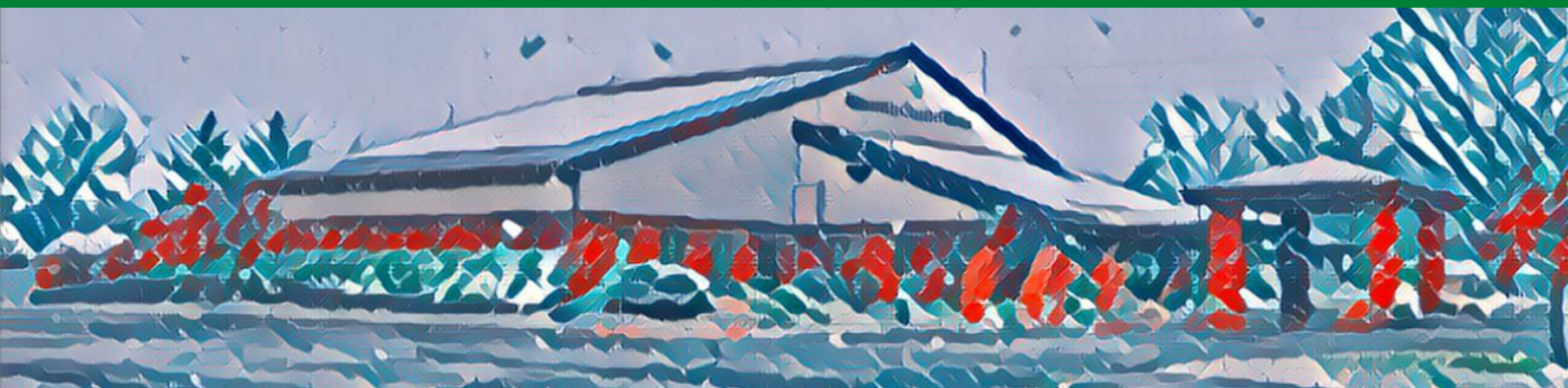


# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Kevin Chupp will preach sermon titled *Love the Trees* this week on Mark 8:27–9:8.

On the surface, the transfiguration seems like an escape from the present, a divergence from reality as we know it, and a moment reserved only for the elite. But what might this strange event reveal about what God is doing in the present moment and in all of creation?



The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).  
The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

## 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



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA



# Worship Planner/Leader Training

**THIS Sunday, February 11 during CE hour in the west wing classroom**

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*



## Ash Wednesday Service

**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.

## Save the Date



**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!



## Partner in Healing

Every year we support Carle BroMenn Medical Center in prayer through their "Partners in Healing" program. In 2024, they are asking us at Mennonite Church of Normal to pray for the patients, families and staff of the Progressive Care Unit. This is an 18-bed is located on the second floor of the patient bed tower that provides care for neurosurgical and other high acuity patients. Join us in prayer!

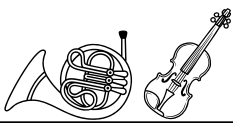
*From the Outreach Commission*

## 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*



## 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](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org) or 309-452-6622.

*Sponsored by the Worship Commission*



## 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](http://www.normalmennonite.org)
- Your email account
- Church Facebook account: [www.facebook.com/MennoniteChurchofNormal](http://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*



## Telephone Updates

Effective Friday, February 9th, Pam & Al's home landline telephone service will be discontinued. Al & Pam's cell phone numbers remain the same. In addition, Pam's new email address is in the directory.

*From Al & Pam Dick*

## Babysitter

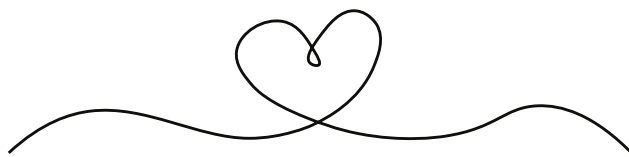


Emmanuel & Tania are seeking to hire a babysitter(s) for Monday through Thursday evenings for eight weeks, enabling Emmanuel to take a class needed to complete his HVAC program. You can contact them directly if you would like more information. Thank you for your help!



