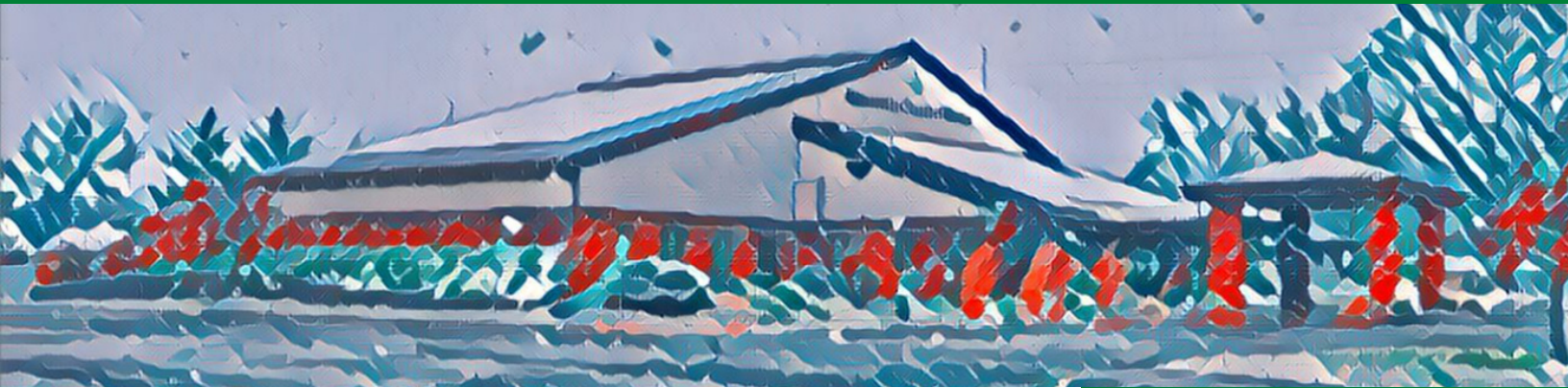


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Kevin Chupp will preach sermon titled *Briny Swine* this week on Mark 5:1-20.

At first glance, the story of Jesus' powerful deliverance at the region of the Gerasenes is victorious. We cheer for liberation, and then the ending leaves us scratching our heads. Why did Jesus bargain with unclean spirits? Why go about offering healing and freedom in such a bizarre way? Can we embrace the strangeness of this story? Can we trust this Jesus?

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



Voting

Deadline: Today, January 24 at 5 pm

Vote on the 2024 Spending Plan presented in the Annual Meeting [here](#). Voting will close on Wednesday, January 24th at 5pm.

From the Vision Team

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.**

Worship Planner/Leader Training



Sunday, February 11 during Sunday school hour

All prospective and current worship planners and leaders are invited to a Training Session to be held Sunday, February 11 during Sunday school hour. If you've ever been curious about where we find our resources, what the planner's responsibilities involve, and whether you might be a good fit for this ministry, we invite you to come to this short training session. For more information, contact Steve Benner.

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

CDC Connector



The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This issue includes an update on the Tending Transformation campaign, photos from the December Mennonite Action, recent installations, and Doug's Mug on our emerging communities of faith. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table in the next week or two.

Tuesday, February 13, at 6:30 P.M

Dear Relief Sale Volunteers,

In preparation for our 66th Sale we have scheduled the Annual Distress Supper/Organizational Meeting to be held Tuesday, February 13, at 6:30 P.M. in the First Mennonite Church of Morton, Illinois. It is very important for MCC promoters, booth chairs, and all those involved in the Illinois Relief Sale to attend this event.

In order to prepare for the meal for this event, we need to know how many will be attending by February 4th. Please notify Mrs. Don (Ruthie) Roth regarding the number attending this special meeting.

Also please note the flyer [to right] that informs people of suggestions for donations to our 66th Grand Auction. Please read and share this information.

"For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore, I command you saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in the land.'" Deuteronomy 15:11

From Mrs. Ruthie Roth
Relief Sale Executive Secretary

We need your

donations!

