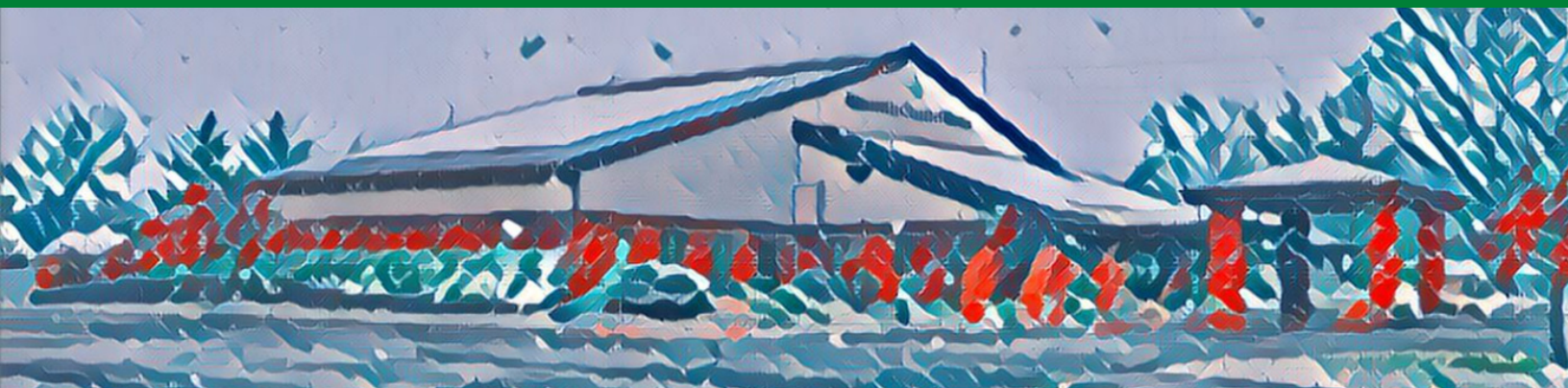
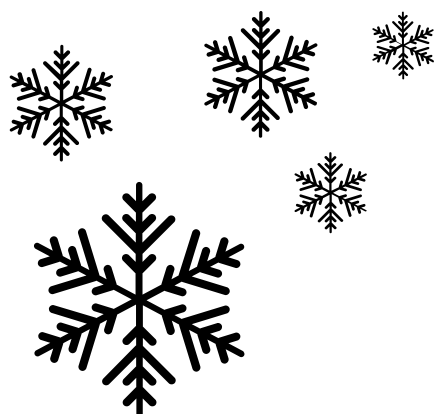


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Sibonokuhle Ncube from Mennonite Mission Network will give the sermon this week.



After Worship

Adult CE

Journey Groups:
Group A (20's-30's)
Conference Room

Group B (40's-50's)
Room 4

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



Congregational Meal

THIS Sunday, January 21 at noon

The fellowship committee thought it would be best to do all food for meetings as potlucks this year.

- People with last name A-H bring a soup/casserole to feed at least 8 people
- People with last name I-P bring a salad/side to feed at least 8 people
- People with last name Q-Z bring a dessert to feed at least 8 people.

If you do not want to bring what is "assigned", then find someone with an appropriate name and switch. The next group meal we will switch so A-H brings dessert and so on. This also eliminates any need for signup. If you are wanting to come to the meal, bring food "assigned" to your last name. Hopefully this will also prevent having a bunch of one thing.

From the Fellowship Committee

Annual Meeting

CLICK HERE



THIS Sunday, January 21 at 1 pm

The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on January 21st at 1:00 PM. This will be a hybrid meeting, allowing participation in person or via Zoom. A congregational meal hosted by the Fellowship Committee will precede the meeting!

Members will be able to electronically vote on whether to accept the proposed 2024 Spending Plan following the meeting. We strongly encourage everyone to attend in person or online. However, absentee ballots will also be available in the church office for those who cannot attend or vote electronically.

View the 2023 Annual Report, including the 2024 Spending Plan, [here](#). The Zoom link can be found [here](#).

