THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This week, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled Divine Philanthropy using Hosea 11:1-9.

One prevalent image of divine beings across religions is a god of "wrath." Humankind has often imagined that any higher power who encounters the chaos we have made of the world might take on anger as a primary characteristic. Fortunately, Hosea helps us realize that God is entirely more generous, and God's love is infinitely more expansive than that old, wrathful product of human imagination. How can we convince ourselves to live as if God wants to nurture us rather than punish us?



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



Harvest Potluck



This Sunday, 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

This Sunday, 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

Alternative Gifts Fair



This Sunday, November 5th and 12th

A reminder that the Alternative Gifts Fair continues this Sunday. Shopping lists for both adults and children are in your mailboxes. The fair will be open before and after the service. 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



Adult Choir

Adult Choir will begin rehearsals this Sunday evening, November 12, at 7:00 pm at the church. This is a time change from previous years, so please be sure to mark your calendars appropriately. This year, the Youth Choir will be joining the Adult Choir and there is a lot of excitement about this opportunity for all! So, all adults (ages 6th grade on up) are invited to join us for Advent choir rehearsal! New voices to our choir are enthusiastically welcomed! Please, please, please come and join us!:)

Shared by Cindy Ropp

Fundraiser for SMAP



David Voegtlin has again generously donated 40 containers of his "homegrown" delicious honey that will be for sale in the Library **this Sunday**, November 12. Each container will sell for \$20 and will go towards the Student Mutual Aid Program fund. Thanks David and thanks to the honey bees!!

From Darvis King

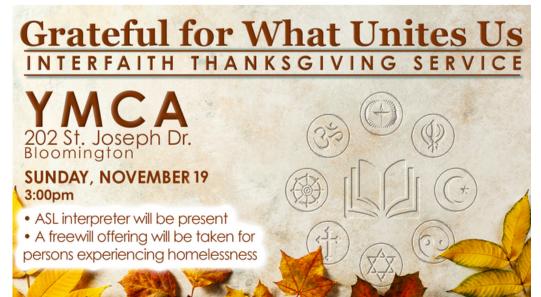


ISF Thanksgiving Meal

Friday, November 17 at 6:30pm

The Outreach Committee is supporting the ministry of International Student Fellowship (ISF). ISF is planning a Thanksgiving meal for international students from ISU, Heartland, and IWU. Here is an opportunity for you to participate! Click here to sign up to volunteer for food and either drop off before the event or come and stay and help serve.

From the Outreach Commission



Poll Press 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



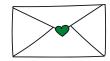
Hosting in Homes

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

Harv Stutzman Update



Those of you who have long attended MCN will remember the Harvella and Bob Stutzman family. This week I got an update on Harv from Judy. Harv is 91. On October 4, she had a heart valve replaced. While in recovery, her heart stopped and a pacemaker was inserted. She was released to home and all was well. Six days later, she fell at home and broke a rib, sliced a shin, and had a huge bump on the head. She was admitted to the hospital for several days and on the 17th she went to rehab. She does have congestive heart failure and was placed on oxygen which will be ongoing now. Long term care was chosen and the move was made. However, Harv and family were not impressed with the care, and she came home with portable oxygen. Family members in town are all taking turns helping with care. Judy writes, "Throughout all, though, her spirits have been pretty good and unless she takes her hearing aids out, she absolutely knows what's going on." I'm sure Harv would appreciate cards and letters as she settles back in at home.

Shared by Cindy Ropp



Periodical Renewals

It's that time of year again -- periodical subscription renewals! Each year the church organizes a group subscription to three Mennonite publications: <u>Rejoice!</u> (a quarterly devotional) by Menno Media for \$35.54, <u>The Upper Room Daily Devotional</u> (delivered quarterly) for \$9, and <u>Anabaptist World</u> (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 <u>church@normalmennonite.org</u> **before Monday**, **December 4th**.

From the church office



Early Midweek Deadline

The deadline to submit items to the **November 22nd Midweek** (week of Thanksgiving) will be on **Monday**, **November 20th at 8am**. As I will be out of the office the rest of the week, I need any additions to the week's Midweek early. Thank you!

From Lydia in the church office

\$24,500

We are approaching the second payment for college students attending Mennonite Schools. Our current balance is \$7,012 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

Advert 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?



