

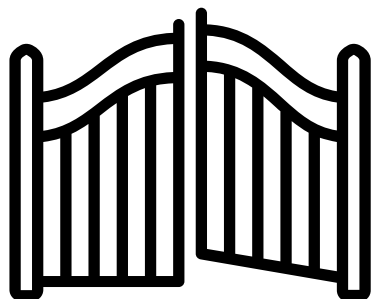
THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Joe Culpepper will preach a sermon titled
Are You a Beautiful Sanctuary? using Acts 3:1-10.

After the resurrection, Peter & John take up Jesus' healing ministry. They begin at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. Is the Beautiful Gate just a physical place, or is it a metaphor for what our lives can be? How does this story invite us & give us a pattern for becoming Beautiful Gates for God's love to enter into our world?



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)
Conference Room

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

Celebration of Dorothy Loepf's Contribution to Worship Music

Sunday, April 14th at 3:00 pm

Join us as we sing, listen, and share with each other at MCN at 3:00pm on April 14th. This celebration will be acknowledging the fifty-three years that Dorothy Loepf has contributed to our worship. A reception will follow. We invite contributions of pictures of Dorothy at the organ and piano. Please submit items to the church office by April 1st. Further, in honor of Dorothy, we are establishing a scholarship that will provide funds for those who would like to receive professional lessons on organ or piano. You can read more about the scholarship and how to contribute to this fund [here](#). Checks can be made out to Mennonite Church of Normal with the memo line "Music Scholarship."

From the Worship Commission

CE Books



Journey C CE class needs more copies of the book *How to Fight Racism*. If you used this book in the previous quarters and have it still laying around your home, could you please return it to the church so that the members of Journey C have enough books to use? Please place them on the desk in the conference room. And a reminder (especially if you really wish you could have your own copy of any of the books that were used in this past year), any of the CE books may be purchased for \$5 each *at the end of May*.

From the Discipling Commission



Service of Anointing

This Sunday, April 14th

There will be a service of anointing for healing in worship this Sunday, following the sermon. This is an ancient prayer practice of the church. Anointing is a means of giving an outward sign of the prayers of the Body of Christ for God's loving care to be present to a need – physical, emotional or spiritual. When you come for anointing, you may receive the sign of the cross with oil on your forehead or back of your hand. If you wish, you may share with the person doing the anointing about something for which you are praying for healing – for yourself, for someone else or for the world.

From the Congregational Care Committee, part of the Community Life Commission

International Student Fellowship Meal

Friday, April 12th by 6:30 am

If you would like to bring food to the International Student Fellowship meal at Wittenberg Lutheran Center this week, you can use [this link](#) to sign up.

From the Outreach Commission
p. 2



Bluebell Meditation Walk

Saturday, April 20th at 10 am

Bluebells are a riot of luscious blue across several areas at Humiston Woods during April each year. Jane Roeschley is hosting a Bluebells Meditation Walk for Women's Ministry on Saturday, April 20, 10 am. **RSVP** and find more information [here](#).

From the Women's Ministry Committee, part of the Community Life Commission



MCN Ensemble



Performance: Sunday, May 12th

Rehearsals: Saturdays, April 27 and May 11 at 3 pm

While a Lenten Ensemble did not work out this year, I am excited to announce there will instead be a MCN Ensemble performance during the worship service on May 12th. We will have two rehearsals in preparation. While it would be ideal for people to attend both, you are only required to be at one rehearsal to perform in the group! We welcome people of all ages, ability levels, and instruments. If you are interested in playing in the group, please email me at church@normalmennonite.org, call me at 309-452-6622, or fill out [this form](#).

Save the Date - MCN Work Day



Saturday, April 27th at 9:30 am

There will be a work day on Saturday, April 27 at MCN. More details to come.

