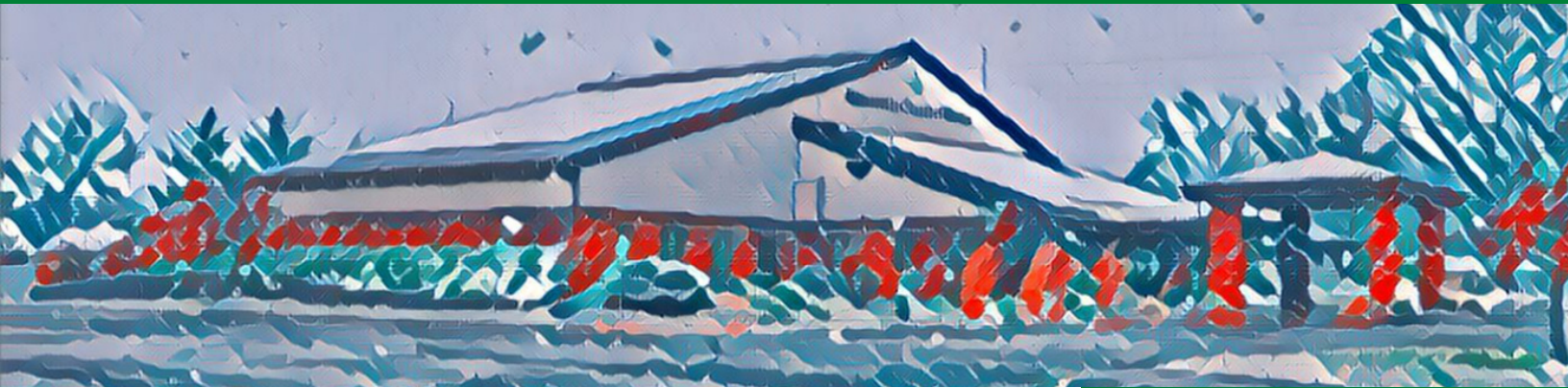


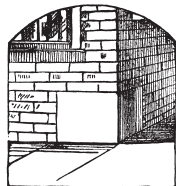
# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Kevin Chupp will preach sermon titled *Things That Are Mine* this week on Mark 12:1-12.

In three images, Jesus illustrates his identity and his reign: the vineyard, the cornerstone, and the coin--all while verbally sparring with the Pharisees. Jesus enrages and amazes them while refusing to play by their ground rules. Is Jesus simply being witty or is he showing us a different way? Who is this man and how does he relate to the guy on the coin?



## 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

# Vigil for Nex Benedict & Town Hall Meeting

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**TODAY, February 28th at 5:00pm**

You have likely heard the [recent story](#) of Nex Benedict, a 16-year-old nonbinary student who died the day after a fight with bullies in the bathroom at their public school in Owasso, Oklahoma. A vigil is planned for today, February 28th at 5:00pm at Heartland Community College. We will meet outside the Astroth Community Education Building, lower level southeast entrance.

This vigil will be followed by the Prairie Pride Coalition Town Hall meeting inside the same building from 6:00pm-7:30pm. A focus of this meeting will be LGBTQ safety.

Before and immediately following this meeting (until 8:00pm), we have been invited to have a table at the information fair. Pastor Kevin is making plans for MCN to have a part in this this, but would appreciate help in maintaining a presence at the table. If you are willing to represent MCN and talk with people about our commitment to be a welcoming and affirming community, please contact Kevin.

If you are able to join any part of this, we hope you will join us as we stand with the LGBTQ+ community of BN. Share and spread the word with flyers found [here](#).

*Shared by Pastor Kevin Chupp*

## Blood Pressure Checks



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**This Sunday, March 3rd after Worship**

Carol Josefson will be checking blood pressures in the office by the mailboxes on Sunday after the worship service. This service is sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee.

*Sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee*

## Next Adult CE Quarter



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Adult CE will begin a new quarter on March 10

- Journey Groups A and B will meet together in the conference room using the book "To Be Made Well". Lynette Miller will be leading this class. This class will begin March 10.
- Journey Group C will be studying the book "How to Fight Racism" by Jemar Tisby and will be led by Laura Dick. This class will begin March 17.

Books for both classes may be picked up on the desk in the conference room.

*Shared by the Discipling Commission*



## A Note from Phil

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### 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*



## Women's Ministry Event

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

*"Guess who is coming to Breakfast?"*

All women are invited to a Women's Ministry Continental Breakfast Saturday, March 23 at the church. Come to listen and reflect during this Lenten season. A reflection entitled "Poetry as Holy Leisure" will be presented by a special guest. More about our special guest presenter next week.