The current members of the Worship Commission are Steve Benner (chair), Joe Culpepper, and Annette Harnish, with Kevin Chupp as the Pastoral Team representative.

From the Administration Commission





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Paul & Mary Ann Watkins

West Greeter: David Voegtlin

Welcome Table: Pam Hodel

Ushers: Zehr family

Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger

Worship Planner: Kevin Chupp

Worship Leader:

Sharing Prayer Leader: Ron Ropp

Children's Story:

Scripture Reader: Rita Munkakusi

Technology: Adam Augspurger & Ryan Miller

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery - during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery - during CE: Beth Reeser

Preschool Nursery: Stephanie Nester

Gather Round: Holly & Randy Zehr

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.



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

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 8

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, November 9
All Day Office Closed

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

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

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, November 12

11:00am Alternative Gifts Fair

12:00pm Harvest Potluck

1:00pm Spending Plan Hearing

7:00pm Advent Choir

Monday, November 13

7:30pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 14

1:00pm CDC Pastor Peer Gathering

Wednesday, November 15

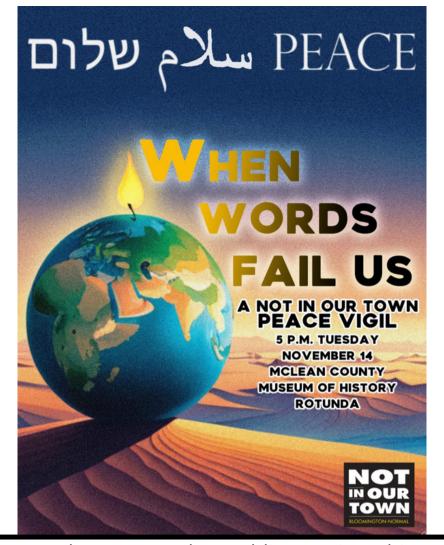
Morning Office Closed

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group



Learn how MCC is working through the church in Cuba.

Eliecer Valdez Suárez is a pastor and a missionary with the Brethren in Christ Church in Cuba (BICCC), but just last year, he was working as a gravedigger. COVID-19 was taking a heavy toll on both Cuban families and Cuban tourism industry, and the already difficult conditions on the island had become even worse. Valdez had many graves to dig. But when a shipment of MCC relief kits and canned meat arrived in Cuba, he stopped digging and started driving containers across the island nation. "This help arrived in a moment where we didn't have anything to eat, when we were fighting COVID-19 face-to-face in the streets," he told a group of MCC staff during a visit to Cuba in February 2023. "It arrived like manna from heaven." Working with the church is a key part of MCC's relief work in Cuba. Since the beginning of the pandemic, MCC has worked with the BICCC to distribute 3,615 relief kits and 91,006 lbs of canned meat to communities throughout Cuba during the pandemic accompanying economic crisis. MCC has plans to send more kits in the coming year as conditions in Cuba show little sign of improving. With an entire nation in crisis and a unique set of challenges to providing humanitarian relief, where does an organization like MCC begin to help? Read more about MCC's humanitarian relief work in Cuba here.



This event is free and open to the public. During thirty minutes of live, instrumental music, people will be invited to write a word or phrase of individual reflection on pieces of paper that later will be exchanged with others to aid in their ongoing reflection in community.

"In this time of war, death and atrocities, our words fail us," said NIOT co-chair Mike Matejka. "Our hope is that the community can gather in mutual solidarity, recognize the human bonds that draw us together, and resolve to build a community, nation and world that prioritize peace and human rights." NIOT Faith & Outreach co-chair Reverend Mollie Ward emphasized that this is not a silent vigil. "I think a justified criticism is to remain silent in the face of evil. But this rally is not silent – it's just intentionally without spoken words. At a time when words can seem either empty or weaponized, we're choosing to make room for a different kind of communication."



Read an update from al Khalil/Hebron from the Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Palestine team here.

