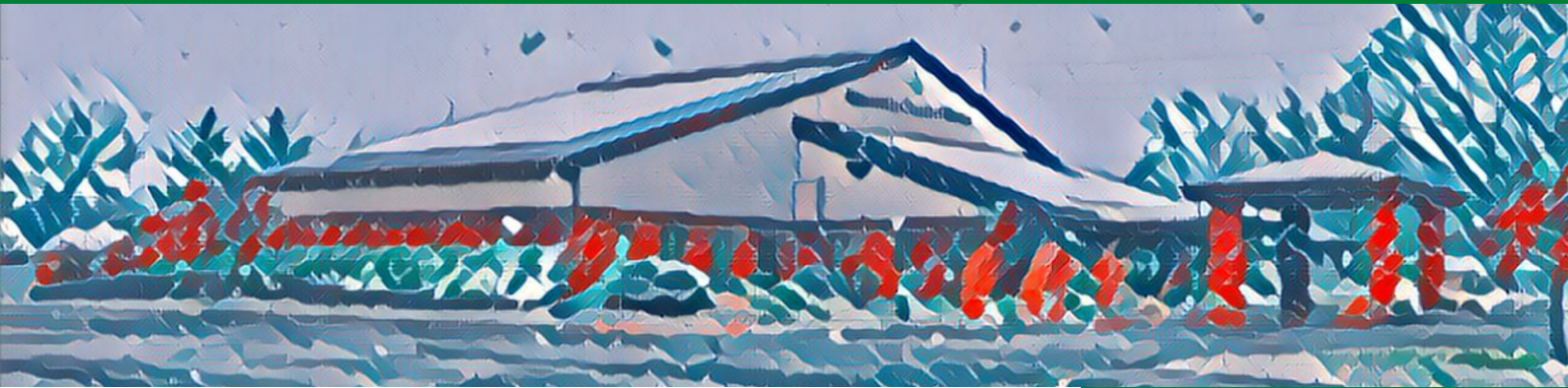


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Kevin Chupp will preach sermon titled *Daughters* this week on Mark 5:21-43.

While he was on his way to the home of a notable man to heal the man's daughter, Jesus shifts his attention to the unnamed diseased woman on the street who was healed by touching his cloak. Though she was already healed, Jesus took the time to let her know how she was healed and send her off in peace. What does Jesus teach us about healing and belonging?

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

This 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.**

Blood Pressure Checks



This Sunday, February 4 during CE

Carol Josefson will be doing BP checks Sunday, February 4 following worship in the office closest to the mailboxes. Please make use of this service.

From the Congregational Care Committee



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.

Hosted by the Worship Commission

Save the Date



Sunday, Feb. 18 after CE

MYF Simple Sunday Dinner on Sunday, Feb. 18 at Mark and Jane's farm. Lunch will be served around 12:30 with games to follow. More details to come soon!

Spending Plan Vote - Approved



The Vision Team and the Administration Commission are pleased to report that the 2024 Spending Plan was approved following the congregational annual meeting on January 21. The vote passed with 94% in support of the proposed plan. We are grateful of the time and work put in by individuals to help the Administration Commission prepare the Spending Plan. Thanks also to those that participated in the meeting.

From the Vision Team and Administration Commission

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!



Cancellation Procedures for MCN

If you are wondering if an all church event will be called off because of inclement weather, check these communication spots:

- Church website: www.normalmennonite.org
- Your email account
- Church Facebook account: www.facebook.com/MennoniteChurchofNormal
- WJBC radio AM 1930
- WEEK News 25

Please note:

- Generally speaking, cancellation decisions will be made no later than 7 a.m. the day of the event.
- If a small group event, like a committee meeting, is going to be cancelled, the members will be contacted directly by email or phone.

YOUR SAFETY is the first priority. No matter what the weather or the status of cancellation, consider your safety first. Conditions around Central Illinois vary. Please don't take chances because you have a responsibility at church. Safety first!

