en tant qu'églises mennonites, pouvons être différents, parce que Jésus-Christ nous a appelés à nous aimer les uns les autres ». **[Lire la suite.](#)**



The rule of ayni: reciprocal relationship

In Kichwa, there is a word, ayni, that describes the rule and practice of interdependence. “One does not exist unless the community exists,” says Julian Guamán. In the Kichwa worldview, that community includes all of creation, not just humans. Ayni dictates that as members of the community, humans have a responsibility to be in reciprocal relationship with every other member, including plants, animals, water and soil. Ayni has practical implications for how Kichwas live their lives and is an important part of Julian Guamán’s vision for the Anabaptist church. “In a world with climate change, with environmental crises, with an economic system that destroys nature and exploits people,” Julian Guamán says, “we, as Mennonite churches, can be different, because Jesus Christ called us to love one another.” **Read more [here](#).**

Topic: Winter Weather Preparedness

Don’t let blustery weather freeze you out of enjoying a joyful winter. Be prepared to weather any storm by following these tips:

- Make sure your home emergency kit is stocked and winter storm ready
- Use sand to improve traction and apply products that melt ice on walkways
- Make sure you have sufficient heating fuel. Regular fuel sources may be cut off
- Keep emergency heating equipment and fuel available
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure your family knows how to use them.
- Winterize/insulate your home to extend the life of your fuel supply.
- Do not overexert yourself or work outside for extended periods of time

IL winter weather preparedness guide:

<https://iemaohs.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/iema/preparedness/documents/winter-storm-preparedness-guidebook.pdf>

Community Wellness & Faith Community Health Services at Carle connects you and your faith community to needed healthcare and wellness support, taking a whole-person approach to health. To learn more about bringing healthcare and wellness resources to your faith community, call (217) 902-3160 or email FaithCommunityHealth@carle.com.



Carle Faith Community
Nursing Network

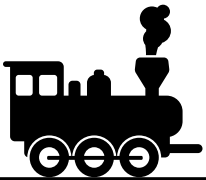
Living faithfully on a changing planet



Sarah Werner, author of *Rooted Faith: Practices for Living Well on a Fragile Planet*, gives hope and tangible ideas for how Christians can live a life that is faithful to their beliefs amid rapid climate change in a article published by Mennonite Church USA. Sarah Werner is the communications coordinator for Central District Conference and pastor of Olentangy Wild Church in Columbus, Ohio. **Read her article [here](#).**

David Maldonado and his bivocational call to service

David Maldonado, who works both as a pastor of College Mennonite Church and a construction worker, shares what life in bivocational ministry is like and why someone might choose that path in an interview with Adriana Celis of MenoTicias published by Mennonite Church USA. **Read the interview [here](#).**

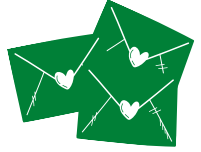


Pilgrims confess historic wrongs

"I'm sorry that our mothers and fathers didn't see you when they settled here 100 years ago." With those words, Richard Thiessen, president of the Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia, apologized on behalf of the society to representatives of the Semá:th First Nation (also known as the Sumas First Nation) near Abbotsford, B.C. The apology was made July 24 during a visit by participants in the "Memories of Migration: Russlaender Tour 100," which found people traveling across Canada by train to commemorate the arrival in Canada of Mennonites from the Soviet Union between 1923 and 1930. In the apology, which was made in a traditional long house at the First Nation, Thiessen acknowledged that some of the Mennonite immigrants who arrived in the Fraser Valley a century ago were able to take advantage of the draining of Sumas Lake. The lake, a resource and source of life for the First Nation for generations, was emptied by the British Columbia government to create fertile farmland for the new arrivals and others. Dalton Silver, chief of the Semá:th First Nation, accepted the apology and said it was "a step in the right direction." Noting that members of the Memories of Migration tour had "come a long way to be with us," he expressed thanks for how they took time to visit his community "and hear our stories." Silver added he hoped the apology would be the "start of a new journey of friendship and reconciliation together." The "Memories of Migration: Russlaender 100" cross-country train tour ran from July 6-24, starting in Quebec City and ending in British Columbia. The goal was to commemorate a century since the first of about 21,000 Mennonites escaped from the Soviet Union to find new homes in Canada. **Read more in John Longhurst's article for the *Anabaptist World* [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

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