*From the Women's Ministry Committee*



## Midwest Food Bank Help Needed

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Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is responding to a sharp increase in need for food distribution and they are asking for volunteers to enable them to meet those needs. One way to help is by volunteering to load vehicles on weekday mornings (a few afternoon shifts available as well). You can sign up [here](#). If you are interested in driving a truck (class C and higher) you can contact Donna Haas at [dhaas@midwestfoodbank.org](mailto:dhaas@midwestfoodbank.org). We are next scheduled to serve at MFB on May 9th, but if you would like to arrange another opportunity for us to serve sooner than that, or want to discuss other ways to support MFB be in touch with Outreach Commission (Phil Dick, chair or Kevin Chupp, pastor).

*Shared by the Outreach Commission*



# Coffee for the Relief Sale

**Saturday, March 16th**

We are needing someone to make coffee for the Relief Sale Saturday morning breakfast. If you are interested in helping, please contact Leo Desch.

*From Leo Desch*

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 with the item(s) information by *March 1st* to be included in the auction list for the sale!



## MCC Relief Sale

**Saturday, March 16th**

The 66th annual Illinois Relief Sale will be held March 16. Signup sheets are available at the church. Here are some of the ways all 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. Other fruit pies are also accepted. Pans are available to use for the cakes rolls and pies. All food items will need ingredient labels. Instruction sheets and other supplies are 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. No experience necessary.
- Other: Many other booths are also accepting donations. These include: Flower Box, Kiddie Korner, Baby Booth, Arts and Handicrafts. All items can be brought to the church the week before the Sale.
- Transportation: More help is needed to transport items to Interstate Center on Friday. Sign up if you can help with this.

Please check the sign-up sheets on Sunday for other ways to help make this a successful sale, thank you everyone!! If you have any questions, please talk with Gerry Schrock, Phil Dick, Louise Reeser, or Ben Roeschley.

## Delegates Needed



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### 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*

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## Invitation to Join a Bridge-Playing Group



I wish to explore if there is interest in starting a bridge-playing group within the MCN community. The bridge games would be played in a social environment and not in a tournament environment. I want to extend a welcome to those that have never played bridge or have played in the distant past and want to become reacquainted with the game of bridge. I will survey those that indicate an interest to determine the meeting times for the group.

**If interested please contact:**

Loren Moshier

*Shared by Loren Moshier*

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## 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 are now available to take on the library table.**

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## 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*



# QPR Suicide Prevention Training

Three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide.

- Upcoming sessions in March:**  
**Friday, March 1, 11-12**  
**Friday, March 8, 1-2**  
**Friday, March 15, 10-11**  
**Friday, March 22, 11-12**

QPR is a suicide prevention training for participants to be able to recognize the warning signs of suicide and question, persuade, and refer people at risk for suicide for help.

Key components covered in training:


- How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal
- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide
- The common causes of suicidal behavior
- The warning signs of suicide
- How to get help for someone in crisis

**Center for Human Services**  
**530 N Center St., Bloomington**  
**To register, contact Steve Benner ([benner@mcchs.org](mailto:benner@mcchs.org))**  
**or Rose Addo ([addo@mcchs.org](mailto:addo@mcchs.org))**

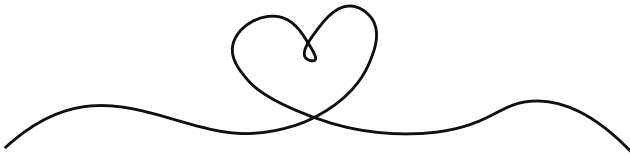

**Q**uestion.

**P**ersuade.

**R**efers.

 **A NEW HORIZON**  
AT THE CENTER

Question. Persuade. Refer.  
Ask A Question, Save A Life©





# *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



## *This Week at MCN*



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:



*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*



# Prayer Requests and Announcements

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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:** Jeff and Amy Reiman

**West Greeter:** Bess Desch

**Welcome Table:** Mary Dyck

**Ushers:** Cal and Vivian Hubbard

**Offering Counter:** Gail Fisher

**Worship Planner:** Holly Zehr

**Worship Leader:**

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Ron Ropp

**Children's Story:** Shelly King

**Scripture Reader:**

**Technology:** Glenn Wilson & Ryan Miller

**Song Leader:** Cindy Ropp

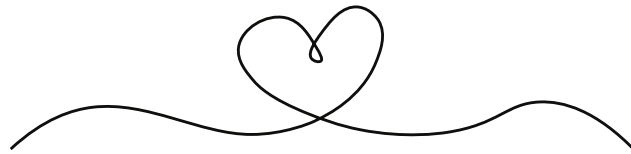
**Accompaniment:** Elsa Raab

**Prelude & Postlude:** Adam & Caleb Augsburger

**Infant Nursery - during worship:** Open for parents

**Infant Nursery - during CE:** Jane Roeschley

**Preschool Nursery:** Shannon Unzicker



*Lent at Home 2024*



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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.





