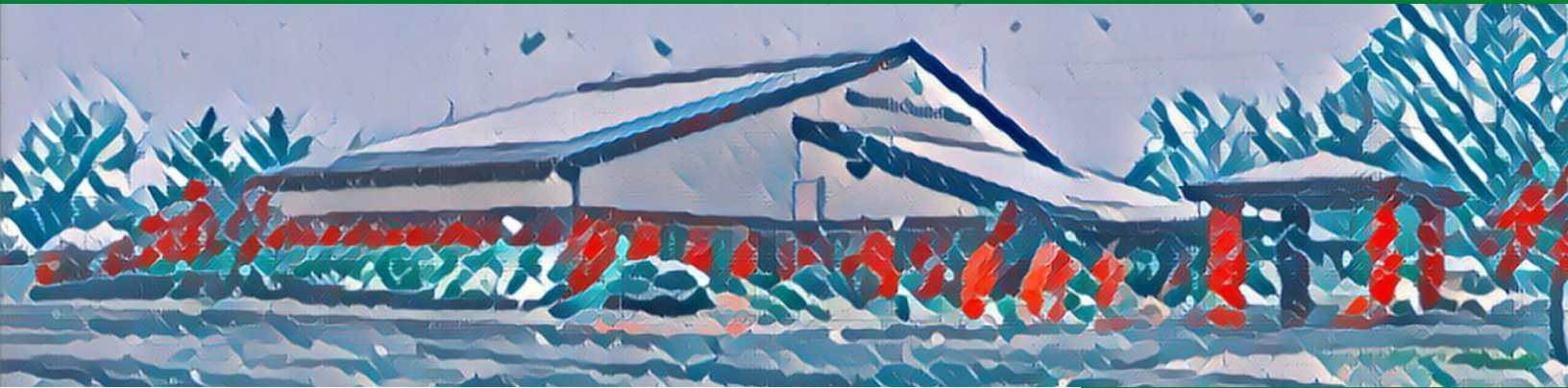


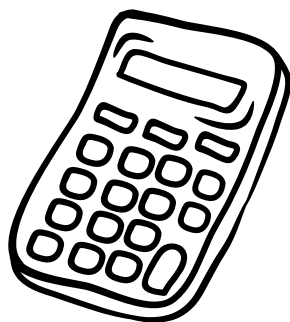
THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Kevin Chupp will preach sermon titled *Recalculating* this week on Mark 10:17-31.

When Jesus encounters the flattery of a wealthy man, his instruction shocks the man and confuses the disciples. As we walk through Lent in Mark's gospel, we see Jesus frustrating and often reversing our categories of greatness. Faced with such disorientation, like the disciples we might ask, "who can be saved?"



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



Ash Wednesday Service

TODAY, Wednesday, February 14 at 6:00 pm

MCN will have a Ash Wednesday service at 6pm for those who would like to participate. The service will include Scripture, song, time for silent reflection and prayer, and the imposition of ashes. Please contact the church office with any questions.

MYF Dinner



Sunday, Feb. 18 after CE

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



A Note from Elsa

Monday, March 4th

I will be visiting Representative Sorensen's office on March 4 because I am concerned for atrocities being committed against the people of Gaza. A new organization, Mennonite Action, has been established to protest the war. Mennonite Action is encouraging Mennonites to visit members of Congress and to let our representatives know of our desire for peace. I want to take part in calling for peace for all Israelis and Palestinians. I want to affirm the historical stance of the peace-loving Mennonite tradition. The emphasis on peace and justice is one reason that I joined Mennonite Church of Normal. Please join with me in our visit to Representative Sorensen's office to let him know our concern.

From Elsa Raab

Delegates Needed



Saturday, March 9th at Camp Menno Haven

There's upcoming Illinois Mennonite Conference meeting on March 9 at Camp Menno Haven. Administration Commission is asking for volunteers to be a delegate. **Please contact Mary Dyck if you are interested.**

From the Administration Commission

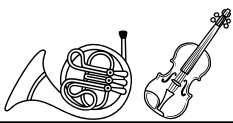


Women's Ministry Event

Saturday, March 23rd from 9:30 - 11:30 am

All women are invited to a Women's Ministry continental breakfast on Saturday, March 23 at the church. Come and find out who will be joining us! Keep watching for more clues??

