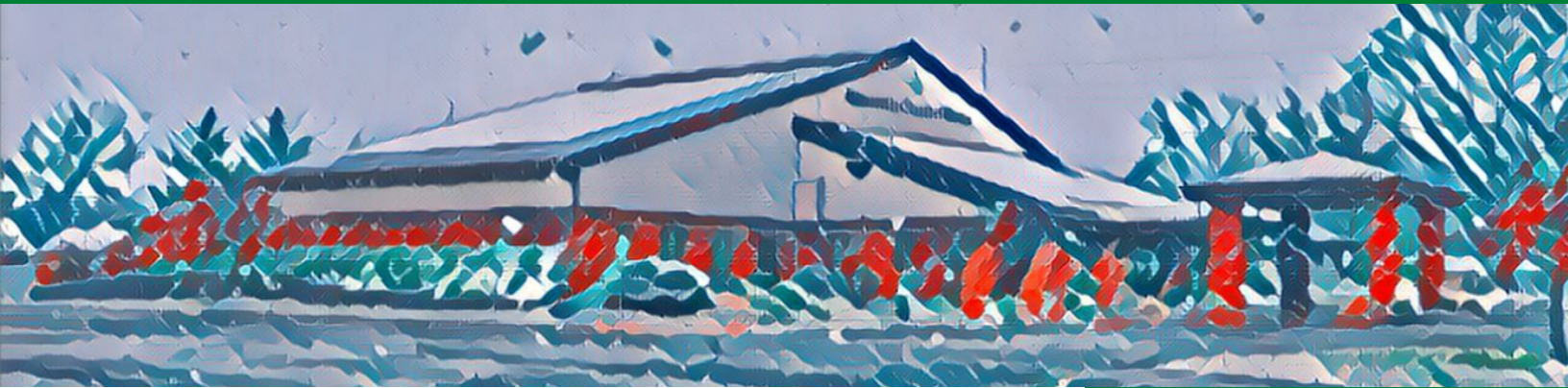


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Lauren Satchwell will preach sermon this week titled *What Good News, Exactly?* using Mark 13:1-8, 24-37.

If you are familiar with or have previewed the Scripture reading for this week, you might have the same reaction that I first did. The apocalyptic nature of this reading gave me pause! When the sky goes dark and the stars fall from heaven it will be apocalyptic, but that is not the story Mark tells. According to the story Mark tells, in the one who was betrayed and denied and utterly forsaken, God worked an astounding act of mercy and grace. No need to stock your basement with canned goods. Jesus contends that God is on the move, even and especially where all hope seems lost.

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

Adult CE began 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 began last Sunday, March 10th. Please read ch. 2 for this Sunday.
- 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 this Sunday, March 17th.

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

Shared by the Discipling Commission

MCC Relief Sale



Saturday, March 16th

Volunteers are still needed for the Dutch Market 11:30am-2pm check-out lanes.

The 66th annual Illinois Relief Sale will be held March 16.

- Coffee 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*
- Donations: Please bring items to the church by **8 am Friday morning**.
- Quilt Items: Please bring quilts to the church by **8 am Friday morning**. 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 and price labels which are available at the church. **All items may be delivered to the Interstate Center or the church by 12 o'clock on Friday.**
- Strawberry Pies: We will again be making strawberry pies. All volunteers should be here March 14 and 15 **at 8 am**. No experience necessary. Everyone must wear a hat and an apron.

Thank you everyone!! If you have any questions, please talk with Gerry Schrock, Phil Dick, Louise Reeser, or Ben Roeschley.

Relief Sale Reception



This Sunday, March 17th during Fellowship Time

A big thank you in advance to all those serving at the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale this week! Join us during the fellowship hour for cake and catching up!



Women's Ministry Event

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 and a special presentation Saturday, March 23 at the church. No registration required! Questions may be directed to Connie Satchwell or Deb Stenger. Come to listen and reflect during this Lenten season. A reflection entitled "Poetry as Holy Leisure" will be presented by Judith Valente. Judith is an author, journalist, poet, and essayist. Judith began her journalism career as a staff writer at The Washington Post and later reported for The Wall Street Journal in that paper's Chicago and London bureaus. She was twice a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in journalism. She will explore how poems can help us to slow down, to look at daily life with fresh eyes, and find rest and nourishment and for the soul. Come away and rest for a while! Hope to see you there.

From the Women's Ministry Committee

Updated Nursery Schedule



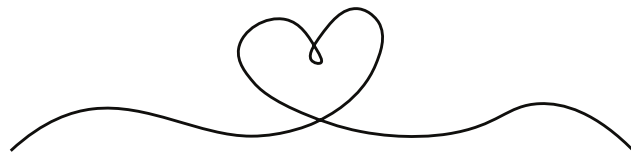
Discipling Commission (DC) is looking for volunteers to be in the infant nursery during adult Christian Education **this Sunday (3/17), April 21st, and May 12th**. Please note, you must have already completed a background check with MCN to volunteer in the infant/preschool nursery. If you are interested in being added to a future schedule of nursery volunteers but have not received a background check, please contact Holly Zehr.

