

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

On this second Sunday of Easter, Jesus' disciples, then and now, struggle to comprehend what in the world just happened and what it means for us. Neither Jesus nor his kingdom could be fully understood through previously constructed frameworks. With the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, a new reality has been revealed. Goshen College (IN) President Rebecca Stoltzfus will bring a message about transformation and metanoia, based on Acts 1:1-14.

After Worship

Adult CE

Journey Groups:
Group A (20's-30's)
Sanctuary

Group B (40's-50's)
Sanctuary

Group C (60's and above)
Sanctuary

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 Next Week



This Sunday, April 7th

There will be no regular CE for adults on April 7. Instead, join guest preacher, Goshen College President Rebecca Stoltzfus, for an informal time of response to the sermon and a conversation about how Goshen College is working at faith formation of young adults in the context of Mennonite higher education.



Communion This Sunday

Sunday, April 7th

We will celebrate Communion in worship this Sunday with Jane Roeschley leading. In preparation, we are all encouraged to engage in self-examination of both our relationships with God, and with others. We also receive specially designated gifts for our Mutual Aid Fund on Communion Sundays as a means of assisting others in need through being the Body of Christ. There will be a special basket in the back of the sanctuary for those funds. If you would like to take communion at home, please contact Lynette Miller or Lauren Satchwell.

Celebration of Dorothy Loepp'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 Loepp 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



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. See 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](#).

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



Gender Neutral Restroom

As you may have noticed last Sunday, MCN now has a single use restroom that can be used by people of all genders. The previous Men's Restroom in the West Wing of the building is now a single occupancy restroom designed with a privacy lock. Thank you to Steve Stenger and Rick Satchwell for installing the occupancy indicating deadbolt on the door!

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

Upcoming Office Closures



Office Closed: Friday 4/5

The church office/building will be closed all day on Friday, April 5th. Thank you for your understanding! *From Lydia in the church office*



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!



Young Adults from MCN

Discipleship Commission would like to compile a roster of college age young adults (ages 18-22) who have been a part of our congregation. We would like this roster to include any young adult in that age range whether they are attending college or not. If you have an adult child in that age range and have their consent to be included on the roster for outreach and communication, please email Holly Zehr with their name, birthdate, email and preferred mailing address. Thank you!

From the Discipling Commission

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



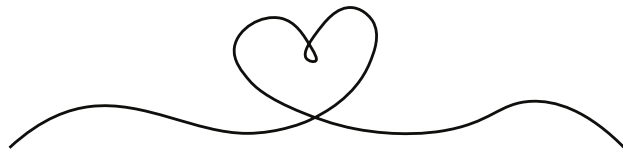
CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). The theme of this issue is Welcome and Belonging, part of CDC's year-long series on stories that were gathered from the sacred listening process. It includes articles from two congregations about welcoming refugees and becoming an inclusive congregation. We also hear from a hospice chaplain about how she creates sacred spaces of belonging for patients and their families. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table in the coming weeks.



- **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



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, April 3

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, April 4

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

10:00am Brave and Beloved Women’s Bible Study

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Friday, April 5

All Day Office/Building Closed

Sunday, April 7

11:00am Blood Pressure Checks

7:00pm Adult Choir

Tuesday, April 9

7:00m Community Life Commission (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 10

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Andy and Beth Reeser

West Greeter: Lynn Reha

Welcome Table: Bess Desch

Ushers: Mark Roeschley and David Voegtlin

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner: Cindy Ropp

Worship Leader: Darvis King

Communion Leader: Jane Roeschley

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Joe Culpepper

Scripture Reader: Jonah King

Technology:

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompaniment & Prelude: Bill West

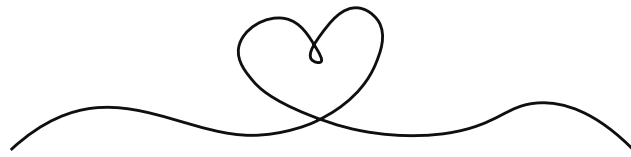
Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery – during CE: Nancy Fisher

Preschool Nursery: Shelly King

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.



