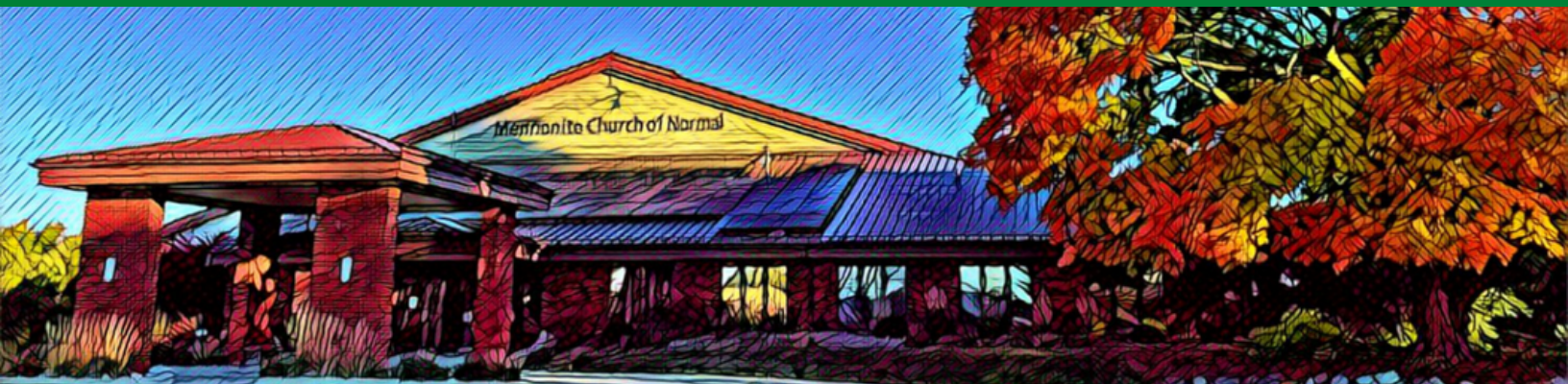


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Lauren Satchwell will preach a sermon titled The Pessimistic Optimist based on Isaiah's Vineyard Song using Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5.



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

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Parents of all 9-12th graders:



This Sunday, November 19th after Sunday School

A reminder that your high schooler is invited to lunch at the home of Nancy and Gail Fisher after Sunday School this coming Sunday. The Fishers will be providing a simple noon meal and informal time of fellowship afterwards. **Please RSVP to Shannon Unzicker by this Friday, November 17th** so the Fishers can plan accordingly. If your child is not able to drive and/or needs a ride, please let Shannon know as well. A carpool can be arranged if needed.

From the Discipling Commission



Commission-Congregation Check-In

This Sunday, November 19th after Sunday School

What's the latest news from our Commissions? Find out by attending the Commission-Congregation Check-In this Sunday from 11:50-12:30 in the conference room. Everyone is welcome! Snacks included. 😊

From the Vision Team

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





Early Midweek Deadline

The **deadline** to submit items for **next week's Midweek** (the week of Thanksgiving) will be on **Monday, November 20th at 8am**. Thank you!

From Lydia in the church office

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



Advent Ensemble

Performance: Sunday, December 17th during the service

Rehearsals: Saturday, December 2nd and 16th at 3pm

If you are still interested in playing with the Advent Ensemble, it's not too late! Based on survey results (thank you to everyone who filled out the sign-up!), we will perform during the service on 12/17 and rehearse on both 12/2 and 12/16 from 3 to 4 pm. If you are interested in joining the ensemble but haven't signed up, please email me at church@normalmennonite.org or call 309-452-6622. All instruments and playing levels are welcome. I look forward to playing with you!

--Lydia Hedberg

Journey Groups



Sunday, December 3rd

The winter quarter for our Journey Group classes begins on December 3rd. This means we will again be swapping books among groups, so as soon as you are finished with your current book, please return it to the Conference Room so that it can be used by others in the upcoming quarter.

Journey Group A (20's and 30's) will be reading *How to Fight Racism* by Jemar Tisby. Amy Reiman will be facilitating for the month of December. **Class members are asked to pick up a copy from the Conference Room in the next two weeks. You will be discussing Chapter 1 on December 3rd.**

Journey Group B (40's and 50's) will be reading *To Be Made Well* by Amy Julia Becker. Plan on picking up your copy on December 3rd and meeting briefly to review the reading plan for the quarter.