We are in search of donations for the grand auction at the 66th Annual Mennonite Relief Sale!!

Not sure how to help? See below for some ideas!

- Games -Theme baskets
- Antiques -Quilts
- Kitchen gadgets -Indoor/Outdoor toys - legos!!!!
- Camping gear
- Rocking/reclining lawn chairs -Zoo/museum passes
- Iron coyote/bowling/skating passes
- Plants -Indoor/outdoor decor
- Rechargeable riding toys for kids
- Tools (Milwaukee, DeWalt, etc)

Does your church want to donate some larger items? See the list below for some ideas!

- Blackstone griddle
- Fire pit
- Furniture -Vacations
- iPads/tablets -Money towards items
- Anything you feel led to donate!
- *Everything donated is appreciated!!



*This list is just a suggestion, please donate anything you feel led to! Please email with the item(s) information by *March 1st* to be included in the auction list for the sale!



Meal Train for the Halls

Caleb & Jessica Hall have been caring for little Micah for a couple weeks now, and we are hoping to support them all by providing some relief in the form of meals. Join us by clicking [here!](#)

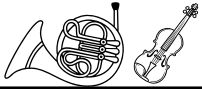
From the Congregational Care Committee

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



Lent Ensemble

Do you play an instrument? Do you like playing with other people? If so, join the MCN Lent 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 [this form here](#) so I can get a sense of everyone's instrument and availability. I look forward to playing with you! --Lydia

If you have any questions about the event or need technical help with the form, please contact me (Lydia) in the church office at church@normalmennonite.org or 309-452-6622.

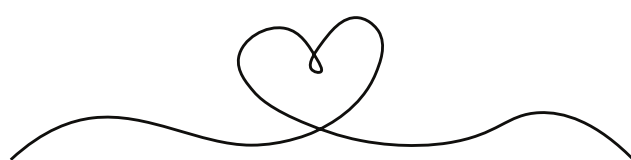
Sponsored by the Worship Commission

Hosting in Homes Information



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: Sheila and Elsie Kuria
West Greeter: Marcia Rossi
Welcome Table: Lotus Hershberger
Ushers:
Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley
Worship Planner: Wayne Hochstetler
Worship Leader:
Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell
Children's Story: Steve Benner
Scripture Reader:
Technology: Jaron Zehr & Rick Harnish
Song Leader: Cindy Ropp
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Bill West
Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents
Infant Nursery – during CE: Miriam Kennell
Preschool Nursery: Courtney Yoder

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 24

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, January 25

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Friday, January 26

Camp Friedenswald Winter Retreat begins

Sunday, January 28

No Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 30

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 31

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

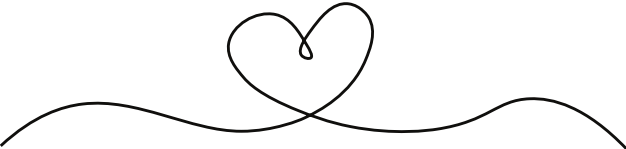
Prayer Requests and Announcements

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





Mennonite Public Educators

Thursday, January 25, 2024 - 7pm Eastern

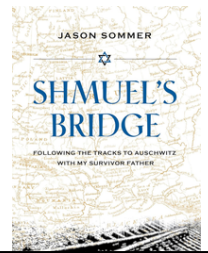
“CRT, Social-Emotional Learning, & book banning”

There is no cost, but registration is required to share the Zoom link.

Contact info@MennoniteEducation.org.

Open to Mennonite education professionals working in public schools.

— join us! —



International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Saturday, January 27th at 2:00 pm

at Moses Montefiore Temple: 102 Robinhood Lane, Bloomington

Everyone is invited to a International Holocaust Remembrance Day Special Program. Poet Jason Sommer will read from his recent memoir, *Shmuel's Bridge: Following the Tracks to Auschwitz with My Survivor Father*. Writer and educator Dr. Alvin Goldfarb will interview the author and a Q & A will follow. Co-sponsored by the Normal Public Library and Moses Montefiore Congregation.