From the Administration Commission



IMC Conference Report

Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) report from the March 9, 2024 session at Menno Haven. The annual session of IMC convened at Menno Haven on March 9, 2024. The opening session consisted of worship with Phil Kauffman as song leader, and Andrew Suderman, director of Global Partnerships at Mennonite Mission Network, as speaker. Mr. Suderman offered a very interesting presentation on seeds. Next were reports about special activities at two IMC churches. First Pastor Sergio from Sonido de Alabanza spoke of the work that they and others are doing with the large number of immigrants that are coming to Chicago area, directing them to available resources and, in particular, trying to meet the spiritual needs of the people they encounter. Second there was a report on the involvement of the Hopedale Mennonite Church with an immigrant family that is getting established in the Peoria area. Following lunch and reports from various Mennonite Agencies, the 2024 spending plan and IMC leadership teams were approved. The afternoon ended with a time of open discussion and questions. It was a very good IMC session.

Prepared by Lotus Hershberger
Shared by the Administration Commission

Who is Jan Gleysteen, and how did he influence our church building?

Jan Gleysteen was an artist and historian who was born 1931 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He eventually came to work at the Mennonite Publishing House in Scottdale, PA., where he did many illustrations for their publications. He was also one of the founders of TourMagination, which gave tours of Europe. Many toured Europe after World Conference using Jan's travel book and our family was happy to have a private 3 week tour of Europe in 2001. When it was decided that we would build a new church, Larry Jantze (church Chairperson) and Larry Reeser (building committee chairperson) were sent to a seminar at Laurelville, PA called "Caves to Catherals" by Jan Gleysteen, Leroy Troyer, and Paul Lederach. It was the story of our Anabaptist forefathers and how they did worship in Europe. We also had Jan come to our church and give his presentation on "Faith of our Fathers" and "Mennonite Meetingplaces." From these presentations we planned some aspects of the church we have today. Chairs instead of Pews to allow for different configurations. A wide sanctuary so the audience feels like they are part of the service. A large fellowship area in the tallest part of the church, because fellowship is important. No steeple, to allow the church to blend in with its surroundings. We called our building a Meetingplace instead of a church. That was changed in recent years.

Jan Gleysteen passed away at the age of 92 in December '23. His memorial service was on April 6, 2024 in Goshen, IND.

Shared by Louise Reeser

Safety & Accessibility Committee



Mennonite Church USA has called for accessibility and safety measures to be reviewed and in place for churches. We know these areas overlap but are not exclusive. We are wondering if you have passion or interest in this area and would be willing to provide a voice in a sub-committee of the Administration Commission to review the resources we have collected and plan for our future. If so, please contact Mary Dyck. Thanks!

From the Administration Commission



Pastoral Team Search Committee

The search committee has submitted an updated Congregational Information Form (CIF) to Doug Luginbill, Central District Conference Minister. He posted our vacancies on the Central District Conference and the Mennonite Church USA websites. Our vacancies will be posted in the next Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests Newsletter. You can view our Congregation Information Form (CIF) at [this link](#). A copy will be left in the library as well.

From the Pastoral Team Search Committee

MCN Call for Submissions



- **Theme:** “Behold! I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)
- **Deadline:** We will begin accepting submissions starting May 6th (to Pastor Kevin)
- **Format/medium:** visual art (painting, sculpture, photography, video, design, etc.), poetry, musical performance, composition, or others!
- **Description:** This Summer (May 26th – September 1st) we at MCN we will be reflecting on how, with Jesus, we can work toward making all things new, focusing on the renewal of all our basic relationships: with God, with others, with self, and with all of creation. You can learn more about this series [here](#). To aid us in worship and reflection, we are hoping for new artistic works on that theme. Submissions might focus on the renewal of one specific aspect/relationship or simply the idea of renewal more generally. Artists will be encouraged to share briefly about their submission in Sunday worship.
- **Prompts:** *What does renewal look like? What grows from things that have died? What kinds of old things do you enjoy restoring or seeing restored? What does renewal sound like? What words or notes together put you in the mindset of hopeful expectation?*

From the Pastoral Team



Pastoral Care

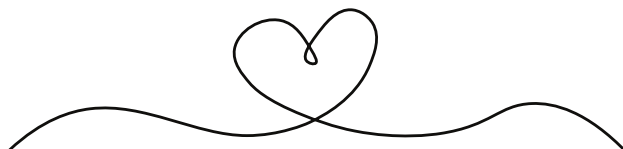
If you or a loved one would like to share with the Pastoral Team, making them aware of joys or concerns, please contact Lauren Satchwell or Lynette Miller. This is welcome anytime, but especially as Pastor Kevin is on leave through mid-May and Pastor Ron continues to recover. You can reach Lynette or Lauren through email, text, or calling, in that level of urgency. Thanks for your help in knowing how to care for our church family!