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BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY
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- *Kidney care*
- *Blood pressure*
- *Diabetes*
- *Behavioral health*
- *Weight loss*
- *And more!*

Saturday, April 6, 2024

10AM - 12PM	11AM - 1PM
Wood Hill Towers	Sunnyside Park
104 E. Wood Street	407 E. Jackson Street

For questions please contact: 309-829-3360 ex. 220



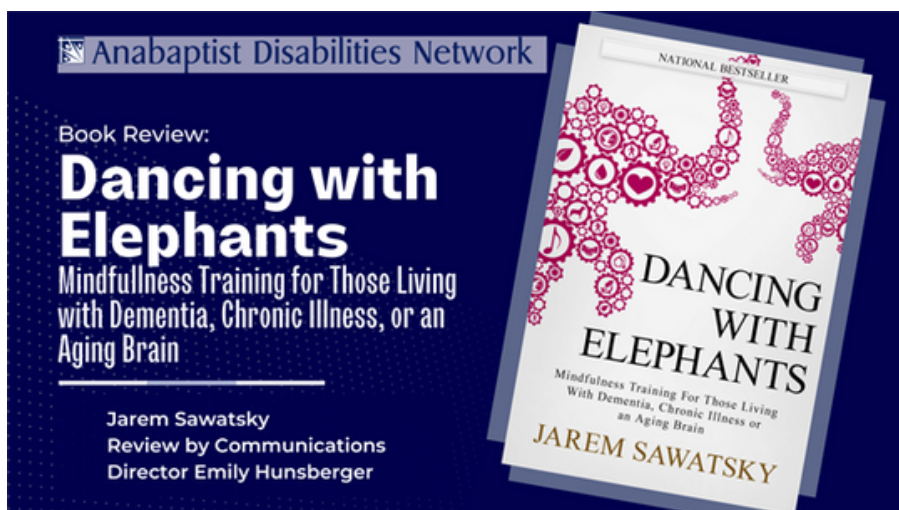
Everence ToolKit Spring 2024

Everence will no longer mail physical copies of their quarterly ToolKits. However, new copies will continue to be available online.

Download Everence's Spring 2024 edition of their ToolKit [here](#). (Also available [En Español](#).)

'Action expresses priorities'

Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) aspires to be a peacemaking agency and actively works for peace in the world. According to Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, the definition of a peacemaker is "one who makes peace by reconciling parties that are at variance." However, if we reflect on this word in biblical terms, being a peacemaker is more specifically about making peace by reconciling with God and with others. In addition, according to the Gospel of Matthew, those who are peacemakers are blessed and will be part of God's family. **Read how MMN envisions peacemaking through action in Marisa Smucker's, Executive Director for MMN, article [here](#).**



Read Emily Hunsberger's review of the book *Dancing with Elephants* by Jarem Sawatsky on Anabaptist Disabilities Network's website [here](#).

Little Deaths: Surrendering to the Life I Have

Jasmine Duckworth grapples with the idea of prayer and healing in the context of her chronic illness in her blog post published by Anabaptist Disabilities Network. **Read "Come as You Are? Thoughts on Healing" [here](#).**

Anabaptist Dictionary of the Bible Phase 1

The first phase of the Anabaptist Dictionary of the Bible (ADB) is nearing completion. This free online project at the center of biblical interpretation and Anabaptist thought is adding article 49 toward a goal to cover all 66 books in the Bible. Read more in Menno Media's press release [here](#). The ADB can be accessed [here](#).

Mennonite medical ministry changing in Taiwan even as Christ's love remains the same

What began as a movement in the mid-1950s to provide Mennonite medical care in Taiwan is growing beyond its founding cornerstone, even as the bedrock of Christ's love remains the same. Read Laurie Oswald's article for Mennonite Mission Network about the history and future of the largest Mennonite hospital in the world [here](#).

MC USA & Earth Day

Earth Day 2024 falls on Monday, April 22. Consider offering a worship service or Christian Education focus celebrating and caring for Earth on April 21, or a Sunday close to Earth Day.