From the Women's Ministry Committee



Lent Ensemble

Last chance to sign-up! 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



Thank You from Lynette

January Financial Report



Vision Team Update

Your Vision Team (VT) met on February 7th and has the following items to share with the congregation:

- We discussed the Pastoral Team and its focus in 2024.
- We received our standard updates on the Commissions, Pastoral Team, and Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team.
- We discussed upcoming meetings and check in for all Commissions.
- We began planning our next VT retreat.
- You can find VT meeting minutes and resource documents in the VT folder [here](#).

From the Vision Team

Offering Counters Needed



The Administration Commission would like help on Sunday mornings to count the offering that comes in. This is a simple way to offer your gifts. After church, a volunteer is requested to join our assistant treasurer to sort and count the cash. It should only take a few minutes and helps ensure that we have a protocol in place to secure our finances for the church and with the bank. Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve as part of the rotating schedule or to learn more about what it would involve. Thanks!

From the Administration Commission



Sharing Our Gifts

The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday 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!

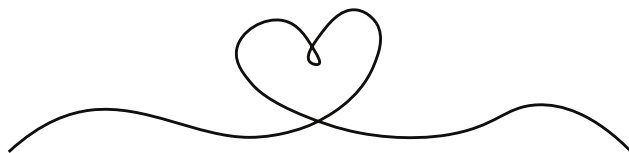
From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

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





A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, February 14

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 15

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

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

Friday, February 16

1:00-2:30 pm Office Closed

Sunday, February 18

choirs

Tuesday, February 20

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 21

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group



Sharing of Joys and Concerns

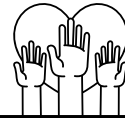


Prayer Requests and Announcements

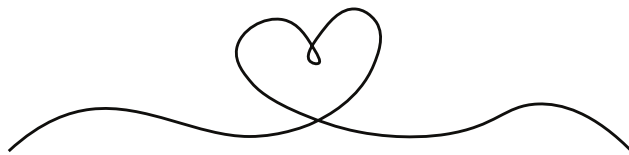
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please send Lauren Satchwell your announcements so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true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



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Deb and Steve Stenger
West Greeter: Phylis VerSteegh
Welcome Table: Marcia Rossi
Ushers: Beth and Andy Reeser
Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger
Worship Planner & Leader: Steve Benner
Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell
Children's Story: Holly Zehr
Scripture Reader:
Technology: Adam Augspurger
Song Leader: Cindy Ropp
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Bill West
Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents
Infant Nursery – during CE: Ben Roeschley
Preschool Nursery: Holly Zehr



Individual choices, collective duties



Read about how the Burns Paiute Tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and Summit Lake Paiute Tribe have filed a lawsuit this year against the Bureau of Land Management to protect Thacker Pass from large-scale lithium mining and the environmental impacts in **Sarah Augustine's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Mennonite Education Agency, the education agency of Mennonite Church USA, is pleased to share the Lent at Home 2024 worship guide and calendar, available for download in English and Spanish [here](#). They extend gratitude to writer Talashia Keim Yoder, designer Erin Ramer, and translator Ubaldo Rodriguez. This resource is offered at no cost to the congregations, conferences, individuals, and families of MC USA and MC Canada. However, gifts to help cover the costs of production are joyfully accepted at the [MEA website](#) and click on Donate.

Sheroes of Education

A Coffee + Conversation for Black History Month

Thursday, February 29 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm Central Time

Join Mennonite Women USA on **Thursday, February 29 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm Central Time** for a panel of educational professionals leading the next Coffee & Conversation. Three Black Anabaptist women working in both higher and primary education will each take turns talking about the women from whom they learn. They will also talk about how those lessons apply to their work in educational settings. We'll hear about the successes and challenges of the mission to create thoughtful community members who are lifelong learners capable of pursuing their particular calling. And we'll listen for the ways supporting education can sharpen our collective knowledge to empower a more just future. Please plan to join in! [RVSP here](#) to receive the link to the online meeting.

