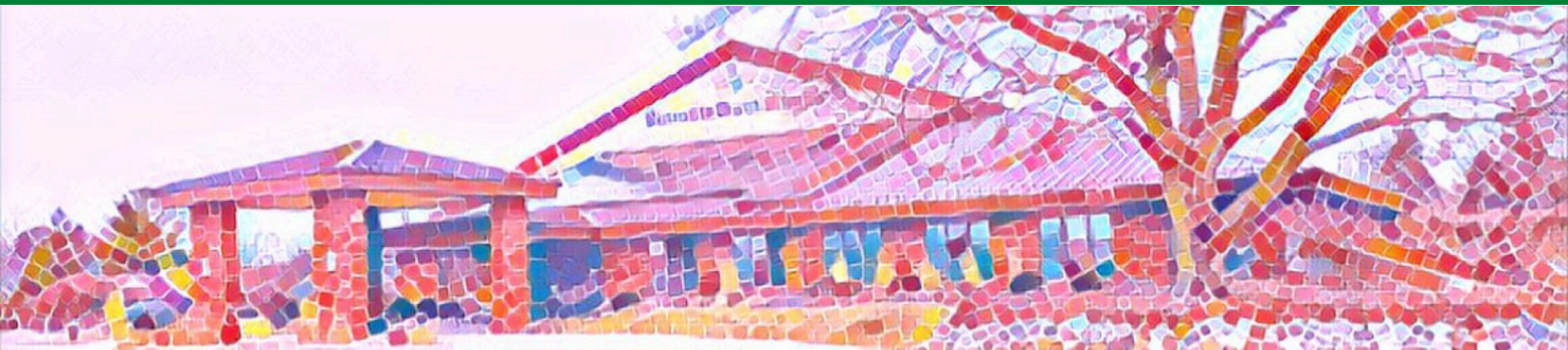


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled Embouchure Collapse using 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57 .

As Paul responds to those among the Corinthians who doubt the resurrection, we hear his profound account of Jesus' victory over death. But how do we, for whom death is still a harsh and painful reality, handle Paul's triumphant tone? How can we faithfully cultivate lives of hope in the midst of suffering?

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



Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

May 9 from 6-8pm

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is May 9 from 6-8pm. MFB wants us to sign up at least a week ahead of time to facilitate their project planning, so if you think you might go, **please sign up as early as possible using [this link](#)**. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

From the Outreach Commission

Friday, May 10 from

Join us May 10th for a Family Fun Night Centered around the ways we are rooted and grounded in God's Love. Avanti's gondolas and yummy sides will be served for supper. Activities and crafts will feature dirt, plants, and gardening. Please sign up using Sign-Up Genius here.

From the Discipling Commission

Please share your thoughts and hopes for MCN!

The Vision Team wants to hear what makes you excited about the Mennonite Church of Normal. If you did not already have a chance to fill out the short paper survey in church on Sunday, 5/5, we would appreciate it if you took a moment to complete the following sentences. Thank you for sharing your thoughts! Click [here](#) to fill out the survey.

Sincerely,
Shelly, Ben, Shannon, Erin, and Pastor Lauren

From the Vision Team

Student Support Toolkit from Mennonite Action

Attached is a link for a Student Support Toolkit, from Mennonite Action, for practical ways in which we can support those students who are protesting the war in Israel and Gaza, calling for a ceasefire. Click [here](#).

Shared by Wayne Hochstetler

Visiting ISU Student Protesters

To support the ISU student protest Jaylen and I went to visit the group on Tuesday afternoon. There were about 8 students. Some were diligently studying or writing final papers. We informed them that we were from the Mennonite church and that peace and justice are important tenets of our faith. We expressed our support for their protest. They thanked us multiple times for coming by. They've endured quite a bit of negative feedback. They were encouraged to know that they had our support. (Photo of Jaylen at the protest below.)

From Elsa Raab -- Outreach Commission



Vision Team Meeting Recap

Vision Team would like to share a few items from its April 22 meeting:

- We discussed feedback and questions received from the survey we conducted on MCN's conference affiliation. Vision Team is having several follow up conversations with individuals based on the feedback received.
- We discussed ongoing 2024 visioning activities and plans for a May 5 exercise during worship service that solicited thoughts from the congregation. Vision Team will use this information as it makes periodic updates to the Vision Statement Goals and Objectives.
- Vision Team conducted individual check ins with Commission chairs in March and is having a joint meeting with Commission chairs on May 20.
- We received reports about the ministries of the other Teams and Commissions, identifying ways that we can support them.

From the Vision Team



Flowers

Some plants were donated by the parent of a student of local piano teacher who regularly rents the church for her student recitals. The plants were gratefully received. Thank you to Marcia Rossi and David Voegtlin for planting them in the front of the building.

From the Administration Commission



Update from PTSC

What's happening on the pastoral team search committee? Nothing! We have not received any resumes to review.

Annabeth Roeschley, Executive Director, will post the openings in the next edition of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC) newsletter. You, too, can help get the word out. Please feel free to share the announcement below.

The Mennonite Church of Normal, a welcoming church, is looking for two Pastoral Team members, both positions are .25 FTE, to serve on a Team with the current full-time pastor. A Team member needs to possess a special gift for ministry in at least two of the following: outreach, worship, discipling, pastoral care, or administration. Responsibilities are divided among the Team members.