From the Vision Team



Choirs

This Sunday, January 21 at 7:00 pm

- The Advent Choir will rehearse Sunday evening, January 21 for one more anthem concluding the holiday season. Please come at 7:00 pm.

- Cindy Ropp

Camp Friedenswald Retreat



January 26-28, 2024

EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at camp, January 26-28! Friedenswald is a beautiful retreat with large, comfortable, warm lodges for us to stay in. Whether you're looking for social time or solitude, there's something for everyone! Activities for the weekend can include sledding, tubing, hiking, relaxing, eating, cross country skiing, reading, games, worship, fellowship, and more! **For more details (including notes on cost and an important note about meals), and to sign up, please click [here](#).** If you have any questions, please contact Shelly and Darvis King.

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee



CDC Mid-Year Gathering

Saturday, Feb. 3 from 8 am - 10:30 am Central Time

The theme for this year's Central District Conference (CDC) Mid-year Gathering will be *Listen! Wisdom is Calling*. Congregations are invited to participate in the gathering via a Zoom Video call on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 8 am - 10:30 am **Central Time**. No registration is necessary. **Click [here](#) for the CDC Mid-year Gathering schedule and Zoom link.**

66th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale



Dear Relief Sale Pastors, Churches, and Volunteers,
The 66th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, March 16th, 2024**, at Interstate Center, Bloomington. Again this year it will be a one day sale starting at 6:00 A.M. with pancakes and sausage; booths and the Grand Auction will begin in the morning and continue throughout the day. In preparation for our 66th Relief Sale we have scheduled the **Annual Distress Supper/Organizational Meeting to be held Tuesday, February 13th, at 6:30 P.M.** in the First Mennonite Church of Morton, IL. It is very important for MCC promoters, booth chairs, and all those involved in the Illinois Relief Sale to attend this event. All people from our churches and communities are highly encouraged to participate as well. In order to prepare for the meal for this event, we need to know how many will be attending. **Please notify Mrs. Don (Ruthie) Roth regarding the number of people joining us for this very special meeting.** Your prayers and support for our 66th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale will be gratefully appreciated!

Your servant in Christ,
Mrs. Don (Ruthie) Roth, Relief Sale Executive Secretary

Below is an update from Mennonite Action published Tuesday, January 16th in the afternoon about the peaceful actions for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza on January 16th in Washington, DC. You can see several pictures [here](#). Meghan Reha was at the demonstration in Washington. About the protest, Lynn Reha shared "I watched the live Instagram feed, and it was so moving to hear the strong, harmonious voices and watch the ones who participated in the civil disobedience be arrested, have their hands zip tied behind their backs, and hear them keep on singing. Meghan did not choose to be in the Canon House Rotunda, where the Action was taking place, but was with the crowd of about 200 singing outside."

Shared by the Outreach Commission

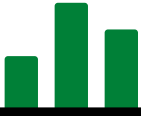
Snow has fallen for hours and blanketed Washington, DC. But here in the center of the nation's capital, spirits are warm. Hundreds of Mennonites have arrived from across North America to take peaceful action for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. This morning, large buses dropped off participants by the dozen. Right now, hundreds are assembled on Capitol Hill for a peace service, petition delivery, and peaceful action. People of all ages, from children to seniors, gathered in church hallways this morning to bless groups with hymns as they departed for action. "There is more love, somewhere" — words from a hymn beloved to Mennonites — echoed through the sanctuary, sending participants out with warmth into the snowy streets. **Inside the Cannon House rotunda, nearly 150 Mennonites were arrested as they sang, prayed, and demanded a ceasefire.** Outside and across the street, about 200 Mennonites of all ages are standing vigil at an outdoor service. They report they can hear the singing of Mennonites inside the rotunda. The love we yearn to find, the love we sang about earlier this morning, is here, now. Yesterday [January 15th], hundreds of Mennonites joined together at a church in DC to make final preparations for today's Day of Action. We worshiped, broke bread, and trained to take peaceful action. We shared our questions, hopes, and fears. And we grounded ourselves in our purpose of liberation for the oppressed, a permanent ceasefire, a return of all hostages, and a day when our Palestinian and Israeli siblings can live in peace — free from fear and pain. In the midst of our training, we heard the news that Mennonite Action's US Petition for a Ceasefire crossed the threshold of our 5,000 signature goal. We felt the blessing of thousands of friends, family members, and congregations around us, lifting us up and giving us strength. We have been working with urgent focus for the last seven weeks, but this work began long ago. Today we step further into the long-flowing stream of our faith-centered peace witness, showing the world our deepest held values by putting them into action. Thank you for holding us in your prayers today as our action unfolds. If you'd like to support Mennonite Action fiscally, [you may do so here](#). Together, we join a chorus of voices around the world who call for peace and justice in Palestine. In love and solidarity, Mennonite Action Coordinating Team

