

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Accidentally Oakland* using 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

As Paul addresses the misuse of the Lord's supper, we get better insight into its function in the early church. To Paul, communion is never a private matter, and any effort to imagine it otherwise is dangerous. What might it mean for us to "examine ourselves" as Paul suggests, as we approach our inherited traditions? What are traditions for?

## After Worship

**Adult CE**  
**All Adults**  
Room 5/7/8

## 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

# Communion This Sunday



**This Sunday, June 2nd**

We will celebrate Communion in worship this Sunday with Kevin Chupp 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 Kevin Chupp.



## 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*

## Great Hymnal Rack Project – Finishing



**Saturday, June 8 beginning 9:00 am**

Please come join us on the next step of creating our new MCN hymnal racks. We invite volunteers to help sand, edge, finish and move the wooden pieces at Eric and Chellie Miller's barn on Saturday, June 8, from 9:00 am into the early afternoon. Adults and children can work together on this project; supplies and lunch will be provided. Feel free to help as little or as long as you like. **More information and a sign-up sheet are located at the display in the back of the sanctuary.** Any questions, contact Steve Stenger or Rick Harnish. Hope to see you there!



## Moving Help

The Chupps have officially purchased their new home and are beginning to move some things over from their Unit at the Mennonite Residential Community (MRC). They will plan to use a rental truck (unless otherwise convinced) and invite anyone interested in helping move a handful of bigger pieces of furniture and boxes. Helpers will be entitled to treats! Please contact Kevin if you have any questions or ideas. Thanks!



## Youth Baptism Prep Class

All of our youth preparing for baptism will be meeting together with Pastor Kevin on **July 7th 11am-1pm, July 10th 4-6pm, and July 24th 4-5pm**. This group is still open for those wanting to join! Just contact pastor Kevin if you are interested.

*From the Pastoral Team*



# 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?

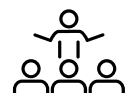
## **Renewing our relationships with all of creation** (Aug 11 – Sep 5)

- 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*

## Adult Christian Education This Summer!



Discipling Commission and Pastor Kevin have planned a class for all adults this summer entitled, "All Things New." (If that title sounds familiar to you, you may have heard Kevin introducing the sermon series of the same name last Sunday.) The broad areas of conversation will be "Renewing Our Relationship with God", "Renewing Our Relationship with Others", "Renewing Our Relationship with Our Self", and "Renewing Our Relationship with Creation".

The Christian Ed sessions will offer opportunities to think more about the themes introduced in the sermons each Sunday. Kevin will provide guiding questions for us but we will also draw on two books published recently by Herald Press, [Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story](#), by Meghan Good, and [Rooted Faith: Practices for Living Well On a Fragile Planet](#), by Sarah Werner. This will not be a "book study", but if you would like to explore these excellent resources on your own, you may follow the links above to purchase them.

The facilitators for the class will be Adam Augspurger, Sheila Kuria, Lynn Reha, and Barry Weaver. Please join us for our first session this Sunday!

*From the Discipling Commission*



## Adult CE Books from 2023-24

If you enjoyed any of the books that were used during the 2023-2024 adult CE year and you would like to have one for your own usage, you are welcome to have your own copy at the discounted rate of \$5.00 per book, payable to the church office. Copies used during the last year are located on the desk in the conference room.

*From the Discipling Commission*

## End of Life Preparation



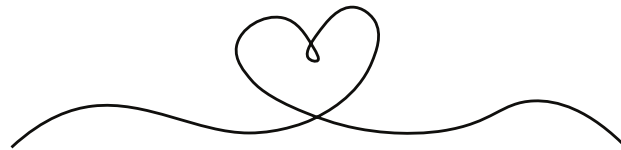
Begin or update your "end of life preparation" and advanced care planning. It's never too soon. Information will be shared in the Sunday Worship Service. View the updated Advance Care Planning manual [here](#).

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



## 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 are now available on the Library Table.**



## This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

**Friday, May 31**

**Morning** Office Closed

**Monday, June 3**

**5:00pm** Outreach Commission

**Tuesday, June 4**

**3:00pm** Pastoral Team (Zoom)



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

# Prayer Requests and Announcements

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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

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## Those Serving This Week

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**South Greeters:** David and Gabriella Harnish family

**West Greeter:** Judy Hershberger

**Welcome Table:** Marcia Rossi

**Ushers:** Cal and Vivian Hubbard

**Offering Counter:** Lotus Hershberger

**Worship Planner:** Kevin Chupp

**Worship Leader:** Lauren Satchwell

**Communion Leader:** Kevin Chupp

**Sharing Prayer Leader:** Lauren Satchwell

**Children's Story:** Louise Reeser

**Scripture Reader:**

**Technology:** Adam Augspurgen & Ryan Miller

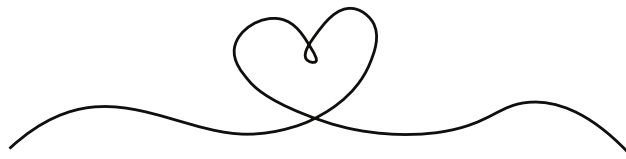
**Song Leader:** Barry Weaver

**Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music:** Denise Hedberg

**Infant Nursery – during worship:** Open for parents

**Infant Nursery – during CE:**

**Preschool Nursery:**



## MC USA files new amicus brief in support of Apache-Stronghold

The Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Executive Board and MC USA's Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference filed an [amicus brief](#) on April 25, 2024, in support of [Apache-Stronghold](#)'s petition for a new full-court hearing on the potential destruction of Oak Flat, a sacred Indigenous site in Arizona. Nineteen additional churches and organizations also signed on as amici curiae, or friends of the court, including Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Men and numerous MC USA-affiliated congregations. **Read the rest of the Mennonite Church USA news release [here](#).**  
*Photo by Edmundo Mendez Jr. for Upsplash*