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*



## This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### **Wednesday, February 7**

**9:30am** Wednesday Morning Book Group

**5:00pm** Outreach Commission

**7:00pm** Community Life Commission (Zoom)

**7:30pm** Vision Team (Zoom)

### **Thursday, February 8**

**7:00am** Next Man Bible Study

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

**6:30pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

### **Sunday, February 11**

**11:00am** Worship Planner/Leader Training

### **Tuesday, February 13**

Pastoral Team

### **Wednesday, February 14**

**9:30am** Wednesday Morning Book Group

**6:00pm** Ash Wednesday Service



# *Sharing of Joys and Concerns*



## *Prayer Requests and Announcements*

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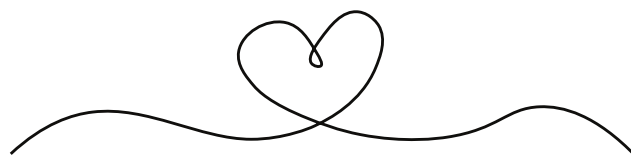
Sharing of Joys and Concerns have returned to open mic sharing during the services. Please send Lauren Satchwell your announcements so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct. This is true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



## Those Serving This Week



**South Greeters:** David and Gabriella Harnish family  
**West Greeter:** Marcia Rossi  
**Welcome Table:** Marge Nester  
**Ushers:** King family  
**Offering Counter:** Mark Roeschley  
**Worship Planner & Leader:** Joe Culpepper  
**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Lynette Miller  
**Children's Story:** Kevin Chupp  
**Scripture Reader:** Rita Munkakusi  
**Technology:** Caleb Augspurger  
**Song Leader:** Cindy Ropp  
**Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude:** Lydia Hedberg  
**Infant Nursery – during worship:** Open for parents  
**Infant Nursery – during CE:** Stephanie Nester  
**Preschool Nursery:** Marcia Rossi



*Why am I a Mennonite?*

?

Read the next blog post in the "[I choose to be Mennonite because ...](#)" series from Mennonite Church USA [here](#). In it, Marlene Kropf writes about how she was born and raised a Mennonite, but after moving to an area without any Mennonite churches, she had to be creative in how she continued to worship.



**Tomorrow, Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM CT**

On February 8th, Mennonite Action coordinators will make some important announcements about the future of the movement. They will announce another opportunity to take coordinated bi-national mass action together, and will release comprehensive local organizing resources. In addition, a variety of inspiring speakers from across the movement will present. Nonviolence is the only path which will lead us towards the peace and safety which all of us deserve. Now is the time to get involved. **RSVP [here](#)**. A link to attend this virtual event will be emailed upon RSVP.

## Camp Friedenswald Winter Family Camp

**February 16-18th**

[www.friedenswald.org/winter-camps](http://www.friedenswald.org/winter-camps)



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.



## *Don't look up . . . or stop eating*

Read Anna Lisa Gross's article for *Anabaptist World* titled "Don't look up . . . or stop eating" [here](#). In it, she writes about alternative ways to "listen to God's call through the good news and the bad" instead of fasting for Lent.

## *Strengthened Relationships and Reimagined Convention*

The Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Executive Board strengthened key relationships and discussed creative strategies for convention and revitalization at the first Executive Board meeting of the biennium Oct. 18-20, 2023, in Cleveland, Ohio. In response to [delegate action](#) calling for togetherness, the Executive Board began planning for MC USA's 2025 biennial convention, reimagining it as a more intimate gathering focused on the biennial theme, Follow Jesus. MC USA Executive Director Glen Guyton presented a report on the MennoCon23 convention. More than 1,400 people attended the convention in Kansas City, Missouri, in July 2023. Demographic shifts included an increase in the percentage of BIPOC attendees (14% of total) but a decrease in the percentage of youth. Children and youth represented 37% of attendees. In post-convention surveys, 97% of respondents rated the event positively, with speakers, worship and seminars ranked most favorably. The event yielded a net deficit of \$235,000, even though MC USA staff reduced convention costs by more than 10% over initial projections. Proposed changes for MC USA's 2025 convention include contracting with more cost-effective venues, reducing production costs, tightening up the convention schedule and raising participant registration fees. As well, the Executive Board unanimously approved the "Mennonite Church USA Inter-agency Communication Plan," a four-page strategic document aimed at strengthening collaboration and communication among the MC USA Executive Board and its accountable program agency boards (MennoMedia, Mennonite Education Agency and Mennonite Mission Network). The document was developed in collaboration with agency leaders. **Read the full report of their meeting [here](#).**



## Herald Press signs children's book deal



Herald Press has signed a book deal with authors Teresa Kim Pecinovsky and Hannah Rose Martin, a move that will relaunch the children's book line for the publishing house. Pecinovsky, whose bestselling debut book [Mother God](#) was named a Foreword Indies finalist, also coauthored [The Peace Table](#), a storybook Bible with Shine Curriculum. This is the first book for Martin, a Mennonite pastor and reading interventionist. The currently untitled picture book from Pecinovsky and Martin follows a young child who breaks a neighbor's window and discovers friendship, transformation, and new beginnings. This poetic tale offers readers a gentle introduction to peacemaking in response to gun violence, where hatred and sorrow are transformed into new life. **Read more [here](#).**