SCN Online Meeting

Tuesday January 30th, 2024 @ 12:30-2:00p Central Time

The Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests' (BMC's) next Supportive Communities Network (SCN) Online Meeting is next week. These semi-annual SCN calls are geared toward pastors and SCN leaders, however anyone who is part of an SCN church or organization is welcome to join. On January 30th the focus will be on bolstering support for Igbtqia+ youth in our communities. We will gather jointly as Brethren and Mennonites with break-out groups for additional denomination-specific concerns. To register, email bmc@bmcigbt.org with your name and group affiliation. [The Mennonite Church of Normal is part of SCN.]

Martin Luther King Jr. Reflection & Resources

By Jaylon Tasby, Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) seminary intern

As we honor the enduring legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and the lasting impact he made on the fight for racial justice, we at BMC stand united in our commitment to extending that vision of equality to all corners of the LGBTQ+ spectrum. In the spirit of MLK's dedication to the Black community, we continue a journey that expands our understanding of inclusivity, recognizing the unique struggles and triumphs within the Black queer experience.

Just as Dr. King fervently championed the rights of the Black community, we too are devoted to ensuring that the voices of our LGBTQ+ community, encompassing all ethnicities and backgrounds, are heard, and amplified. In this segment of our newsletter, we're excited to provide a curated list of resources specifically tailored to the needs of queer and trans individuals of color.

- [Trans People of Color Coalition](#)
- [Center For Black Equity](#)
- [Trans Women of Color Collective](#)
- [National Queer & Trans Therapists of Color Network](#)
- [The Audre Lorde Project](#)
- [The Nap Ministry](#)
- [Many Voices, A Black church movement for gay and transgender justice](#)
- [Pride in the Pews](#)
- [Black Embodiment Initiative at The Embodiment Institute](#)
- [Black.bird_rising, for Black, Queer & Trans healing](#)



Photo caption: Banner made by Aspen Yordy and Xaris A. Martínez—inspired by an illustration by Morgan Taylor—for the March On Washington for Gaza and Mennonite Action events Jan 13-16, 2024 in Washington, D.C.

Focus on Youth Engagement

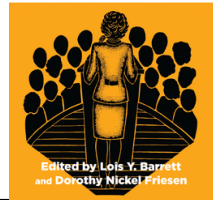
Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA) Constituency Leaders Council brainstormed strategies for strengthening youth engagement at its first meeting of the 2023-2025 biennium via Zoom on October 27, 2023. Forty-six leaders attended the four-hour meeting to worship, engage with Executive Board staff and discuss the challenges and opportunities of engaging young people. Moderator-elect Marty Lehman presided over the meeting, which was attended by leaders of area conferences, racial/ethnic groups, constituency groups and Executive Board staff. CLC representatives responded to questions related to youth engagement in Zoom breakout rooms and reported their findings to the larger gathering. **Read more about the meeting here, including what our Central District Conference minister, Doug Luginbill, said during the meeting in MC USA's full article [here](#).**

Church Peace Tax Fund: War tax redirection

In a Menno Snapshot published by Mennonite Church USA (MC USA), H.A Penner explains the benefits of the Mennonite Church USA Church Peace Tax Fund, which offers an opportunity for Mennonites to redirect the portion of their taxes that would have otherwise supported war efforts toward peacebuilding efforts. **Read more in H.A Penner's Menno Snapshot [here](#).**

PROCLAIMING THE
GOOD NEWS

Mennonite Women's Voices, 1972-2006



New Book

A new book on the experiences of women as leaders in the Mennonite Church from 1972 to 2006 is the latest volume to be released by the Institute of Mennonite Studies (IMS), the research and publishing wing of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana. [Proclaiming the Good News: Mennonite Women's Voices, 1972-2006](#) contains stories of scholars, pastors, educators, administrators and other leaders who served in Mennonite congregations, organizations and institutions in the United States and Canada. Edited by Lois Y. Barrett, PhD, of Wichita, Kansas, and Dorothy Nickel Friesen, MDiv, of North Newton, Kansas, the book also explores how attitudes and practices regarding women in church leadership changed over time — drawing on survey data from 1972, 1989 and 2006. **Read more in an article published by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary [here](#).**

