

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled Corvid Theology based on 2 Kings 22:1-10, 11-20, and 23:1-3.



As we read the story of the people of God in the Old Testament we are often quick to judge. As we see it, in one moment God is powerfully, miraculously present among the people and in the next, the people have gone wildly astray. For us it is mere pages. For them it is hundreds of years. As Josiah responds to the house of the Lord that has fallen into disrepair, he stumbles upon some help in finding what brought it to that place. What does it take to stay faithful in the midst of other outlets for our attention and devotion?

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

Doll Dress Sale



This Sunday, November 26th after worship

This Sunday, 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

SMAP Update

\$9,932

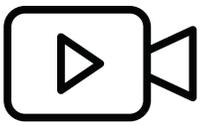
\$0



\$24,500

We are approaching the second payment for college students attending Mennonite Schools. Our current balance is \$9,932 and we will need \$24,500 by the end of December for the next semester starting in January 2024. Donations can be placed in the offering plate (memo line: SMAP) or online [here](#). Please reach out to Darvis King with any questions. Thank you for your continued support and pledges for this program!

From Darvis King



Spending Plan Hearing Recording

You can view a recording of the November 12th Spending Plan Hearing [here](#).
View the proposed 2024 Spending Plan [here](#).

From the Administration 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



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.

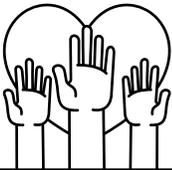
From the Discipling Commission



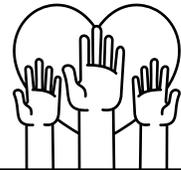
Did You Know?

The members of the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team are Nancy Fisher (co-chair), Kristen Hartwig (co-chair), Shelly King (Vision Team representative) with Kevin Chupp as the Pastoral Team representative.

From the Administration Commission



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Amy & Jeff Reiman

West Greeter: Phylis VerSteegh

Welcome Table: Marcia Rossi

Ushers: Chellie & Eric Miller

Offering Counter: Kristen Hartwig

Worship Planner & Leader: Holly Zehr

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Nancy Fisher

Scripture Reader: Melika Hershberger

Technology: Glenn Wilson & Rick Harnish

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Denise Hedberg

Infant Nursery - during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery - during CE: Ben Roeschley

Preschool Nursery: Shelly King

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 22

All Day Office Closed

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, November 23

All Day Office Closed

Friday, November 25

All Day Office Closed

Sunday, November 26

7:00pm Advent Choir

Tuesday, November 28

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

5:00pm Community Life Commission

Wednesday, November 29

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Prayer Requests and Announcements

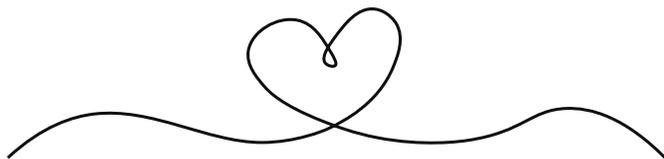
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please send Lauren Satchwell your announcements so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true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





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](#).

Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?



Join an upcoming an online short course titled "Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?" from Anabaptist Mennonite Seminary (AMBS) taught by Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. In the 16th century, Anabaptists approached Scripture in ways that were both similar to and different from Catholics and other Protestants. This course will seek to understand those similarities and differences in light of today. Learn more and register [here](#).

Tiny, Little Awkward Steps



Below is an excerpt from Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler's article "Tiny, Little Awkward Steps: Engaging with Mental Illness as a Congregation" published by Anabaptist Disabilities Network.

Realities exist in life that are daunting to consider, much less to know what to do about them. These realities loom over us in their enormity, and we seem to shrink into their shadows. How could I possibly do anything to address that?! I have started drawing recently and, friends, I am not good at it. At first, I was clumsy, limited in technique, unable to make my vision a reality and overall, very not good. However, I am proud to say that today I am clumsy, limited in technique, unable to make my vision a reality, but only just not good. How did I go from "very not good" to "only just not good?" Tiny, little awkward steps. I've been the pastor of our church for three years. During that time, I was diagnosed with ADHD. The diagnosis was a helpful affirmation to a long suspicion of mine. Engaging mental health has long been my desire; my diagnosis was a further catalyst for that desire. Honestly though, as I thought of the realities of mental health in my context, I felt overwhelmed. I thought: How could I possibly do anything to address that? One particularly helpful ADN resource was The Mental Health Resource Guide for Congregations. This orienting document served as a good starting place and a way to bring things into perspective rather than trying to address everything at once. In our congregational setting, we began with a series of tiny, awkward steps. **Find Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler's full article and his suggested "tiny, awkward steps" [here](#).**