## Oak Flat just might save us



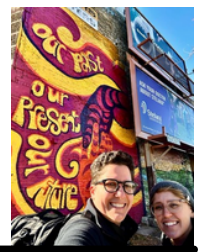
**Read a article by Rev. Carol Rose published by Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) titled "Oak Flat just might save us" [here](#).** It contains Reflections by Rev. Carol Rose, Pastor of Shalom Mennonite Fellowship (Tucson, Arizona) and former Director of Community Peacemaker Teams (2004-2014). *Photo caption (below): Resolution Copper mine shafts are visible in the distance, looming over an Oak Flat canyon under threat of destruction by the mine. From CPT Turtle Island Solidarity Network.* "Oak Flat is sacred and must not be destroyed. I'm grateful that the Apache have cared for this sacred land these many centuries. I am grateful that they invite us, their neighbours, into the struggle to ensure that Oak Flat is not made into a great cavernous hole. This sacred place is a place of prayer for many, many peoples. I am one of those who experience the Spirit of God in this place. I am a Christian clergyperson. I follow Jesus, whose sermons first found the hearts of people on a wide open plain and on the slope of a mountainside. Jesus was immersed in baptismal waters, not in a building, but in a wilderness river. Jesus went into the hills to pray and had such a relationship with the local lake that he walked back through her turbulent waters. Yes, Oak Flat must be saved from destruction. And, our lives, even my Christian faith, might just be saved through Oak Flat."

## MC USA relaunches Equipping newsletter for leaders

The Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Executive Board communications department is relaunching Equipping, a resource e-newsletter for influential leaders across MC USA, this month. After a hiatus of two years, the department surveyed former advertisers and subscribers and discovered that there was still strong interest in a resource newsletter. **Read more in MC USA's article [here](#).**



## Queering the Archive and BMC Legacy Gifts



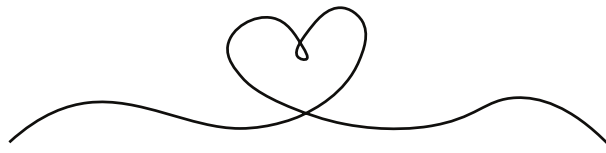
The Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests (BMC) director Annabeth Roeschley and board chair Xaris Martínez traveled to Minneapolis November 15-17, 2023 to prepare a formal inventory of BMC materials for future donation to an archival collection. They were graced with the expertise and guidance of Doris Malkmus, archivist at the [LGBTQ Religious Archives Network](#). Digging into the rich trove of BMC history — rooted in the past with a vision for the future — proves to be a meaningful, productive, and delightful experience. Stay tuned for next steps in the new year! We lift gratitude to BMC ancestor [Daniel “Joe” McRoberts](#), whose bequest to BMC enabled funding to support this trip to Minneapolis and future archival work in 2024. You are encouraged to consider BMC as you make plans for your will. To explore estate gifts and how you can be part of current and future BMC legacy projects of many kinds, contact director Annabeth Roeschley. *Photo captions: Left: Vintage BMC banner for the archive; Right: Xaris and Annabeth in Minneapolis*

## MC USA's Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz Honored

The [Center for Community Justice](#) in Elkhart, Indiana, honored Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA's) denominational minister for Peace & Justice, for her work in restorative justice at an October 21 event celebrating the 45th anniversary of its Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP), the first restorative justice program of its kind in the U.S. Irwin Larrier, executive director of the Center for Community Justice, presented Stutzman Amstutz with the VORP Founding Partner Award for her outstanding work with the Center as a recent college graduate in the 1980s and her ongoing contributions to restorative justice. **Read more in MC USA's article [here](#).**

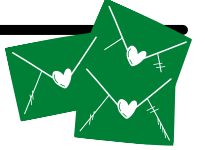
## Testimonies from Northern Puerto Wilches

[Community Peacemaker Teams – Colombia](#) is amplifying the voices of the residents of Northern Puerto Wilches, in the Middle Magdalena region of the country, to be heard by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs, who are currently receiving formal communications and requests in order to draw their attention to and presence in the territory. Help share these testimonies to prevent the neglect of the State from silencing the voices of farming communities. Watch the testimonies [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*

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<u>Building Open:</u>	<b>Standard Hours:</b> Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9AM-11AM and Monday-Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; <a href="mailto:church@normalmennonite.org">church@normalmennonite.org</a> ; 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; <a href="mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org">kevin@normalmennonite.org</a>
<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

# *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!

## *Commissions and Teams Contact List*

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## *Item Check-Out Request Form*

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

## *Work Order & Purchase Request Forms*

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

## *Commission Meeting Minutes*

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## *Structure Documents*

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