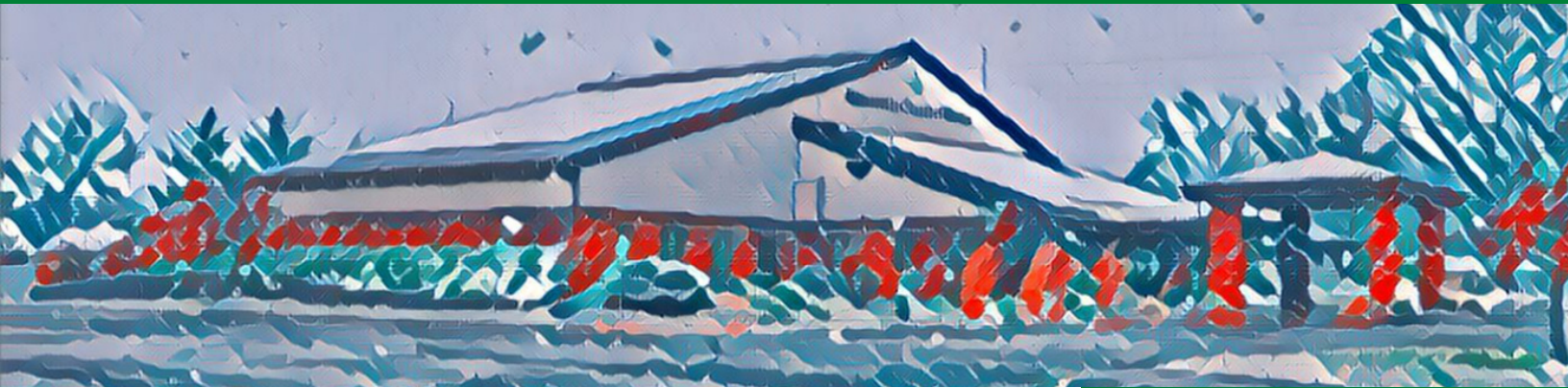


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Kevin Chupp will preach sermon titled *Tone-Deaf Tutees* this week on Mark 10:32-52.

As Jesus continues on his spree of healing and teaching, two of the disciples draw all the others into a jealous argument about status and honor. Meanwhile, they arrive in Jericho and encounter a desperate cry for healing. Are they able to hear it? Are we?



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



A Note from Phil

Monday, March 4th at 1 pm gathering at MCN

I'm going to US Representative Eric Sorensen's office on Monday, March 4th at 2:00 pm to let him know that I am working with Mennonites who want the US government to push harder for a ceasefire in Gaza, for the US to quit sending arms to Israel until they quit bombing Gaza, for the US to push for a two-state solution in Israel, and for the US to reinstate financial contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) so it can provide assistance to Palestinian refugees.

The Biden administration recently halted U.S. funding for the UNRWA. According to MCC, since 1948 UNRWA has been the most important on-the-ground organization providing vital humanitarian assistance for Palestinian refugees. In addition to its role in meeting basic needs, UNRWA is vital to broader rights for Palestinians, including their status as refugees and any right of return for those displaced.

We will be gathering at the Mennonite Church of Normal at 1:00 pm on March 4th for a visit to US Representative Sorensen's office in Peoria. Please bring a sign if you choose to join us.

In Peace, Phil Dick, Chair of the Outreach Commission

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



A Message from Vision Team

The Pastoral Team Search Committee (PTSC) is beginning the search for pastors. The hope is to fill two positions, each position is for quarter time. The salaries are included in the 2024 budget approved by the congregation. Please be in prayer as PTSC begins this process.

From the Vision Team

Saturday, March 16th

The 66th annual Illinois Relief Sale will be held March 16. This Sunday (2/25) there will be sign-up sheets posted with a variety of ways that all can help. Here are some of the ways we can help.

- Donations are needed for the auction. Each church is asked to donate at least 5 items for the auction. Some suggestions are given below. **March 1 is the deadline** for signup so it can be included in booklet.
- Quilt Items: Put your sewing skills to use and make a quilt or comforter or wall hanging to donate to the quilt auction. Vintage quilts are also accepted. Auction times the day of the sale for the quilts are 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. If you have any questions check with Louise Reeser.
- Dutch Market: A variety of baked goods are needed. Suggestions are cookies, brownies, cinnamon rolls, breads, tea rings, candy and cakes (such as carrot, angel food, or coffee cakes.) Apple pies and cherry pies are in demand.
- You can order frozen pie crusts to use for your pies. **They must be ordered by Feb 26**. Sign-up sheets will be available on Sunday or let Gerry Schrock know if you want to order crusts. All food items will need ingredient labels. Instruction sheets and other supplies will be available next to the sign-ups.
- Strawberry Pies: We will again be making strawberry pies. Volunteers are needed to help make pies on March 14 and 15. Signup sheets will be available on Sunday.
- Other: Many other booths are also accepting donations. These include: Flower Box, Kiddie Korner, Baby Booth, Arts and Handicrafts.