Journey Group C (60's and above) will be reading *What is the Church and Why does it Exist?* by David Fitch. Copies will be available to pick up on December 3rd.
From the Discipling Commission



Periodical Renewals

It's that time of year again -- periodical subscription renewals! Each year the church organizes a group subscription to three Mennonite publications: [Rejoice!](#) (a quarterly devotional) by Menno Media for \$35.54, [The Upper Room Daily Devotional](#) (delivered quarterly) for \$9, and [Anabaptist World](#) (16 issues) for \$39. This gives everyone the opportunity to subscribe to these publications with a discounted rate through the church office. If you would like to **renew, begin, or end** a subscription to one or more of these publications, please contact Lydia in the church office at 309-452-6622 or church@normalmennonite.org **before Monday, December 4th.**

From the church office

Hosting in Homes



We have been talking about doing a Homes for the Holidays tour of homes but have decided instead to invite interested individuals in the Congregation to be a part of Hosting in Homes. You may remember that Hosting in Homes was initiated during the summer months by CLC as a way of working toward one of our Congregational Goals for 2023. The process includes a host from the Congregation extending an invitation to the Congregation inviting a specified number of people to gather in fellowship for a meal or other activity in the home of the host.

For those who are interested in hosting in your home in December, contact the church office with your invitation, including the date and time that you have selected for hosting for the holidays in the month of December. Your invitation can then be included in Midweek with a link for use in signing up by persons interested in coming to your home. If you have questions, please contact Deb Stenger or Mary Ann Watkins.

From the Community Life Commission and Fellowship Committee

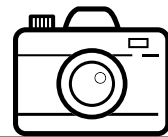


Vision Team Update

The Vision Team met on November 1 on Zoom. We heard updates from the Pastoral Team, the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, and each commission. We discussed and edited the VT's portion of the spending plan that was presented, along with the rest of the spending plan, to the congregation on Sunday, November 12. We considered dates for the next Commission-Congregation check-in including Sunday, November 19. Vision Team will meet next on November 15. You can find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the Vision Team folder linked [here](#).

From 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 the church office at church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Harvest Potluck



Thank you to all who helped with the Harvest potluck on Sunday. Thank you to our volunteers who assisted with set up and clean up, to those who brought delicious soups, breads, and desserts and to all who attended.

From the Community Life Commission and Fellowship Committee



MDS Weekly Volunteer Opportunities

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is calling all volunteers! You can be a part of bringing hope to communities affected by disaster by volunteering for a week or more. MDS loves having you on board! Below are upcoming Weekly Volunteer Opportunities or you can click [here](#) to see all the ways to volunteer with MDS. Please contact Phil Dick, chair of Outreach Commission, if you are interested one of these opportunities.

Shared by the Outreach Commission

Arcadia, FL/2022 Hurricane Ian

Jan 21-27; 1 volunteer
Feb 11-17; up to 3 volunteers
Mar 3-9; up to 3 volunteers
Mar 10-16; up to 3 volunteers

Crisfield, MD/2021 Flooding

Nov 19-25; up to 4 volunteers
Jan 7-13; up to 15 volunteers
Jan 14-20; up to 15 volunteers
Jan 21-27; up to 12 volunteers
Mar 24-30; up to 15 volunteers

Jennings, LA/2020 Hurricanes

Nov 19-25; up to 6 volunteers
Feb 11-17; 1 volunteer
Feb 25-Mar 2; up to 3 volunteers
Mar 3-9; 1 volunteer
Mar 10-16; up to 3 volunteers
Mar 17-23; up to 5 volunteers
Mar 24-30; up to 5 volunteers

Hurley, VA/2021 Flooding

Jan 14-20; up to 10 volunteers
Feb 4-10; up to 10 volunteers
Feb 18-24; up to 10 volunteers
Mar 3-9; up to 10 volunteers
Mar 10-16; up to 10 volunteers
Mar 24-30; up to 10 volunteer

Port Isabel, TX/2023 Storms

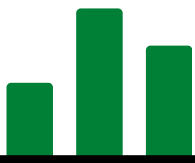
Feb 25-Mar 2; 1 volunteer

Dawson Springs, KY/2021 Tornadoes

Jan 7-13; 1 volunteer
Mar 3-9; up to 3 volunteers

Eastern, KY/2022 Flooding

Jan 7-13; up to 12 volunteers
Jan 14-20; up to 4 volunteers
Jan 21-27; up to 2 volunteers
Feb 4-10; up to 2 volunteers
Feb 11-17; up to 12 volunteers
Feb 18-24; up to 8 volunteers
Mar 17-23; up to 12 volunteers
Mar 24-30; up to 12 volunteers



Spending Plan Update

Spending Plan Status as of October 31, 2023

Shared by the Administration Commission

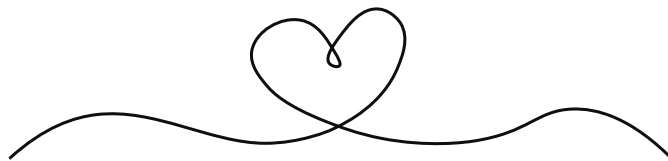
Nursery Schedule



Did You Know?

