

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *White-Tailed Squirrel* using John 5:30-46.

In John 5, Jesus argues that reading scripture with the wrong goal (specifically, not looking for him) is unsatisfying and lifeless. What do we bring with us when we read the Bible? How might scripture breathe new life into our relationship with God?

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

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



MCN Call for Submissions

- **Theme:** "Behold! I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:5)
- **Deadline:** Pastor Kevin is now accepting submissions through September 1st!
- **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:

Renewing our relationship with God (May 26 – June 9)

- How do we meet God in the Bible and in tradition? What experiences bring new life to our relationship with God?

Renewing our relationship with others (June 16 – July 7)

- When have your relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and enemies been re-imagined?

Renewing our relationship with self (July 14 – Aug 4)

- What experiences of grace, courage, or hope have restored your sense of confidence in your own identity?

Renewing our relationships with all of creation (Aug 11 – Sep 5)

- What deepens your sense of interconnection with creation? How do you grow in your sense of place and rootedness?

- You can see more detail about this series [here](#). To aid us in worship and reflection, we are hoping for artistic works by you 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 (or during CE, for more lengthy presentations).
- **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



Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, June 15th

On Saturday, June 15th we will be partnering with the people of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, just a few doors down (1628 W Hovey Ave), who are hosting a blood drive from 8am-12pm. You can [sign up here](#). They will also partner with us when we host a blood drive at MCN on **October 26th**. Mark your calendars and roll up your sleeves!

From the Outreach Commission



End of Life Preparation

Coming Soon! Opportunity for "end of life preparation"! Stay tuned.

*From the Congregational Care Committee
Part of the Congregational Life Commission*

Baptism Prep Info Meeting



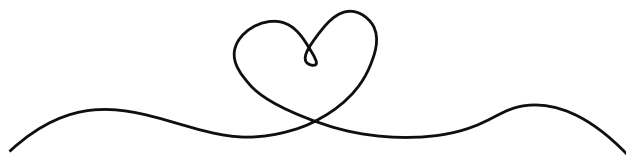
All youth who are interested in baptism are invited to join Pastor Kevin, along with their parents, for an informational meeting outlining our plans for preparation. We will also look at our calendars together to come up with a schedule for those gatherings that works for everyone involved. If you or your child are interested, please fill out **this doodle poll**, to help us set a time for this initial meeting. If none of those times work for you, or you are an adult interested in baptism, please reach out to Pastor Kevin. Thanks!

From the Pastoral Team



CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read **here**. It is packed with information about the upcoming annual meeting (June 20-22), including stories from two congregations seeking to join the conference - Peace Mennonite Fellowship and Knoxville Mennonite Church. It also features this year's AMBS graduates who are affiliated with CDC! If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table in the coming weeks.



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, May 22

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, May 23

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

9:30am Brave and Beloved Women's Bible Study

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Monday, May 27

All Day Office/Building Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

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.



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Caleb and Jessica Hall

West Greeter: Lotus Hershberger

Welcome Table: Marge Weaver

Ushers: John and Kay Reimer

Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger

Worship Planner & Leader: Janet Wilson

Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp

Children's Story:

Scripture Reader: Liz Augspurger

Technology: Adam Augspurger

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment & Prelude: Elsa Raab

Response in Music: Denise Hedberg & Glenn Wilson

Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery – during CE: Annette Harnish

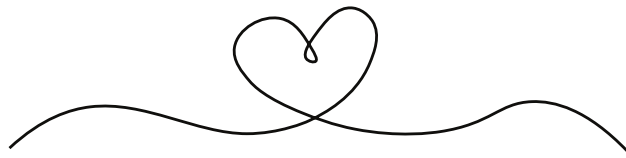
Preschool Nursery: Holly Zehr



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





**COLLECTIVE HONESTY
and COMPLICATED HOPE**
AN EVENING WITH KATHARINE HAYHOE

Wednesday, May 22
7.00 - 8.30pm (Eastern) • Online

 **THE BTS
CENTER**

 **ONE HOME
ONE FUTURE**

Wednesday, May 22 at 6 p.m. Central Time

Don't miss a special online event, "Collective Honesty and Complicated Hope: An Evening with Katharine Hayhoe, Climate Scientist," on Wednesday, May 22 at 6 p.m. Central Time. Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, author of "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Call for Hope and Healing in a Divided World" and a leading voice in connecting the data of climate change with faithful and meaningful responses, will lead a panel discussion on how we face with honesty what is happening, how we hold faith and climate science in conversation with one another, and how we embody complicated hope as we respond to the intersecting crises of our day. This event is sponsored by [One Home One Future](#) (an interfaith organization in which Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) is a partner) and [The BTS Center](#). There is a \$15 registration fee (scholarships are available). **Register [here](#).**