Meal Train for the Kings



Support the King family as Shelly continues to recover and rehab from extensive shoulder surgery by signing up at the Meal Train for them [here](#).

From the Congregational Care Committee



Spending Plan Update

From Skeptic to Proponent



Central District Conference (CDC) invites you to read an article, "From Skeptic to Proponent", **written by Doug Luginbill, our CDC conference minister. Read it online [here](#)**. The article was published in the most recent issue of *Anabaptist Witness*. *Anabaptist Witness* is a global Anabaptist and Mennonite dialogue on key issues facing the church in mission. The latest issue, Volume 10, Issue 2, focuses on new Anabaptist communities. The issue is available online for free [here](#) or you can purchase copies of the print edition from Amazon [here](#).



Sharing Our Gifts Photos

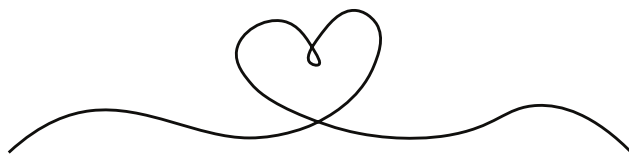
The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday (it did not play last Sunday due to weather) before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to the church office at church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



We are inviting 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 Lydia Hedberg Office Administrator 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.

From Community Life Commission (CLC) and Fellowship Committee



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Zehr family
West Greeter: Mark Roeschley
Welcome Table: Lynn Reha
Ushers: Jon and Janelle Friesen
Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger
Worship Planner & Leader: Holly Zehr
Sharing Prayer Leader: Ron Ropp
Children's Story: Shannon Neely
Scripture Reader:
Technology: Glenn Wilson & Rick Harnish
Song Leader: Barry Weaver
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Elsa Raab
Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents
Infant Nursery – during CE: Nancy Fisher
Preschool Nursery:

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 17

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, January 18

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, January 21

12:00pm Congregational Meal

1:00pm Congregational Meeting

7:00pm Adult Choir

Wednesday, January 24

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:00pm Congregational Care Community (Zoom)

Thursday, January 25

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

6:30pm Administration Commission

Friday, January 26

Camp Friedenswald Winter Retreat begins



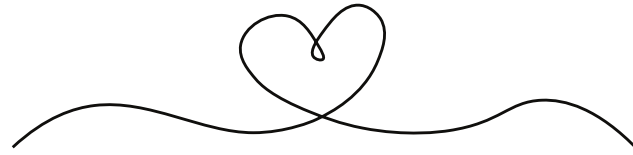
CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

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



CPT Delegations

Join a Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) delegation in 2024 for a first-hand experience of CPT's on-the-ground experiment in non-violence. **Learn more [here](#) or click on the links below.**

[Colombia](#)

March 23 – 30, 2024 (Spanish)
July 8 – 17, 2024 (English)

[Iraqi Kurdistan](#)

May 1 – 14, 2024

[Lesvos](#)

September 17 – 27, 2024

[Palestine](#)

October 22 – November 1, 2024

[Turtle Island](#)

TBA



Trail of Death

Summer Intensive Course: June 10–24, 2024, three credit hours

Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation

What is the role of remembrance in work for justice and peacemaking? How do communities find healing from historical trauma? What are the responsibilities of those whose faith or biological ancestors were complicit in violence against Indigenous communities? These are some of the questions that emerge on this pilgrimage of lament, remembrance and transformation. **Learn more and register on Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's website [here](#).**



HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

The contest is open to Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and other Anabaptist youth of high school age and to all youth who attend Mennonite high schools within the United States, including Puerto Rico.