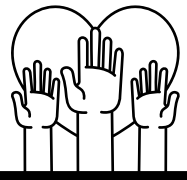
You can “jump” to different sections of the Midweek by using the new site navigation menu. (This only applies to the non-PDF version.) **On a computer:** the navigation links will appear in a white bar at the top of the window. **On a mobile device:** tap the the horizontal lines at the top-right of the screen to expand the navigation menu. The links are the same as the Midweek’s divisions: “This Sunday,” “Our Congregation,” “This Week,” “Our Community,” and “Staff Contact & Building Hours,” and “Useful Links.” If you have questions about how to use the new navigation menu or about the sections of the Midweek, feel free to reach out to Lydia in the office at 309-452-6622 or at church@normalmennonite.org.

From the Administration Commission





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: John & Kay Reimer

West Greeter: Bernice Valverde

Welcome Table: Marge Weaver

Ushers: Adam Augspurger & Andy Reeser

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Joe Culpepper

Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp

Children's Story: Shannon Neely

Scripture Reader: Sheila Kuria

Technology: Glenn Wilson & Ryan Miller

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Dorothy Loepp

Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery – during CE: Miriam Kennell

Preschool Nursery: Holly Zehr

Gather Round: Shelly & Darvis King

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Prayer Requests and Announcements

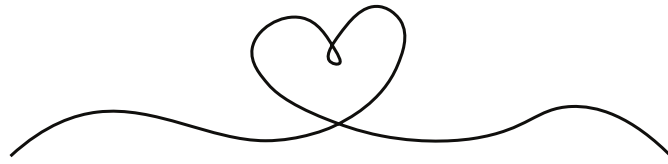
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please send Lauren Satchwell your announcements so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true whether in person or livestreaming on YouTube.



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



The "Deadly End" of migrant management

Read a report released by Community Peacemaker Team Aegean Migrant Solidarity that documents the deaths of migrants in Moria's Reception and Identification Centre between 2016 and 2020 in Lesbos, Greece [here](#).

Brethren Mennonite Council
honors
**TRANS DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE 2023**

November 20th, 2023

Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR) on November 20 is a global day of mourning for transgender persons who have lost their lives to anti-transgender/nonbinary violence. Find a newsletter with resources for TDoR vigils & services, ways you can take action for trans life, and TDoR History & Context published by Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) [here](#).



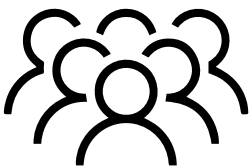
Advent at Home 2023

The Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) Advent at Home 2023 publication is now available. Taken from Leader magazine's Advent theme, "How will we know?" this worship guide accompanies individuals and families through the days and weeks of Advent through Epiphany with scriptures, prayers, worship rituals, suggested activities, and contextual information. The guide is available as a free download in English and Spanish from the MEA website [here](#).



Peacebuilding efforts continue in Ecuador

Injustice in Ecuador, especially for Indigenous Peoples, has ignited protests, national uprisings and strikes over the past four decades, which are increasing in frequency. Although Ecuador's constitution and international law recognize Indigenous Peoples' rights, United Nations experts found "persistent gaps" in the enforcement of these rights, especially regarding mineral extraction and development in Indigenous territories. Furthermore, Indigenous communities are typically located in rural areas where the percentage of people living in poverty is double that of people in urban areas. Poverty contributes to the lack of access to basic services, including health care. This socioeconomic chasm has contributed to unrest. Mennonite Mission Network has had a presence in Ecuador for over 30 years and, for over 20 years, has supported Ecuadorian partners through the Ecuador Partnership, which is made up of Mission Network, Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Colombia (IMCOL) and Central Plains Mennonite Conference, a conference of Mennonite Church USA. At the request of the Council of Indigenous Evangelical Nations and Organizations of Ecuador (FEINE) President Eustaquio Tuala, Mission Network held a workshop for FEINE leaders, Dec. 8-10, 2022. The workshop was led by Ecuador Partnership co-coordinator Peter Wigginton and training and resource specialist — church planting Mauricio Chenlo, along with Dr. Julián Guamán, general secretary of Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Ecuador (ICME). Twenty-two FEINE leaders participated in the workshop at FEINE's national office in Quito, Ecuador. Fifty church leaders attended the workshop, which focused on faith and politics, as well as methods of nonviolent direct action and reconciliation. **Read the rest of Jane Morrow's article for the Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**