# MENNO HAVEN'S *Spring Work Day*

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 23**



## *Possible Projects*

- Preparing cabins, bathhouses, boats, pool & outside games for summer
- Trail & lawn cleanup
- Cleaning windows & light lenses
- Reconstructing hayrack trailer
- Firewood splitting
- And more - check out more details at [mennohaven.com/work-day](http://mennohaven.com/work-day)



## **RSVP**

🌐 [mennohaven.com/work-day](http://mennohaven.com/work-day)  
or email [sheena@mennohaven.com](mailto:sheena@mennohaven.com)  
☎ 815-255-4649

MENNO HAVEN DEPENDS ON  
& GREATLY APPRECIATES  
THE HARD WORK OF  
VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU



## *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](http://www.PrattMusicFoundation.com). For questions or to request an application, call 309-827-5534, or email [prattmusicfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:prattmusicfoundation@gmail.com).

## *Guy O. Graber, World War I conscientious objector*

When sorting through a donation to the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Archives last summer, Olivia Krall came across the story of WWI conscientious objector Guy O. Graber. She shares some of her findings in a post published by MC USA [here](#).



# 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](http://www.honornativelandfund.org)**

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

## *Meet the Hope for the Future 2024 honorees*

MC USA honored seven community elders at its 11th Hope for the Future Conference, Feb. 9-11, 2023, in Dallas, Texas. **Read about the five honorees [here](#).**





## Volunteer Needs from Carle

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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.

## Breaking chains, mending walls at Hope for the Future

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"Do we know what it means to remove chains?" asked Joanne Gallardo, co-conference minister for Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference at Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA's) 11th Hope for the Future conference on Feb. 9-11. Gathering in Dallas, Texas, 70 Black, Indigenous and people of color considered the theme, "Breaking Chains, Mending Walls," which centered on Isaiah 58. "Every year, we're trying to see where we are as a church. Reading the times and trying to find a message of hope for us," said Sue Park-Hur, MC USA director of racial/ethnic engagement. Park-Hur shared how the passage resonated with members of the planning committee - Marco Güete, Abby Endashaw, Mahlet Mamo and Ana Hinojosa. "In times of difficulty and traumatic times, we look to rituals and ancient practices to help us be rooted," said Park-Hur. "And Isaiah 58 reminds us of the heart of these rituals." **Read the full recap of MC USA's Hope for the Future conference [here](#).**

## Watch the recording: Engaging MC USA's Safe Church

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Nancy Kauffmann, Michael Danner and Glen Guyton discussed the vision and direction of MC USA's new Safe Church abuse prevention ministry, shared resources for congregations and conferences, and answered questions about the future vision for Safe Church advocacy in our denomination. Watch the recording of the seminar [here](#).

## MW USA at Peace Action in DC

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Read a article by Suzanne Ayer Lay for Mennonite Women USA (MW USA) titled "MW USA at Peace Action in DC" [here](#). Suzanne Ayer Lay is the MW USA Communications Director. Read an excerpt of the article below.

"Why are you here?" was asked and answered over and over by Mennonites in DC this past weekend. One woman at Peace School (the day of training before the events on Capitol Hill) said, *"Our theology calls us to take powerful action to support a cultural shift to reclaim what it means to follow Jesus."* There were surely as many reasons for attending as there were people in attendance, but we were all, in the words of Sister Dana Cassell, *"putting the full force of [our] religious formation to work, leveraging [our] generational inheritance of scriptural peacemaking and understanding of Jesus' way in the world to speak out, powerfully, into the immediate realities of our American empire of violence."*

Mennonite Women USA was honored to participate in the peace events of MLK weekend led by [Mennonite Action](#). For our part, we were there to recognize stories of suffering and practice justice through supportive partnership. We did so by sponsoring a meal, sending participants to help serve it, and standing in solidarity with and recording witness of the peace action.

## Talking Climate with Kids and Youth

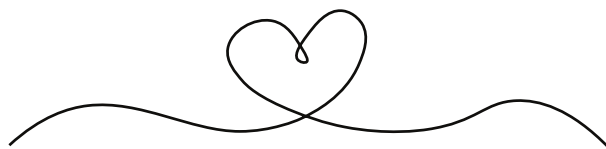
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Created by Mennonite Church Canada and shared by Mennonite Church USA, *Talking Climate with Kids and Youth* is a 12-minute video that's great for parents, youth leaders, pastors, and anyone who cares about young people! **Watch the video** [here](#).

## 75 years of Mennonite witness in Palestine and Israel

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Read Alain Epp Weaver's historical overview of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) engagement in Palestine and Israel, and ways that Anabaptists can act for peace [here](#).



## Commissions and Teams Contact List

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## Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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Building Open:

**Standard Hours:**

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

**Upcoming Closures:**

Friday 3/1 all day

Lydia Hedberg:

Office Administrator; [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto: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](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org)

Lynette Miller:

Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions

Ron Ropp:

Pastor for Pastoral Care

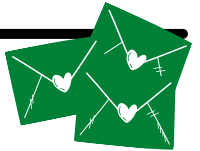
Lauren Satchwell:

Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

## Our Members in Care Facilities

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



## Items for the Midweek



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

# *Item Check-Out Request Form*

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

# *Commission Meeting Minutes*

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

# *Work Order & Purchase Request Forms*

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

# *Structure Documents*

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