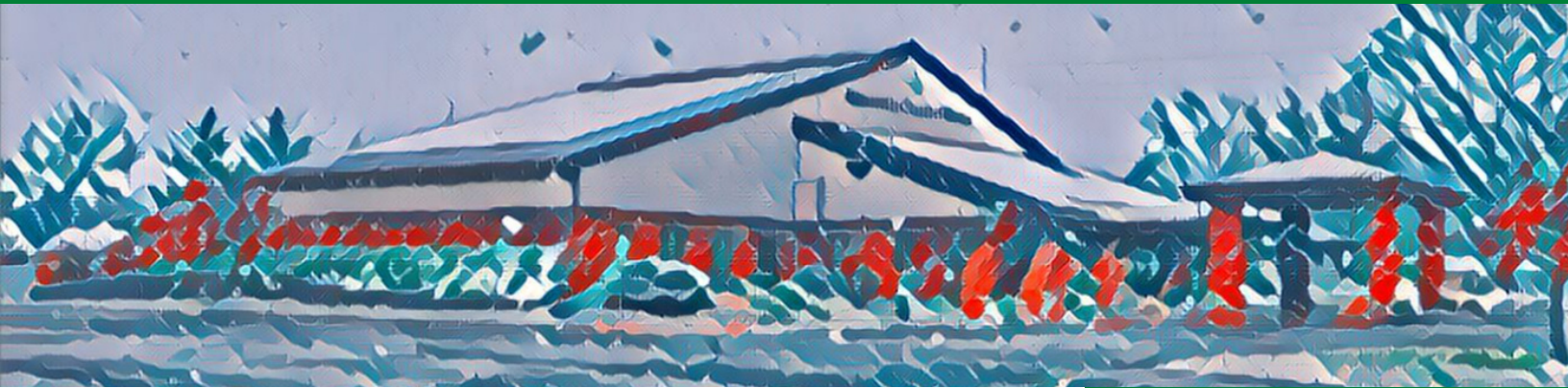


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

Ron Ropp will preach sermon this week titled *Living by the Law or the Spirit* using Mark 12:28-44.



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

Next Adult CE Quarter

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

MCC Relief Sale



Saturday, March 16th

Volunteers are still needed for the Dutch Market and Pancake Breakfast!

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:

- 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 church this Sunday.
- 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.



MYF Cookie Crew

This Sunday, March 10th

This coming Sunday, March 10, during the CE hour, the MYF will be packing up and labeling cookies that they have made for the Relief Sale. We'd be glad to do the same for anyone else from the congregation who is also willing to bake cookies, but might want assistance with packaging. All we'll need is your cookies on Sunday morning, along with a list of the ingredients so we can label them properly, and we will package them up. If you have questions, email Shannon Unzicker.



JMYF Volunteering at the Relief Sale!

JMYF (6th-8th grade) is signed up for a slot at the Relief Sale working in the Dutch Market on Saturday, March 16, 7-9 AM! We are hoping some, or all, JMYFers are available to join us! Especially with events like this, the more the merrier! We'll have fun and work hard together and still have time after to enjoy the sale! Please email to let us know if your junior youth is able to be there!

Shelly and Darvis King



Women's Ministry Event

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

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

Parental Leave Note



While such plans can always change, Jess is currently scheduled to be induced on March 13th. I am incredibly grateful that MCN has offered me a time of leave so I can be present to welcome the new one and help care for Junia as she adjusts to life with a baby brother! As suggested by the denomination's guidelines, this will be 8-weeks—**beginning March 11th and returning May 6th.**

During that time, I will not be working and will not be checking email regularly. Any time-sensitive questions or issues should be sent on to Lauren, Ron, or Lynette. However, in the case of an emergency situation, I plan to be available to step in as I am able. You will likely spot me some Sunday mornings during my leave as I bring Junia to visit her friends at MCN, and we will of course plan to keep you all updated when the little guy arrives. Meanwhile, we welcome your prayers as the day approaches.

- Kevin Chupp

Phil's Report on Ceasefire Visit

Seven of us went to US Representative Sorensen's and US Representative LaHood's offices in Peoria on March 4th to let them know in person that we demand a ceasefire in Gaza, that we represent a lot of Mennonites in this demand, that we want our government to stop giving a blank check to Israel for weapons of war, and that we want funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) reinstated. Each of us spoke at the two meetings to enhance this request. The staffers that we met with seemed more supportive of our request as the meetings progressed. And since this was the second time that we met with Representative Sorensen's staffer, she was even more receptive. She indicated that the Representative had met with two other organizations on the Ceasefire in Gaza issue.

We gave two signed documents (view copies [here](#)) to US Representative Sorensen's and US Representative LaHood's staffers. One document is specifically from the seven of us and requests the resumption of funding for UNRWA, and the other is a petition from Mennonite Action that included the names of 5,000 Mennonites who signed it (the attached document does not include the 5,000 names).