Youth Venture offers ways to serve and learn in summer 2024!



Youth Venture sends teens and young adults, ages 15-22, on short-term service and learning experiences to engage with the work of God that is already taking place in communities around the globe. Hosted by churches and Mission Network partners, Youth Venture teams explore how Christians work towards reconciliation in their local contexts. Participants will learn how people can make a difference by confronting injustice and offering healing and hope.



Fraud is on the Rise

Below is an article written by Kari L. Cullen for Everence's Everyday Stewardship column. Find the article on Everence's website [here](#).

In today's connected world, discerning between genuine communication and potential threats to your financial security can be challenging. The rise of text notifications, emails and social media messages overwhelms us with information, both legitimate and fraudulent.

The Federal Trade Commission reports consumers lost \$8.8 billion due to fraud in 2022, the largest losses originating from social media and phone calls. Mail and identity theft remain concerning trends, with fraudsters leveraging personal information mined from social media to impersonate victims.

Fraudsters thrive on misinformation and urgency, playing on people's fears and desires. To protect yourself:

- Scrutinize communications for red flags like misspellings, mismatched information and unexpected texts.
- Examine links and attachments before opening, verifying their authenticity. An example of what to look for includes an email signature not matching the sending email.
- Beware of threats of "missed opportunities" and requests to send money quickly. Urgency is a very common tactic for fraudsters.
- Independently verify the information through online research or contact with trusted sources.

Additionally, keep the following in mind to protect your personal information:

- Never log into websites such as online banking when sharing your computer screen.
- Exercise caution when providing sensitive information over the phone. Hang up and call back if you need to.
- Avoid sharing personal identification via unsecure methods such as email.
- Review your credit information regularly at annualcreditreport.com.

With unending streams of digital information, it's crucial to exercise caution and patience when dealing with financial matters. If you want to learn more, read a recent report published by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at consumerfinance.gov and search for the "Money Smart for Older Adults" Resource Guide. Your financial well-being is worth the extra effort to protect it.



Finding our path through climate doom

Read a blog post by Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, climate justice coordinator for Mennonite Church USA, titled "Finding our path through climate doom" [here](#). In the post, Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler reflects on how to respond to climate doom with resistance and resilience, after attending Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Rooted and Grounded conference.

MC USA Women in Leadership launches new podcast season

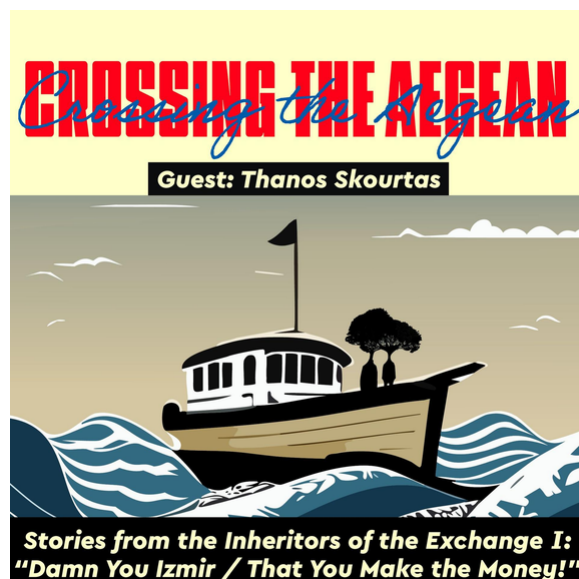


A PODCAST FROM  Mennonite Church USA

The **Women in Leadership** ministry of MC USA is releasing season three of its popular podcast, "Holding It(,) Together." Bonita Rockingham of the Women in Leadership steering committee hosts the podcast, which is created by women for women. The podcast is available on the [MC USA website](#), [Apple](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and [Spotify](#).