From the Administration Commission

SCN Meeting



Yesterday, I attended a Zoom gathering of the *Supportive Communities Network (SCN)*--a program of [Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests \(BMC\)](#)--of which MCN is a part, alongside about 60+ leaders from across the country. We heard stories of LGBTQIA+ advocacy from a Church of the Brethren congregation in Lancaster County, PA, spent time in smaller groups sharing our stories and ideas, and then divided by affiliation to discuss issues on the denominational level. For Mennonites, there are ongoing efforts across the country to encourage Mennonite Central Committee to change their discriminatory hiring policies--many writing letters, or sending notes each time their church sends a contribution to MCC. It was inspiring and encouraging conversation! If you'd like to increase our support for this ministry (we currently give the minimum \$200), join in writing letters to MCC board members, or would like to learn more about the work of BMC, please talk to me or anyone from Outreach Commission.

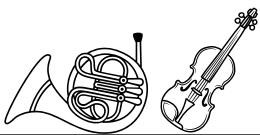
From Pastor Kevin Chupp



Thank You from the Wayne and Lois

We sincerely thank those who helped us move out of our former home . We are now at home at Luther Oaks, a retirement community on the south edge of Bloomington. We invite you to come visit us (and Alice). Our new address is in the directory. Our phone numbers and email addresses remain the same as before.

From Wayne and Lois



Lent Ensemble

Do you play an instrument? Do you like playing with other people? If so, you are invited to 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

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 are now available on the Library Table.**

Babysitter



Emmanuel & Tania are seeking to hire a babysitter(s) for Monday through Thursday evenings for eight weeks, enabling Emmanuel to take a class needed to complete his HVAC program. You can contact them directly if you would like more information. Thank you for your help!



Meal Train

Caleb & Jessica 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](#).

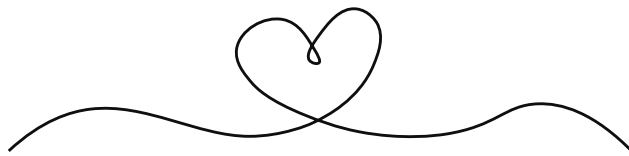
From the Congregational Care Committee



Meal Train

You've hopefully heard the news of Kristen and Daniel's newest family member, Norah! We are excited to welcome her, and are eager to support the family as they settle into their first days together by feeding them all! If you'd like to join us in this, you can sign up [here](#).

From the Congregational Care Committee



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 31

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, February 1

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

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

Sunday, February 4

11:00am Blood Pressure Checks

Monday, February 5

5:00pm Outreach Commission

Tuesday, February 6

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 7

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

7:00pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

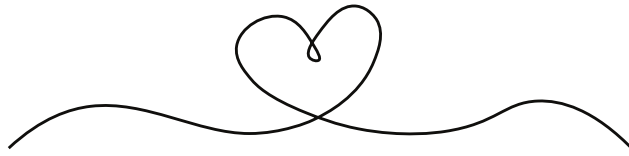
7:30pm Vision Team (Zoom)



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Brandon family
West Greeter: Lynn Reha
Welcome Table: Bess Desch
Ushers: Larry and Louise Reeser
Offering Counter: Lotus Hersberger
Worship Planner & Leader: Ben Roeschley
Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp
Children's Story: Joe Culpepper
Scripture Reader:
Communion Leader: Joe Culpepper
Technology: Jaron Zehr & Caleb Augspurger
Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Denise Hedberg
Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents
Infant Nursery – during CE: Connie Yoder
Preschool Nursery: David Harnish



Manitoba MB church on its way out

The membership of Winnipeg's River East Church in the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba (MBCM) will end May 31 unless the church decides to return "to an active embrace of MBCM member church expectations" regarding LGBTQ inclusion and same-sex marriage. That was the resolution approved Jan. 20 by delegates to a special MBCM session in that Manitoba city. At the same time, delegates said the church is welcome to return to the conference if it decides to live in accordance with the conference's belief that marriage is only between men and women. In response, River East Pastor Mary Anne Isaak noted that the church had been nurtured by the conference for six decades and participated in joint ministry with other churches in Manitoba and across Canada during that time. She said River East has "heard God calling us to move in a new direction. As we part ways, we acknowledge the many blessings" received during the church's history. **Read the full article by John Longhurst for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Black History

in the Mennonite Church



View a timeline of Black History in the Mennonite Church published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).