## Finding fresh hope at PSMC conference

The "Birthing and Cultivating Communities of Faith and Peace" event was held April 18-20 at Upland Peace Church in Upland, California. *Photo courtesy of Stanley Green.* **Read the Mennonite Mission Network article by Jane Morrow about it [here](#).**

"In a world often fraught with division and discord, the quest for peace and faith can feel like an uphill battle. Against this backdrop, the 'Birthing and Cultivating Communities of Faith and Peace' event — recently hosted by Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference (PSMC) — shone as a beacon of hope, drawing participants from across the United States and Mexico to the serene setting of Upland Peace Church in Upland, California."



## Climate Justice Action: PRAYER

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Many people of faith who are concerned for Earth's climate wonder, what can we do? For a tree to bear fruit, it must develop a healthy root system. Prayer is like developing the roots of the tree of justice, enabling us to bear nourishing, delicious fruit. Consider using one of the following prayer resources personally or with others as you seek climate justice this summer:

- Pray with the [Anabaptist Prayer Book Volume II: Take Our Moments and Our Days](#) for Advent through Pentecost. The evening prayers of intercession for the season of Pentecost remind us of the Holy Spirit's attentiveness and action as we groan with the whole creation. (Available in print through MennoMedia or as a free downloadable app.)
- Pray outside, listening to the voice of creation and joining our creaturely kin in praise, lament and intercession. MennoMedia's Summer 2024 edition of [Leader Magazine](#) includes Wild Church worship resources for worship and prayer outdoors this summer. View a recording of the Wild Church Webinar with Leader Magazine unpacking those resources [here](#).

*By Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Mennonite Church USA Climate Justice Coordinator*

## Rituals of death and remembrance

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"Recently my wife and I attended the funeral of her Old Order Amish cousin who died on Easter Sunday at the age of 82. Funerals and other rituals around death embody a community's deepest values, beliefs and ideals. Christians affirm that death is only a passage to eternal life with God and the saints. Yet our mortality is shrouded with a cloud of unknowing. In that space of unknowing, funeral rituals help the living make sense of this most elemental disruption and to put our own lives into perspective. The Amish funeral we attended was clearly a community event. The gathering, which lasted nearly three hours, included four sermons, each preached in German without amplification or notes. Like other Mennonite churches in North America today, rituals around death are slowly changing in my congregation in northern Indiana. Since many of us are transplants to the community, we are not likely to be buried in the family plots of our grandparents or the cemeteries of the churches that baptized us. We like the idea of being remembered among the cloud of witnesses associated with our church family, but zoning restrictions make it nearly impossible for us to create our own cemetery. We also have growing questions about land stewardship, the rising costs of funerals and the environmental impact of embalming." **Read more in John D. Roth's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Spring and a garden of new creation

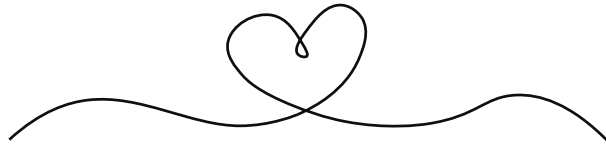
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Janet Szabo shares how, after a period of declining attendance, Mountain View Mennonite Church is experiencing a spring new life, through active church participation from adults and children alike. This post is part of Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA's) [Follow Jesus](#) series, which highlights how individuals and congregations are living into discipleship today. **Read the article shared by MC USA [here](#).**

## What do you wear on your head?

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*Paul challenged men to respect women of all races and classes as equals. "In the 1960s, when I was finishing college at Eastern Mennonite, followed by working at Eastern Mennonite High School, all Mennonite women there wore a covering over their pinned-up long hair. Though I sometimes chafed under dress regulations, the covering was the unarguable standard. Didn't Paul make that clear in 1 Corinthians 11:5-16? In fact, Paul used Greco-Roman customs and applied them in radical and shocking ways to challenge men to respect women of all races and classes as equal citizens of the church of Jesus Christ. In our very different cultures today, how are we as Anabaptists called to apply the same principles of respect and equality for both genders and all socioeconomic classes?"* **Read more in Reta Halteman Finger's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



## Our Members in Care Facilities

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



## Items for the Midweek



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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

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# Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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Building Open:

**Standard Hours:**

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

**Upcoming Changes:**

**Closed:** Morning of Friday, May 31

Lydia Hedberg:

Office Administrator; [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

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## Item Check-Out Request Form

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## Commission Meeting Minutes

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## Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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## Structure Documents

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