In Peace, Phil Dick, Chair, Outreach Commission



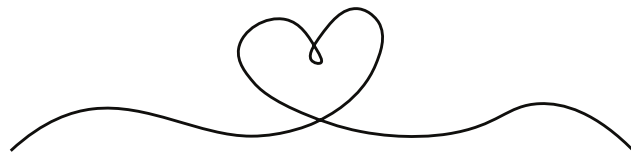
Invitation to Join a Bridge-Playing Group

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 6

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, March 7

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, March 10

7:00pm Lent Choir

Tuesday, March 12

3:00m Pastoral Team (Zoom)

7:00pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 13

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

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: Barry and Marge Weaver

West Greeter: Gail Fisher

Welcome Table: Mary Ann Watkins

Ushers: Zehr family

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Steve Benner

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Annette Harnish

Scripture Reader:

Technology: Glenn Wilson & Rick Harnish

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

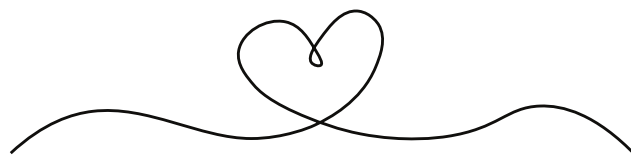
Accompaniment: Elsa Raab

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Postlude: Denise Hedberg

Infant Nursery - during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery - during CE: Annette Harnish

Preschool Nursery: Amy Reiman





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



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**

THE HOPE-FILLED PERSISTENCE OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Monday, March 11, 2024
7 P.M. ET/4 P.M. PT

On Zoom

A webinar hosted by Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, with Amy Zimbelman and Elizabeth Johnson. Habrá interpretación al español.





MMN appoints new executive director

Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Interim Executive Director Marisa Smucker as the permanent executive director, effective January 23, 2024. Smucker has served as interim executive director of Mission Network since March 2023. Smucker said, "I am deeply humbled by the invitation to serve in this leadership role. With great love and respect for Mission Network staff, workers, and partners, I am grateful for this opportunity to continue in our shared work." **Read more in MMN's press release [here](#).**

Pennsylvania Dutch joins court interpreter program

The Pennsylvania court system has added Pennsylvania Dutch-speaking interpreters to offer better language support for women and children testifying in cases involving abuse. Public radio station [WITF reported](#) the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts recently added eight state-certified speakers from Mennonite and Amish communities in Lancaster County, Pa. Pennsylvania Dutch joins 44 other languages on the interpreter roster, including American Sign Language. Interpreters must pass proficiency exams, background checks and workshops focused on the court system. While most Amish and Old Order Mennonites are bilingual in Pennsylvania Dutch and English, sensitive situations are sometimes better expressed in a first language. Preschool-age children often need interpreters because English is only started upon entering school. **Read more in an article published by *Anabaptist World* [here](#).** *Picture (below) credit: Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.*



30,000 Trees in Guatemala



On Oct. 22, 2022, EPIC, the Ecumenical Project for International Cooperation, Inc., received \$20,000 from Mennonite Men to facilitate the planting of 20,000 trees by the Baja Verapaz Sustainable Agriculture and Health Education Program. Program staff expects to greatly exceed planting expectations with up to 34,248 trees planted this grant year. The exact number of trees that are planted will be known when the tree planting season has finished. Trees were planted this grant year in 18 communities with a total of 277 families involved in planting. These families receive the trees without cost, but they are not paid anything for all of the work they do carrying the trees to the planting locations (sometimes long distances), digging the large holes for planting, and caring for the trees. **Read more about the 30,000 Trees planted in Guatemala in an article published by Mennonite Men [here](#).**

MC USA grants Mennonite Action \$10,000 grant

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Administration has awarded Mennonite Action an unrestricted \$10,000 grant from the Church Peace Tax Fund. Mennonite Action is an independent, grass roots movement of Mennonites taking public action to stop war and end the occupation of Palestine. The Church Peace Tax Fund is an MC USA initiative that reinforces the denomination's role as a historic peace church by reinvigorating the collective voice against the destructive powers of militarism in our congregations, communities and beyond. Read the whole article from MC USA [here](#), learn more about the Church Peace Tax Fund [here](#), and find the Mennonite Action website [here](#)..



La Posada Update

Central District Conference shared an update from La Posada Immigrant Aid: Our prayers have been answered with the hiring of a new legal services provider at La Posada Immigrant Aid. Rubi Astello will be able to begin seeing clients when our renewal application for accreditation is approved, likely April or May. We are also offering Citizenship Classes beginning March 6th. Thank you for praying for us, and for your support which is making this possible. **Read the full update on La Posada's website [here](#).**



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.



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.

Refers.



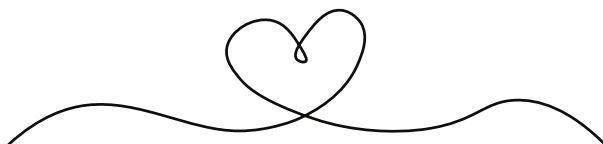
Question. Persuade. Refer.
Ask A Question, Save A Life©



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.



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open:

Standard Hours:

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

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 Commission

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

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

Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Structure Documents