Please check the sign-up sheets on Sunday for other ways to help make this a successful sale.

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

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| -iPads/tablets | -Fire pit |
| -Money towards items | -Furniture |
| -Blackstone griddle | -Vacations |
| -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 grove95@mtco.com with the item(s) information by *March 1st* to be included in the auction list for the sale!

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

CDC Connector



The newest edition of Central District Conference's (CDC) monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). The theme of this issue is **Care**, the first of CDC's year-long series on stories that were gathered from the sacred listening process. This issue shares stories from several pastors on caring for congregations in transition and from Wanda Stopher on caring for people at the end of life. There is also a summary of the recent Mid-year Gathering, a review of the book *Dorothy's Word* and photos from recent ordinations and installations throughout the conference. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table in the next couple of weeks.

Sharing Our Gifts Photos



Birthdays & Anniversaries
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





A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, February 21

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, February 22

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

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

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Friday, February 23

All Day Office Closed

Sunday, February 25

7:00pm Lent Choir

Wednesday, February 28

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Rick and Annette Harnish

West Greeter: Mark Roeschley

Welcome Table: Nancy Fisher

Ushers: Caleb and Liz Augspurger

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner: Kevin Chupp

Worship Leader: Gail Fisher

Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp

Children's Story: Laura Dick

Scripture Reader: Sheryl Nisly-Nagele

Technology: Adam Augspurger & Ryan Miller

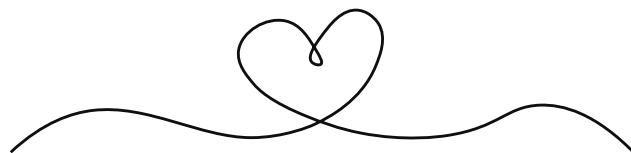
Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Denise Hedberg

Infant Nursery - during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery - during CE: Janet Wilson

Preschool Nursery: Gabriella Harnish



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.



Civil Rights Pilgrimage

May 7-14, 2024

Registration Deadline: April 2

Central District Conference is working with Mennonite Mission Network to host a Civil Rights Pilgrimage. Anyone in Central District is welcome to participate. Size of the group is limited to 12. They would like to have 12 people representing 12 different congregations. Hear first-hand stories and reflections from people who participated in the civil rights movement. Learn from others who unpack the significance of the civil rights movement, and the way in which this is an ongoing struggle for justice and equality that invites us to participate. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

Cahoots Festival



May 23-26, 2024 in Ontario

Cahoots is an ecumenical Christian festival of Faith, Justice and DIY, conceived and led by LBGT+ youth and run by a volunteer crew of passionate organizers. Canadian SCN colleagues are part of the organizing team. Cahoots strives to be a decolonizing, Queer and Trans-inclusive, intergenerational, youth-led, anti-racist and feminist space, a temporary community of learning and transformation each year. Learn more about the festival at [cahootsfest.ca](#).



Music Scholarships

The Pratt Music Foundation's mission is to provide talented youth an opportunity to enhance their musical ability through private lessons. Music lessons are expensive and simply not an option for some children and families: this is where the Pratt Music Foundation comes in. The Foundation grants full music lesson scholarships to the Illinois Wesleyan University Music Preparatory Program. Instruction is available in piano or strings (violin, viola, cello). Music scholarships are awarded to area students in grades 2 - 12 each spring, and are based on financial need, motivation, and talent. **Applications are due by May 1.** Free music books are supplied from the Music Shoppe. For those without instruments, they are available free of charge. Downloadable applications are available at: www.PrattMusicFoundation.com. For questions or to request an application, call 309-827-5534, or email prattmusicfoundation@gmail.com.



Honor Native Land Fund Launch!

**Wednesday, March 6th
7-8pm CT**

Hear about how people in the Midwest are moving beyond land acknowledgments and supporting the return of land to Indigenous stewardship

Sikowis Nobiss and Shelly Buffalo, leaders in the repatriation movement, as well as HNLF members, will share about local opportunities to organize for and support land return.