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2023



English-Cheyenne Dictionary goes home

A rare copy of the 1,126-page *English-Cheyenne Dictionary*, published in 1915 by General Conference Mennonite missionary Dr. Rodolphe Petter, has been returned to the Southern Cheyenne Mennonite community where it originated. In a special transfer ceremony on Oct. 3, 2023, in the Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, seminary leaders returned the dictionary and two copies of Zistxuistō, a rare Cheyenne Reading Book published by Petter in 1895, to Rev. Susan Hart, pastor of Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church in Clinton, Oklahoma. **Read more about the ceremony and the history of the dictionary in Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's article** here.



Helping Brings Us Together

Below is an excerpt from the article "Helping Brings Us Together: Reflections on the We Are Able Work Trip" by Emily Krabill published by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network.

My ride to the mission trip known as We Are Able was a steady one. Going off the grid was hard, but it helped to engage with the others on the trip. When I got out of the van, I noticed a brightly colored invitation in chalk welcoming us into Judson College. The first thing I did when I stepped into the foyer was explore my surroundings. I noticed a cafe and wondered if it would be open during my stay; I like a good cup of joe. It wasn't open, but I survived without it. Besides, we had our own stuff: boxes on the counter filled with food for four days. After Feed my Starving Children, we volunteered at The Ranch of Hope Reins, a horse ranch, where we helped families and children coping from trauma. I'm glad that we got to help people. There is something about helping others that just makes you feel good. It's a great thing to do, to give back to the community. I feel like it brings people together—it definitely did for us. We Are Able is a chance for people with intellectual disabilities to feel like we are all able to do something great. Everyone has that ability, regardless of other abilities. Read the rest of Emily Krabill's reflection published by the **Anabaptist Disabilities Network here.**



Climate justice: What's an introvert to do?

Talitha Amadea Aho, keynote speaker for the Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit, held after MennoCon23, wrote a letter to thank the climate summit attendees and follow up on a question about participating in climate justice while honoring one's own introversion. **Read the letter published by Mennonite Church USA** here.



Inviting Others

Marisa Smucker's, interim executive director of Mennonite Mission Network, story of adoption began 50 years ago, when a Mennonite family welcomed her, a malnourished 19-month-old Costa Rican orphan. The family belonged to Belmont Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Ind., where Marisa was baptized and is still an active member. She graduated from Goshen College in 1994 with a degree in social work, pursued U.S. urban ministries and overseas engagements and, beginning in 2015, served in leadership at Mennonite Mission Network (MMN). This March, she was named interim executive director of MMN, the mission agency of Mennonite Church USA. She navigates her current job from a different slant than someone with a Ph.D. in missiology. Mission theory is important, but it's not what is most helpful in steadying an organization during a time of change, Smucker believes. For that, she draws on her emotionalintuitive sensibilities and a passion for mission honed in Pittsburgh and Costa Rica. Other keys are pastoral training from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, where she earned a master's degree in Christian formation; a desire to prioritize safe and freedom-giving relationships; and team building. "There is so much division across the board, not just in our church but throughout the world," Smucker said. "Money is always tight, so we must ask what true collaboration looks like. . . . I can't do my work without you, nor you without me. Each time a new person walks in the door, or a longtime employee walks out, Mission Network changes." Smucker views mission as a two-way partnership, global and local. It isn't only about doing something overseas but also being the mission in one's daily context. Having shared her story, Smucker invites others to consider theirs. "What in your story, in your here and now, fleshes out what God is doing in and through you, to bring loving reconciliation to the world?" she asked. "If you knit sweaters for someone in your community, that is an incredible story. That is mission, because that is where God is at and where you have joined God." Read more about Marisa Smucker, interim executive director of Mennonite Mission Network, in Laurie Oswald Robinson's article for the *Anabaptist World* here.



Can you help us help?

Read an update from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) on the work MCC partners are doing and struggles they are facing in Palestine and surrounding areas here.

"Scenarios like this, where getting relief into a high-risk area from the outside is almost impossible and safety conditions are changing minute-to-minute, highlight the immense value of MCC having local partners working on the ground. While the needs are overwhelming, MCC is responding and calling for an end to the violence, inviting everyone to take up the call to action as MCC partners continue to do — to pray, advocate and give."

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

<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u> Office Administrator; <u>church@normalmennonite.org</u>; 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

<u>Lynette Miller:</u> Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions

Ron Ropp: Pastor for Pastoral Care

<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u> Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

Items for the Midweek

Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the <u>Church Office</u> no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

Commissions and Jeans 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

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.