Updated Nursery Schedule



Discipling Commission (DC) is looking for volunteers to be in the infant nursery during adult Christian Education on **April 21st, May 12th, and May 19th**. 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





Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Larry and Louise Reeser
West Greeter: Judy Hershberger
Welcome Table: David Voegtlin
Ushers: Jon and Janelle Friesen
Offering Counter: Kristen Hartwig
Worship Planner & Leader: Ben Roeschley
Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller
Children's Story: Holly Zehr
Scripture Reader:
Technology: Adam Augspurgen & Ryan Miller
Song Leader: Cindy Ropp
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Elsa Raab
Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents
Infant Nursery – during CE: Miriam Kennell
Preschool Nursery: Carrie Stalter

This Week at MGN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, April 10

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, April 11

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

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

Saturday, April 13

9:00am Worship Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, April 14

3:00pm Celebration of Dorothy Loepf's Contribution to Worship Music

Tuesday, April 16

3:00m Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 17

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

8:00pm CE Sub-Committee (Zoom)



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

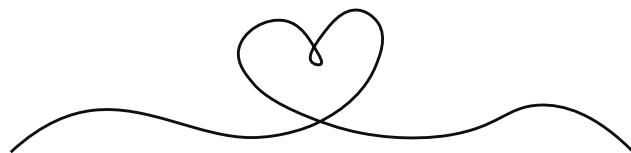


Sharing of Joys and Concerns



Prayer Requests and Announcements

Prayer requests can be shared during the Sharing Joys and Concerns portion of our Worship Service. For other announcements, please send them to Lauren Satchwell ahead of time 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.



**Love God, Love Your Neighbor, Love Yourself:
Spiritual practices that Nurture Life**

Mennonite Church USA
Climate Justice Ministry

A webinar hosted by Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, with Andrew Hudson, Sibonokuhle Ncube, Sarah Werner and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz. Interpretación al español disponible.

April 15, 2024
2 P.M. ET/11 A.M. PT
On Zoom



Organizing for Trans Migration with Pink Haven Coalition

Wednesday, April 17 (virtual) 12:30 PM Central for 90 mins

Join Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests Supportive Communities Network for a meeting with [Pink Haven Coalition](#) coordinator Heather Vickery. Heather will offer an info session on grassroots efforts to support trans individuals and families who need to relocate to safer states due to anti-lgbtq laws & violence. Regional break-out groups will follow Heather's portion, to deepen connections and organize locally. This meeting is open to any and all (especially Anabaptist folks) who wish to be a part of this vital work. **Please register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.**

Pioneering Women in Ministry: A Panel Discussion

April 23, 2024 at 6:00 PM Central Time

Join Amy Zimbelman, Conference Minister of Mountain States Mennonite Conference, for a panel discussion of pioneering women in ministry. We will hear from Dianne Garcia, who recently planted a church ministering to asylum-seekers in San Antonio, Texas, and Marilyn Miller, who is the first woman ordained to pastoral ministry in the General Conference Mennonite Church. This webinar is part of a nationwide study on the experiences of women in MC USA ministry. Habrá interpretación al español. Learn more and register [here](#).

Munther Isaac: Palestinian pastor speaks on Gaza, Christian Zionism and the future

In an extended interview, Reverend Dr Munther Isaac, the Lutheran pastor of Bethlehem, speaks about growing up under occupation, how Palestinian Christians have often been failed by the international Church, how the war in Gaza is an extension of colonialism and the world's inaction to stop what he says is a clear case of genocide and ethnic cleansing. Watch the interview [here](#).