**Register at
www.honornativelandfund.org**

Shared by Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT). Click [here](#) to learn more.



Volunteer Needs from Carle

Rev. Christine McNeal, Carle Health's Senior Staff Chaplain and Coordinator for Faith Community Relations, recently shared two unique volunteer needs. Read the information she shared below.

- We are attempting to expand the music program for the patients and staff on nursing units at Carle BroMenn. Pre-COVID we had musicians playing soft music for any patient who wanted it; i.e. guitar, flute, violin, etc. It was very well received. Anyone interested should contact Sue Seibring, Manager of Volunteer Services, Carle BroMenn Medical Center.
- All chaplains here wear black lab coats while working. As you can imagine, we go through quite a few. When we purchase new coats each must have the Carle logo embroidered on, which gets costly. We're wondering if any of our more advanced sewers out there have one of those machines with an advanced embroidery feature. If so, would that person be willing to volunteer time to help us with some coats? If anyone is interested in this volunteer effort, contact Reena Rhoda, Administrative Assistant/Spiritual Care, Carle BroMenn.

Dare to Dream: The Unyielding Spirit of Palestine

Read a statement by [Community Peacemaker Team \(CPT\) Palestine](#) titled "Dare to Dream: The Unyielding Spirit of Palestine" [here](#).

"I dream of a time when a Palestinian airline proudly welcomes passengers to Palestine. I dream of Palestinian refugees scattered across the globe returning to their homeland, uniting under the shared sky of a unified nation. To exist, we must resist. The path is one of non-violence. It is through these actions, unwavering dreams, and collective determination that we will pave the way toward a brighter, more just future. It's not too late to say no to genocide, no to ethnic cleaning, no to occupation."

October 2023 BMC Board Meeting Recap

The Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) Board met October 27-29, 2023 in Columbus, Ohio to connect in person and strategize for 2024. Foci for the year include: trans/nonbinary advocacy and support, reparative healing among individuals and organizations, BMC archival work, and nurturing relationships between BMCers in Canada and the United States.

Lifelong love song

Read Elam Stoltzfus' article "Life long song" about how "an iconic Anabaptist hymnal inspired a journey of rediscovery — and a last song for Dad" for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).

What if all the people we welcome actually showed up?

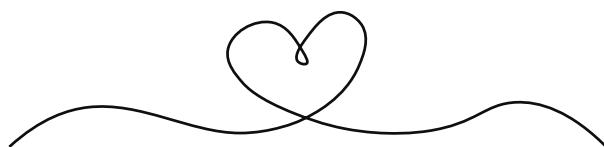
“We need to be honest with ourselves and with others. When we say “all,” do we mean it, or do we need to be more specific? If we announce that our doors are wide open to everyone, we need to think not only about ourselves but about the people who are with us in the community. If we say we stand with the oppressed, what does it mean for us to invite their oppressors? If we say we welcome all people into fellowship, what are we asking of ourselves and our community? Is it possible to welcome everyone? What does it mean for us to be accountable to one another?” **Read Jerrell Williams’ article on what it means to say “all are welcome here” for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Ancestral research in Moscow leads to Mennonites in Manitoba

For Conrad Stoesz, archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Archives in Winnipeg, Man., getting requests for information about Mennonites is a regular occurrence. But a request from Moscow was unusual. “I don’t think it had ever happened before,” he said. It came from Maria Lotsmanova, 36, who contacted the archives in 2019 asking for information about her great-grandfather, Jakob Janzen. Lotsmanova knew she had German ancestors. There were some relatives living in Germany, but there had been little contact with them over the years. She also knew they were Mennonite. “But I didn’t know what that meant,” she said. She started her search at Moscow’s Gulag History Museum. Her research revealed that Janzen’s family had lived in Crimea before their property was seized by the Bolsheviks in 1931 and they were forced to relocate to northern Russia. **Read John Longhurst’s full article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#) and watch a video about Lotsmanova’s search for her great-grandfather [here](#).**

A safe first step back into society

Read how a New Brunswick church helps prisoners prepare for life on the outside in **Lisa Williams’ article for *Mennonite Church Eastern Canada* and republished by *Anabaptist World* [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 2/23 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

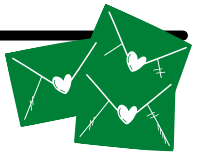
Lynette Miller: Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions

Ron Ropp: Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lauren Satchwell: Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

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

[Printable PDF Version](#)

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Commission Meeting Minutes

Structure Documents