MC USA signs letter to Congress, asking for strengthened funding for Victims of Crime Act grants

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) has signed a letter to Congress, along with 62 faith-based organizations, asking for strengthened funding for **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants**. VOCA grants are the primary source of federal funding for victim services, including programs supporting victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, human trafficking, elder abuse, community violence, homicide and other crimes. The letter was written by the **Interfaith Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence**, an organization convened by Jewish Women International that works to advocate for national legislation and public policies that protect all people from domestic and sexual violence, with particular concern for women and families. Read more in an news release published by MC USA [here](#).



The third episode of Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) podcast series Crossing the Aegean is out! This episode, they are joined by Thanos Skourtas, a local from Lesbos and a member of the Legal Centre Lesbos. He shared the stories of his maternal grandparents, how he was introduced to this heritage, why he wasn't able to learn more, and what relationship he sees with his past and the stories of migrants he is working together with today. [Listen here](#).

Making of The Anabaptist Community Bible

In celebration of the 499th birthday of Anabaptism, John Roth reports on development of the Anabaptist Community Bible, which is slated to be ready for readers on the 500th birthday of Anabaptism. Read Roth's article titled "Making of The Anabaptist Community Bible" published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).



Know better, do better

Jennie Wintermote shares how she's reading the books she enjoyed as a child with new eyes. "I was excited to share one of my childhood favorites: the first two volumes of the Mandie series by Lois Gladys Leppard. My daughter had seen them on the shelf at our church library and asked repeatedly if we could read them. They weren't just mysteries; they were historical mysteries about a girl with long blond hair, just like her! I was horrified when, on the first page, I found myself reading aloud about a God of fire and brimstone, a vengeful, punishing God. Yikes! This wasn't how I wanted to talk to my 6-year-old about God." **Read Jennie Wintermote's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

I no longer count the cost, but I keep the flame burning

Below, find an excerpt from Sarah Augustine's article for *Anabaptist World* titled "I no longer count the cost, but I keep the flame burning." **Read the full article [here](#).**

Lately I have been thinking about counting the cost. I have spent two decades struggling for the liberation of Indigenous people, yet those I advocate for remain imperiled. Do I have what it takes to complete the task? Or is it too costly? In my Christian upbringing, I was taught that counting the cost means evaluating whether an endeavor is realistic before committing to it. This is the logic of rationality, of safety. Before I invest in a risky venture, I should calculate whether I can afford to lose what I invest. If the answer is yes — if I have the time/energy/money to spare — then I should go ahead. If the investment is too costly, I should demur. This is how my investment began: Twenty years ago, I was a young re-searcher on a risk-assessment team. An Indigenous elder asked for my help. Her entire rainforest community had been removed from their village in the South American country of -Suriname because an economic interest had received a land concession from the government. It is perfectly legal for an economic interest to eject a community from its home if doing so is financially advantageous to the landowner — in this case, the government.

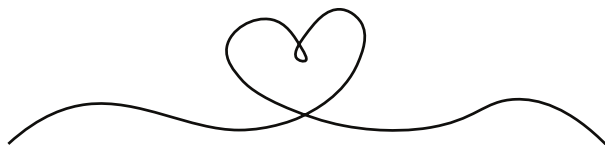
Understanding the Love of God



Anabaptist Disabilities Network has published Carrie Norris's review of the *Believing and Belonging* curriculum. Read her review [here](#). Learn more about the curriculum [here](#).



In a blog post published by Mennonite Church USA (MC USA), **Amy Yoder McGloughlin shares how gun violence, and specifically the death of Destiny, who lived near the church where Amy worked, created lasting trauma for her and her family, and how leaning in to that pain helps her cope.** Yoder McGloughlin is the pastor at Frazer Mennonite Church. The blog post is part of Mennonite Church USA's [Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence](#) initiative. **Read more in H.A Penner's Menno Snapshot [here](#).**



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open:

Standard Hours:

Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9AM-11AM
and Monday-Friday 1:30PM-3PM.

Upcoming Closures:

Friday 2/16 from 1-2:30pm
Friday 2/23 all day
Friday 3/1 all day

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

Items for the Midweek

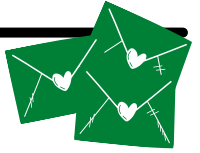


Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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