Shared by Community Peacemaker Teams

Building Community with Neurodiverse Children

As the faith formation program at Salford Mennonite Church (Harleysville PA) returned to in-person programming a few years ago, it was clear that several very energetic, active children were participating. These children needed particular attention and structure to help nurture their participation in Sunday school. Teachers of these students began to take their classes outside and started each class with a game or a movement activity (helpful for most kids coming to Sunday school after 85+ minutes of worship!). It was also clear that the program could do more to support teachers, children, and their families in building an inclusive faith formation community. **Read more in Jenn Svetlik blog post titled “Building Community with Neurodiverse Children” published by Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

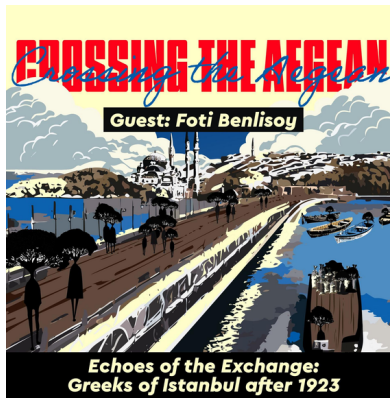
MC USA Executive Board affirms clean audit and new strategic plan

Read a recap of the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board’s recent meeting via Zoom on March 15-16, 2024, during which they affirmed a clean audit and a new strategic plan that seeks to reimagine church in new ways [here](#).

Crossing The Aegean Episode 6

The sixth episode of #CrossingtheAegean is out! In this episode, Foti Benlisoy turns our attention to the Greeks of Istanbul. Foti graduated from Istanbul University Faculty of Law and conducted his post-graduate studies in history at Boğaziçi University. He has been working with many publishing houses as a translator and editor for a long time. He is one of the founders of Istos Publishing House. [Listen here](#).

From the Community Peacemaker Team (CPT) Newsletter



Reimagining church: Following Jesus in fresh expressions

Dr. Lesley F. McClendon presented this devotional at the MC USA Executive Board meeting in March. In it, she reflects on what reimagining the church means and how we can stay true to the gospel message, while also accommodating our rapidly changing needs as a culture. Read her reflection “Reimagining church: Following Jesus in fresh expressions,” published by Mennonite Church USA, [here](#).

Open doors in Central Asia

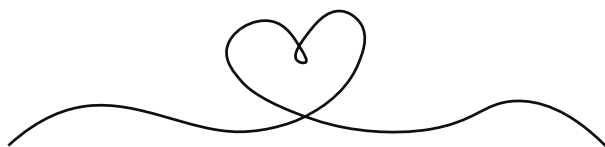
Read how a Uzbek Muslim communities welcomed Mennonite immigrants 140 years ago are showing hospitality again in **John Sharp's article for *Anabaptist World*** [here](#).

Creation Care Commuting Builds Community & Reduces Carbon

Laura Pauls-Thomas shares about the successful Bike Bus program at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church. Laura Pauls-Thomas serves as communications director of Mennonite Central Committee's East Coast region. "What if I told you that your congregation can simultaneously (1) reduce your transportation emissions and (2) build a culture of joyful climate action on Sunday mornings? At East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church (ECSMC) in downtown Lancaster, Pennsylvania, that's exactly what we're doing." **Read the rest of Laua Pauls-Thomas's blog post for Mennonite Church USA** [here](#).

Interns to save at-risk materials

The Schowalter Foundation, North Newton, Kansas, has provided \$10,000 to fund up to four semester-long internships at the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Archives [learn more [here](#)] and to help digitize fragile resources in 2024. "J.A. Schowalter wanted his legacy to continue beyond his lifetime, supporting the missional work of Mennonite churches and organizations with similar faith and values," said Schowalter Foundation President Diane Yoder. "We are pleased to support the efforts of MC USA Archives through his vision and generosity." Read more in the article published by MC USA [here](#).



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

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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Structure Documents