From the Discipling Commission



Baby Chups

The Chupp family has entered into baby watch as of today! Join us in celebrating Baby Chupp by showering them with diapers, wipes, or Target gift cards. These can be dropped off at the church to be delivered after they are home from the hospital. A meal train will be set up closer to the time the family is ready to receive meals. For any questions, please contact Lauren Satchwell.



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 13

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, March 14

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

8:00am Strawberry Pies

Friday, March 15

8:00am Strawberry Pies

Saturday, March 16

6:00am IL Mennonite Relief Sale (at the Interstate Center)

Sunday, March 17

7:00pm Lent Choir

Thursday, March 18

7:00pm Pastoral Team Search Committee

Tuesday, March 19

1:00pm CDC Pastor Peer Meeting

3:00m Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 20

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.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Mary Ann and Paul Watkins

West Greeter: Adam Augspurger

Welcome Table: Spring Neely

Ushers: Neely family

Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger

Worship Planner & Leader: Jane Roeschley

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story: Jane Roeschley

Scripture Reader: Chad Gundy

Technology: Jaron Zehr & Rick Harnish

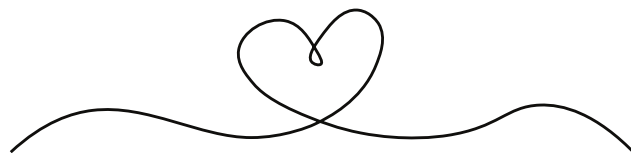
Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment & Prelude: Denise Hedberg

Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery – during CE:

Preschool Nursery: Beth Reeser





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



RSVP

🌐 mennohaven.com/work-day
 or email sheena@mennohaven.com
 ☎ 815-255-4649

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



**107 W. FRONT STREET
BLOOMINGTON, IL**

ONE NIGHT ONLY



FRIDAY MARCH 29 8-11 PM
\$8-ADVANCE \$10-DOOR



Jim Pugh - Trombone
Glenn Wilson - Baritone Sax
Leon Lewis-Nicol - Piano
Emma Taylor - Bass
Max Osawa - Drums

"Jim Pugh's creativity knows no bounds - a musician's musician"

"Glenn Wilson is an unsung hero in modern jazz"

Stories of spreading transformation

In a Lenten reflection, Rev. Amy Zimbelman invites us to experience transformation, as modeled by Mary Magdalene and today's women in ministry. Her blog includes storytelling and findings from an 18-month mixed-methods research project on the experiences of women in ministry in Mennonite Church USA (MC USA), conducted by Amy Zimbelman and Elizabeth Johnson. **Read Rev. Zimbelman's blog post for MC USA [here](#).**

'A place of safety in a storm'

A former Mennonite Brethren pastor couple in Nanaimo, B.C., have started a new Anabaptist church that aims to be a safe place for LGBTQ people and their allies. Called The Ark, it is led by James and Janet Toews, who formerly served at Neighborhood Church, a Mennonite Brethren congregation, in that Vancouver Island community. **Read more about The Ark in John Longhurst's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Darkly comic novel explores Russian-German migrant identity

Elina Penner's debut novel, *Nachtbeeren* (Nightberries), (Aufbau, 2022), provides insight into the post-Cold War Russian Mennonite community in Germany. The author — herself a Mennonite immigrant from the former Soviet Union — reflects on trauma, identity and language in a dark and often humorous way. Written in German, the novel is autofictional (blending autobiography and fiction). **Read more about *Nachtbeeren* in associate teaching professor of German at the University of Colorado and a member of Boulder Mennonite Church, Berit Jany's review of the book for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).** (Please note, this article includes content that may be disturbing due to the nature of the topic.)



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.

Little Deaths: Surrendering to the Life I Have

Reflecting on a chronic illness diagnosis, Laura Stone explores how she learned to surrender to a life she did not expect in her blog post published by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network. **Read “Little Deaths: Surrendering to the Life I Have” [here](#).**

Lent at Home 2024



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.



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)
or Rose Addo (addo@mcchs.org)

Question.

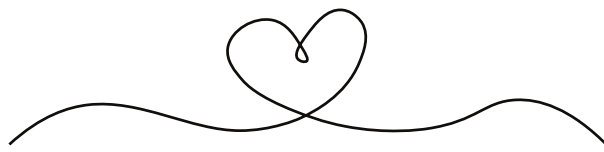
Persuade.

Refer.



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



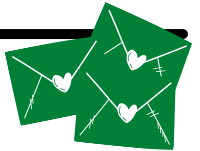


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<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

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



Commissions and Teams Contact List

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!

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commission Meeting Minutes

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Structure Documents