 **DEADLINE:**
FEB. 23

TOPICS
CLIMATE CHANGE
IMMIGRATION
MASS INCARCERATION

GRAND PRIZE OF \$1000

A Mother's Game Plan for Safety and Health

Free Webinar Series – Open to All

1/26/24 ATVs and UTVs
2/13/24 Grain Handling
2/27/24 Technology Advancements in Ag
3/7/24 Overall Health of Youth in Ag
3/20/24 Tractor Operations
4/10/24 Working with Livestock

Register: carle.org/FarmSafety, (217) 902-3117
Attend three and receive a free PPE kit.

Funding for this project was provided by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health via the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety. Grant # U540H00968-12.



Engaging MC USA's Safe Church

January 22, 2024 at
7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT

A webinar with
Nancy Kauffmann,
Michael Danner and
Glen Guyton





 **Mennonite Education Agency**
The education agency of Mennonite Church USA

MEA SCHOLARSHIP for BIPOC STUDENTS

a scholarship for students who identify as BIPOC, are members or active in a Mennonite Church USA congregation, and are attending or plan to attend a Mennonite college, university, or seminary that is partnered with MEA

APPLY TODAY

APPLICATIONS DUE BY APRIL 1

for more information, visit
www.MennoniteEducation.org/schools

2023-24 scholarship winners

YOUTH VENTURE / SERVICE ADVENTURE INFORMATION NIGHT

Register to meet with Mission Network staff to find out about all the enriching growth experiences awaiting volunteers ages 15-22.

From international learning trips to domestic service terms, Youth Venture and Service Adventure have options for you!

Youth groups

Wednesday January 24, 7 p.m. ET
Wednesday, February 7, 8 p.m. ET

Individuals and parents

Wednesday, February 21, 8 p.m. ET



Michael Oyer, Human Resources placement coordinator



MCC Young Adult Peace Camp 2024

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Peace Camps are one way to encourage and support the next generation of the Church to live out an active faith as peacemakers. MCC covers all costs of travel, lodging and meals beyond the \$250 registration fee. We encourage churches, schools, families and friends to support participants in the registration fee where possible. **Read more about each peace camp and when to register [here](#).** Don't miss the incredible opportunity for yourself or a young adult in your life to put theory into practice with an MCC Young Adult Peace Camp! Find short descriptions below:

Peacebuilders Training, Colorado, March 10-15

([Registration is OPEN NOW!](#))

This Peacebuilders Training is a learning experience for young adults hungry to connect with other young adults; root themselves in intentional, theological reflection; and apply that to real-world work of peace and justice in their communities.

Restorative Justice Peace Camp, Chicago, May 26-31

This Peace Camp will dive into several creative ways to implement justice in local communities. Learning from experienced practitioners in Chicago, we will witness incredible ways that transformation is possible through restorative justice.

Spanish Peace Camp, South Florida, July 21-26

Every year, we offer a Peace Camp in Spanish, exploring issues of racial justice, migration, trauma, interpersonal peacebuilding and more. Join us in Florida to experience this rich week of learning with other young adults, while also witnessing transformative work happening locally. This experience will be facilitated entirely in Spanish, so all participants need to have a minimum level of proficiency to be able to understand and engage fully.

Biblical Justice Peace Camp, Portland, Sept 29-Oct 5

This Peace Camp will happen in conjunction with the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) Conference. We will focus on learning what the Bible says about justice, how the Church is called to live justly and what it means for our lives today.

"They are like angels": a tribute to MDS volunteers

Read John Longhurst's tribute to Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteers published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#). "It was help from heaven. When I talk about it, I want to cry. Nobody has ever helped me like this. They are like angels."

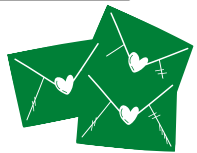


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

- 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

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

Item Check-Out Request Form

[Google Form Version](#) & [Printable PDF Version](#)

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Commission Meeting Minutes

Structure Documents