Hesston College faculty vote to express no confidence in president

Hesston College faculty members on Sept. 5 voted to express no confidence in President Joseph A. Manickam. The motion cited "failure to lead effectively, lack of taking responsibility, [and] inappropriate or unprofessional behavior." The vote was 24 to 2, or 92.3%, with six abstaining. Eight voting-eligible faculty did not attend the meeting. The motion stated that "a letter outlining the reasons drafted by the Faculty Council" was forthcoming. **Read more in Tim Huber's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Shalom Academy

January 8-10, 2024

Cultivating unity within faith communities can be difficult when cultural pressures are divisive. As the next iteration of the former School for Leadership Training, Shalom Academy 2024 at Eastern Mennonite Seminary offers a place to learn and reflect on the practices that move congregations past divisiveness and toward peace, both within their walls and in their larger communities. Keynote speakers and workshops give fresh perspectives on justice-inspired shalom, small group facilitators offer spaces to connect around shared interests, and new-this-year excursions provide for relaxation and recreation with friends both old and new. Make plans to start your 2024 ministry inspired and renewed by attending Shalom Academy, January 8-10, 2024. Keynote speakers: Melissa Florer-Bixler and Adam Russell Taylor. Learn more and register [here](#).

In the News with TIP



Below is a message shared by The Immigration Project (TIP).

This month The Immigration Project's Social Service Director Sarah Mellor was able to talk with WGLT to discuss the lack of bilingual counselors nationwide, and specifically in Illinois. While there has been an increase in the need for Spanish-speaking counselors, there has been a decrease in mental health treatment facilities that offer Spanish services.

Unfortunately, this is not just a problem for Spanish-speaking immigrants. Those who have other native languages are at a stronger disadvantage since they are less likely to find counselors that are fluent in the same language as them. However, The Immigration Project is working towards fixing this problem.

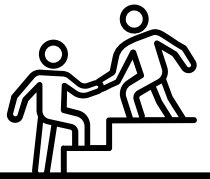
At The Immigrant Project, we strive to ensure that we are providing the necessary resources for immigrants within our service areas! We are proud to employ the only certified bilingual HUD housing counselor in downstate Illinois. As our organization and staff continue to grow, we will continue to provide the essential necessities to our community!

Want to check out the full article? **Click [here](#) to read more.**

Mennonite Central Committee receives \$229.6 million gift

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is honoured to announce a remarkable gift of \$229.6 million in property given to MCC British Columbia by an individual donor in support of the organization's international relief, development and peace work. Henry Rempel of New Westminster, B.C., who died June 9, 2023, and his wife, Mary Rempel, who predeceased her husband in 2014, wanted to help "the poorest of the poor." Henry has gifted a large portfolio of rental and development properties to MCC for the ongoing support of MCC's ministry. The properties are located across British Columbia, held in subsidiary companies owned by MCC B.C., and collectively referred to as HyLand Properties. HyLand is also managing previous gifts of real estate from the Rempels, beginning with their first donation of property in 2012. HyLand's purpose is to operate the full portfolio of properties on an ongoing basis and to generate annual income for MCC, similar to an endowment. "We are incredibly grateful for this generous gift," says Wayne Bremner, executive director of MCC B.C. "We know that, globally, more than 110 million people have been forced to flee their homes. And more than 800 million — one in ten — go to bed on an empty stomach each night. The needs around the world are staggering, and this gift will increase MCC's capacity to respond. "We are humbled that Henry and Mary chose to partner with MCC to steward this generous and strategic gift to assist the world's most vulnerable people," says Bremner. "The Rempels have truly left a legacy that will be felt for generations to come." **Read more in Laura Kalmar's article for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

A Collaboration: Anabaptist Leadership



Rachel Ringenberg Miller reminds us that Anabaptist congregational leadership requires collaboration, from the leaders and from the congregation. The process to make changes takes time, but the inclusive nature of the process is worth it. Rachel Ringenberg Miller serves as denominational minister for ministerial leadership for Mennonite Church USA. She focuses on engaging conferences and congregations, providing resources and services to meet the diverse demands facing congregations today. **Read her article on Anabaptist Leadership published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**



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 11/9 all day & Wednesday 11/15 morning

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:

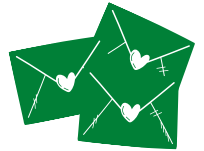
Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lauren Satchwell:

Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS.
SEND A CARD IF THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!



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

[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](#)

Commission Meeting Minutes

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