Shared by Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, MC USA Climate Justice Coordinator

Sojourner in Christ

In February, Chialis Thuan Santoso attended MC USA's [Hope for the Future 2024](#) conference. In this blog, she reflects on what she learned and how it applies to her life as a sojourner in Christ. **Read her blog post for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Guided by wonder:

A reflection on the stewardship of creation

Chris Meyer reflects on his passion for creation care, on behalf of Everence and his own family, reminding us how much we all have invested in caring for creation — and how rarely we stop to bask in its glory. This article was first published in Green Money Journal in February 2024. Republished with permission. This blog is part of the ongoing [Learn, Pray, Join: Climate Justice: Seeking Shalom series](#). Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA)'s Climate Justice Ministry is sponsored by Everence. **Read the article shared by MC USA [here](#).**

MC USA Constituency Leaders Council finds hope in facing fears, sharing stories

The MC USA Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) reflected on the question, “What does it mean to do church together?” at its biannual meeting at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, on March 21-23, 2024. Moderator-elect Marty Lehman presided over the meeting, which introduced leaders to MC USA’s new strategic plan, invited them to participate in reinvention exercises, and offered inspiration through storytelling. Fifty-eight leaders, representing area conferences, racial/ethnic groups, constituency groups and MC USA Administration, attended the meeting. Read about their Strategic Plan, Reinvention Lab, Storytelling, and more [here](#).

Camp can be life-changing

Jenna Liechty Martin identifies what makes camp such a special place for faith formation. Jenna Liechty Martin lives and works at Camp Friedenswald, in Cassopolis, Michigan, where she has served as the executive director for ten years. She is a member of Eighth Street Mennonite Church, in Goshen, Indiana This post is part of Mennonite Church USA’s [Follow Jesus series](#), which highlights how individuals, congregations, conferences and organizations are living into discipleship today. **Read the blog post published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Tell Congress: End the Nakba, End the Genocide!

Tell Congress: End the Nakba, End the Genocide!

The injustices Palestinians face today began over 76 years ago. From day one of this assault, Israel has been very clear about its genocidal intentions to kill as many Palestinians as possible and remove them from Gaza to steal Palestinian land. **Read more and send a message to congress [here](#).**

From the Community Peacemaker Team’s weekly newsletter.

Gospel of all creatures

Amid the climate crisis, Douglas Day Kaufman finds wild, grounded hope in the gospel of all creatures — in the tiny Caddisfly larva and in the body of Christ. This blog is part of the ongoing Mennonite Church USA [Learn, Pray, Join: Climate Justice: Seeking Shalom](#) series. Douglas Day Kaufman is the executive director of Anabaptist Climate Collaborative, which puts the gospel of all creatures into practice through student and congregational programs. He was pastor of his home congregation, Benton Mennonite Church, in Goshen, Indiana, for 23 years. **Read the blog post published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

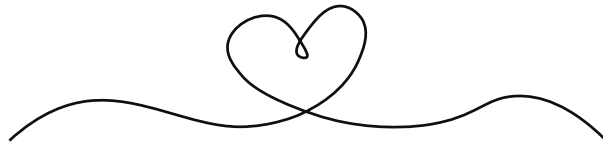
Subversive threads

"The quilters didn't intend to challenge the status quo. Or did they?" Read Amanda K Gross's article for *Anabaptist World* on her experience growing up in a Mennonite church [here](#).



Palestinians put a lot of thought into what they wear. Unfortunately, it's not in preparation for a fashion show or to put together an outfit for a TikTok trend before heading to pray at the mosque. Instead, it's about understanding what Palestinians must consider when preparing for prayer at the mosque, especially when they are passing through a militarized Israeli occupation checkpoint. **Keep reading [here](#).**

From the Community Peacemaker Team's weekly newsletter.



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open:

Standard Hours:

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

Upcoming Changes:

Closed: All Day Monday, May 27

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 Commissions

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!

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commission Meeting Minutes

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Structure Documents