- [Creation Justice Ministries](#) has created an Earth Day Sunday Resource designed to help congregations think more deeply about the ways that plastics impact our lives and God's creation: [Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World](#). Download this resource to find stories, sermon starters, worship resources, and actionable steps to address the plastic crisis.
- Dig deeper on the topic of plastics and faith with this music video created by youth at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in Kitchner, Ontario: [Hate Myself for Lovin' You - Rockway Mennonite Collegiate \(youtube.com\)](#). And invite Biblical reflection, discussion, and action with the accompanying study guide, written by Sara Wahl and Wendy Janzen: [Think about Single-Use Plastic: A Bible Study and Discussion Guide \(commonword.ca\)](#).

By Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, MC USA Climate Justice coordinator

MC USA joins 140+ global Christian leaders in call for permanent Gaza ceasefire, halt to arms sales to Israel

In a new letter released during Holy Week ahead of Easter, more than 140 Bishops and executive leaders from churches, denominations, and church-based organizations in the US and around the world call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, urge the US and other world powers to halt additional arms sales to Israel, and make clear that Israel, the US, and all countries must abide by Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The letters' signers include a U.S. Catholic Bishop, a Catholic Cardinal, the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church, an Anglican Dean, and many other notable figures from a wide range of churches, including Catholic, Lutheran, Mennonite, Quaker, and Evangelical leaders. Several Mennonites signed the letter including leaders from Mennonite World Conference, MC USA, MennoPIN, Mennonite Central Committee and Friends of Sabeel North America. Read more in the press release from Mennonite Church USA [here](#).

Spring Resources & Events from BMC

Unmasking Christian Zionism for Queer, Palestinian & Jewish Liberation

How, in this devastating time, can we embody the truth that our liberation is intertwined? What is our role as LGBTQIA+ and allied Anabaptists? Annabeth shares a reflection with resources for learning, healing, and action [here](#).

Love is a Light through a Dim Glass: Queer Theology Sunday School

April 14th at 3:30 PM Pacific / 5:30 PM Central (virtual) at Community of Hope Mennonite Church with Madison McClendon, MDiv. More info [here](#) and Zoom registration [here](#).

Spring Open & Affirming Webinars

Our colleagues at the O&A Coalition (United Church of Christ) have an excellent spring and summer webinar line up. Topics include the “clobber texts;” unpacking genders, sexualities, and attraction; and ethical nonmonogamy. Check it out [here](#)!

Trans Day of Visibility March 31 aka Easter

We celebrate the resurrection and the life...how are we making this so for trans kin? How are you queering your Easter? Trans Justice is Racial Justice toolkit [[here](#)] offers intersectional resources for liturgy and activism for TDoV / Easter.

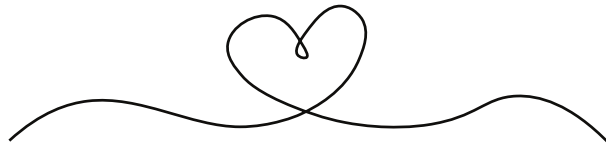
Trans Solidarity Training

Move from being an ally to joining in active solidarity with trans people in your life. Thanks to Shalom Mennonite Fellowship for hosting this training with Kristen Godfrey (they/them), Director of University of Arizona LGBTQ+ Affairs. It's audio-only but packed with helpful 101 refreshers and a robust, intersectional analysis for doing trans solidarity work. Listen to the recording [here](#) (title “Kristen second hour 3/10/24”).

Gay & Quaker: The Shaping of Activist Bayard Rustin

Thursday, April 4 at 5:00 PM Pacific / 7:00 PM Central (virtual) with LGBTQ Religious Archives Network. Details and registration [here](#).

*From the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests
Spring Newsletter*



Commissions and Teams Contact List

Commission Meeting Minutes

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open:

Standard Hours:

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

Upcoming Changes:

Closed: Friday 4/5

Lydia Hedberg:

Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org; 309-452-6622

Rita Munkakusi:

Custodian

Kevin Chupp:

Pastor Kevin will be on parental leave until May 6th. You can reach him by phone if you have an emergency, and he will respond to emails as he is able.

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 Commissions

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Structure Documents