Hesston dedicates healing circle acknowledging shortcomings

Hesston College dedicated a monument acknowledging “shortcomings and errors” and “acts of violence that have broken the bonds of trust in our community” Dec. 4, more than a year and a half after the Healing Circle was constructed on campus. The event — part of the college’s first Unity Day — took place one year after students walked out of Formation (chapel) Dec. 2, 2022, and gathered at the circle to protest what student leaders described as an unsafe campus where staff minimized or ignored reports of sexual assault. **Read more in the *Anabaptist World’s* article [here](#).** *Picture credit: Hesston College student Meg Beyer speaks at the Healing Circle dedication Dec. 4. — Larry Bartel/Hesston College. (below)*





A Men's Organization for God's Shalom

Mennonite Men—as the men's organization of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada—includes all persons who identify as men in these church bodies. Our mission is engaging men to grow, give, and serve as followers of Jesus for God's shalom. We promote an Anabaptist way for men that focuses on following Jesus, forming community, and building peace with a model that is more whole and life-giving than our culture's dominant version of masculinity. From our Christian faith perspective based on the way of Jesus, we seek to engage in men's work that affirms men, supports their personal growth, forms healthy relationships, transforms social problems, and cares for the Earth—all to bring about God's shalom. We do this by providing events and resources for men, participating in social action, and funding building projects for new churches and tree planting for climate action. **Read the rest of Steve Thomas' article "A Men's Organization for God's Shalom" published by Mennonite Men [here](#).**

Act now to save asylum



Background: The Biden Administration and members of the Senate are currently negotiating a deal that, if finalized, will make drastic changes to our asylum system. As part of a \$110 billion supplemental funding package, lawmakers are trying to pair harsh immigration restrictions with foreign aid funding to appease a wide range of Democrats and Republicans. [Recent reporting](#) suggests that negotiators are considering the following provisions:

- Giving the president expanded authority to expel migrants without asylum screenings, similar to the "Title 42" policy.
- Raising the standard for deciding whether someone has a "credible fear" of returning to their home country. These changes will make it more difficult to claim asylum.
- Expanding expedited removal and mandating immigrant detention for arriving asylum seekers making it more difficult to consult with legal representation and resulting in the mistreatment and removal of vulnerable people, including families.

Faith reflection: Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Ephesians 2:19 (NIV)

Action: Please encourage your senators to reject the inclusion of harmful immigration measures in a supplemental funding package. Click [here](#) to learn more and use Mennonite Central Committee's pre-written message to [act now to save asylum](#).

'Why I got arrested in Washington'

Read an article titled "Why I got arrested in Washington" by David C. Cramer for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#). Read an excerpt from the article below. *Picture credit: David C. Cramer is arrested in the rotunda of the House of Representatives' Cannon House Office Building on Jan. 16. — Katie Misz. (below)*

"If you've never been there, why do you care?" Anna Johnson asked Kelsey Cramer (my sister-in-law) and me on our way from South Bend to Goshen, Ind., in a 12-passenger van to pick up the rest of our carpool heading to Washington, D.C., on a subzero January morning. Anna is a Ph.D. candidate in peace studies and sociology, researching the possibilities of peace-and-justice tourism in Palestine. Having grown up Lutheran, she became Mennonite after encountering Mennonite Central Committee workers in Palestine, where she lived for seven years. For Anna, the atrocities in Palestine are personal. But why, she wondered out loud, were we joining her in an act of civil disobedience? Kelsey described how her heart broke for Palestinians as she watched the atrocities on social media. I stumbled through a response, but the question haunted me throughout the whirlwind of the next two days.



An interview with Jonathan Kuttab, 2023 Bring the Peace award recipient



In an interview published by Mennonite Church USA, Jonathan Kuttab, a 2023 Bring The Peace award winner, describes how his work as a human rights lawyer relates to peace and justice. **Read the interview** [here](#).

MennoCon23 connects two teachers through MEA

MennoCon23 connects two teachers through Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) to create the Mennonite Public Educators group that holds virtual gatherings for Mennonite education professionals working in public schools. **To learn more about their story, click** [here](#) **to read Jolene VonGuntens article for Mennonite Education Agency.**

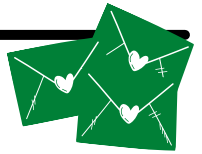
New Member, New Directory

The Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) shared the following update on the Supportive Communities Network (SCN), of which MCN is a part. "A warm welcome to Albany Mennonite Church in Oregon as our newest member in the Supportive Communities Network (SCN)! Check out the full listing of nearly 150 SCN members on the newly updated SCN page [here](#)."



Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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