*Toledo pastor provides tangible peace witness
with an anvil*

Joel Shenk, pastor of Toledo Mennonite Church, describes how he learned blacksmithing as part of his personal peace witness and how his conference and congregation have joined him in this work in an interview with Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) chief communication officer Camille Dager. This interview is part of MC USA's Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence initiative. **Read the interview [here](#).**

A Mennonite College for Everyone(?)



A new Goshen College history, “A Mennonite College for Everyone(?): Goshen College and the Quest for Identity and Inclusion, 1960-2020,” vividly describes the transformation of a faith-based, liberal arts college as it has wrestled with questions of identity and inclusion in a context of rapid social and culture change. Author John D. Roth, a noted Anabaptist-Mennonite scholar and professor emeritus of history at Goshen College, researched and gathered information for the book from the college’s extensive archives. He brings the dynamic and often challenging story to life in chapters about the denominational relationships, international engagement, racial inclusion, gender and culture wars, LGBTQ+ inclusion, athletics, Latinx/Hispanic enrollment, and Anabaptist stances toward patriotism and nationalism. Goshen College President Rebecca Stoltzfus wrote in the book’s foreword, “The stories in this book are very human — in turns dismaying and hopeful, but always soul-stirring. ... Roth has provided a rigorous and humane account of a Mennonite college that has been and continues to be transformed — rooted in a particular heritage and theology and continually subverted by its very motto and mission. And I hope that we learn from these stories as Goshen College strives toward our present vision: ‘Rooted in the way of Jesus, we seek inclusive community and transformative justice in all that we do.’” Although the story he tells is focused on Goshen College — a Midwestern school shaped by Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition — the narrative illuminates the experience of many other mission-driven colleges and universities who are undergoing similar changes. It asks the question: Can a progressive vision be integrated with deep conservative impulses that shape denominational and political realities? “A Mennonite College for Everyone(?)” shows a way forward: Tell the story honestly and well, and begin the careful, courageous weighing of lessons learned. “A Mennonite College for Everyone(?)” may be purchased for \$19.99 in paperback at:

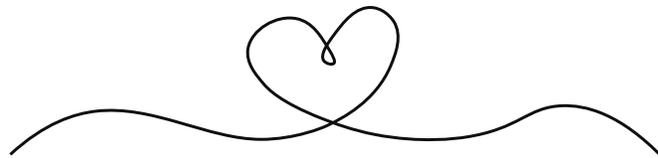
- Goshen College Box Office (in the Music Center), which is open for business Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Fables Books in downtown Goshen and through their online store ([here](#)).

All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to support diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives for students on campus. **Read about Goshen College’s demographic change and learn about the author [here](#).**



Bodéwadmí-Myaamia Trail

The first memorial signage of the Bodéwadmí-Myaamia (Potawatomi-Miami) Trail was unveiled Sept. 29 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind. The project was an initiative of the Potawatomi and Miami Trail Marker Group in partnership with AMBS, Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes and Mennonite Mission Network. Along with the main sign, three others detail a spur trail to the St. Joseph River. “It is with great joy that MCC Great Lakes celebrates the first memorial signage of the Bodéwadmí-Myaamia Trail,” said Juan Pacheco Lozano, MCC Great Lakes peace and justice coordinator and a member of the Trail Marker Group. “We are grateful to be part of this initiative seeking to repair historic harm and recognize those present in the land before us. We hope this project raises awareness in the community about Indigenous people who are still our neighbors.” The 145-mile trail holds profound importance as a route traversed by the Bodéwadmí and Myaamia peoples, two of the original Indigenous communities who have lived in the Great Lakes Region for thousands of years. This trail was a lifeline that facilitated trade, cultural exchange and connections between communities. “For too long the Indigenous peoples of this region — and their history — have been ignored,” said Luke Gascho, executive director emeritus of Goshen College’s Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, who has researched and given presentations on the trail and its significance. “Marking this Indigenous route through the landscape of northern Indiana is a way of honoring the Potawatomi and Miami people.” **Read more in the article shared by Anabaptist World [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.

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.