Delivering 300-year-old mail

Read about a transatlantic project to preserve letters of Dutch aid to Swiss immigrants in **Eileen Kinch's article for Anabaptist World [here](#)**. "Many 18th-century families had help from the Dutch Mennonites, who financed early immigration to Pennsylvania. Their descendants, especially those in Plain Anabaptist communities, don't want this legacy of mutual aid to be forgotten. Believing the story should be told in the words of the people who lived it, they decided Anabaptists today should have access to the letters, some more than 300 years old, that bear witness to their ancestors' generosity and faithfulness during persecution."

Israeli occupation crackdowns in the West Bank

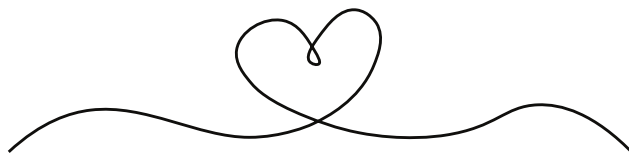
Read about Community Peacemaker Team (CPT) members experienced in the West Bank cities this October in CPT Palestine's article [here](#).

Eco-theology reconciles the church with nature

When human beings were created in Genesis, “This was the first mission of the human... to both enjoy but also to protect and take care of creation,” says Danang Kristiawan. Danang Kristiawan is the pastor of the GITJ (Gereja Injili di Tanah Jawa) congregation in Jepara, Indonesia, and a lecturer at the Wiyata Wacana Theological Seminary in Pati. He laments that in many Mennonite churches in Indonesia today, environmental issues are seen as unrelated to faith and church. “The traditional Javanese view understands that there is a connection between humans and nature,” he says in the video. “There are many local traditions or local wisdom that positively respect nature.” But, Danang Kristiawan explains, when Dutch Mennonite missionaries arrived in Indonesia in the 19th century, they “were very critical of local cultural practices. As a result, the Christian community does not want to get involved with local rites and festivals for fear of syncretism.” He wonders if Mennonites could begin holding each other accountable for harming the natural world. [Read more here.](#)

L'écotéologie réconcilie l'église avec la nature

Du temps de la création de l'être humain dans Genèse, «la première mission de l'être humain était... de profiter de la création, mais aussi de la protéger et d'en prendre soin», explique Danang Kristiawan. Danang Kristiawan est pasteur de l'assemblée GITJ (Gereja Injili di Tanah Jawa) à Jepara, en Indonésie, et chargé de cours au séminaire théologique Wiyata Wacana à Pati. Il déplore que dans de nombreuses églises mennonites d'Indonésie, les questions environnementales soient considérées comme n'ayant pas de rapport avec la foi et l'église. «La vision traditionnelle javanaise comprend qu'il existe un lien entre les humains et la nature», dit-il dans la vidéo. «Il existe de nombreuses traditions ou sagesse locales qui respectent positivement la nature.» Mais, explique Danang Kristiawan, lorsque les missionnaires mennonites néerlandais sont arrivés en Indonésie au 19e siècle, ils «étaient très critiques des pratiques culturelles locales. En conséquence, la communauté chrétienne ne veut pas s'impliquer dans les rites et les festivals locaux pour éviter toute idée de syncrétisme.» Il se demande si les mennonites ne pourraient pas commencer à se tenir mutuellement responsables des dommages causés à la nature. [Lire la suite.](#)

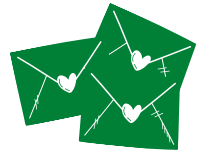


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<u>Building Open:</u>	Standard Hours: Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9AM-11AM and Monday-Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org ; 309-452-6622
<u>Rita Munkakusi:</u>	Custodian
<u>Kevin Chupp:</u>	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
<u>Ron Ropp:</u>	Pastor for Pastoral Care
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	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](#)

Item Check-Out Request Form

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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Structure Documents