From the Pastoral Team Search Committee



Greetings from MCC

Greetings from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC),

At Mennonite Central Committee we are so grateful for the many ways you support the work of MCC and our partners around the world. Whether it's through gathering one of our kits, volunteering at events and thrift shops, collecting My Coins Count, or offering prayers for this work and the people who are touched, we appreciate your partnership in this important ministry. In particular, thank you to our friends and supporters at Mennonite Church of Normal for your generous donation of \$9448.31 during 2023.

Your contributions continue to allow partners in [Honduras](#) to have good harvests. Because of you, [peace](#) is being built in Colombia. Around the world, your support allows [relief, development and peace](#) to happen. Because of your prayers and faithful gifts of support, MCC is able to work with 393 partners on 508 projects in 45 countries around the world. Thank you for sharing love and compassion in the name of Christ to vulnerable people through MCC.

Visit our MCC YouTube channel (youtube.com/mccorg) for videos showing examples of the program and projects you support. **[Read a Spanish version of the note [here.](#)]**

*From Mennonite Central Committee
Shared by Outreach Commission*

Office/Building Closed Friday Morning

The church office and building will be closed this Friday 5/10 in the morning. It will be open again from 1:30pm-3pm that afternoon. Thank you for your understanding!

From Lydia in the church office

Delegates Needed



Central District Conference (CDC) Annual Meeting will be held June 20-22 at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana. We will need at least 2 delegates to represent our congregation. Please notify Mary Dyck of your interest.



MCC School Kit Sewers Needed

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) school kit sewers are needed. If you would like to help sew school kit bags please notify Deanna. In July supplies to fill the bags will be requested from the congregation. Directions on how to sew the bags can be found on the MCC website [here](#). For those who have made the bags in the past, MCC has changed the size of the bags when first cutting out to 13 1/2 by 38 inches. Thanks to all who are willing to help.

From Deanna

Sharing Our Gifts



The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to the church office at church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

MCN Call for Submissions



- **Theme:** "Behold! I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:5)
- **Deadline:** **Now accepting submissions! Please send them 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?*

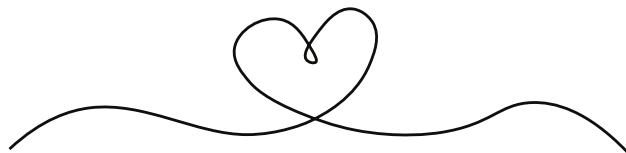
From the Pastoral Team

Updated Nursery Schedule



Discipling Commission (DC) is looking for volunteers to be in the infant nursery during adult Christian Education on **May 12th**. 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: Roger and Linda Clemmons

West Greeter: Marcia Rossi

Welcome Table: Lynn Reha

Ushers: Adam Augspurger and Caleb Hall

Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger

Worship Planner & Leader: Steve Benner

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Kevin Chupp

Scripture Reader: Tshitshi Tshiseleka

Technology: Caleb Augspurger & Jaron Zehr

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment: Denise Hedberg

Prelude: Charlotte Hedberg & Denise Hedberg

Response in Music: Lydia Hedberg

Infant Nursery – during worship: Open for parents

Infant Nursery – during CE:

Preschool Nursery: David Harnish



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



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.



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, May 8

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group

7:00pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

7:00pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, May 9

7:00am Next Man Bible Study

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

6:00pm Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

7:00pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Friday, May 10

Morning Office/Building Closed

Family Fun Night [[Sign up here!](#)]

Tuesday, May 14

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 15

9:30am Wednesday Morning Book Group



Faith, Food, Soil and Climate

Mennonite Church USA
Climate Justice Ministry

A webinar hosted by Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, with Elana Gingerich, Heather Wolfe, Levi Geyer, Yujin Kim and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz. Interpretación al español disponible.

May 13, 2024

2 P.M. ET/11 A.M. PT

On Zoom

**Tuesday, May 14 at 2 pm Central Time**

Forest Church and Wild Church are synonymous names for Christian groups who are taking worship outside of the building to intentionally reconnect their faith with creation. Join MennoMedia for a free, one-hour webinar unpacking the summer 2024 worship resources in "Leader" magazine about Forest Church and Wild Church expressions of worship. You are invited to pay attention and worship with an expectation that God is present and active in the world around us, and that creation itself has something to offer us in expanding our understanding of God. Each registrant receives a free copy of the summer "Leader" magazine worship resources! **Click [here](#) to register.**

Listen! Wisdom is Calling

Listen! Wisdom is Calling, the theme guiding Central District Conference (CDC) work, offers many possibilities for personal and corporate reflection. You are invited to take some time with the theme through a series of quarterly Zoom retreats led by Central District Conference members who are gifted spiritual directors. The first of those retreats is outlined below. Watch for information about coming retreats in August, November and early 2025.

Join CDC **Saturday, May 18th at 8-11 am Central Time**, for an online retreat, "Wisdom: Who/What is Calling?" Amidst community, spiritual practices and individual time, you will consider who or what comes to mind when "Wisdom" is named and explore how that image shapes our experience of "Wisdom" when encountered in biblical texts, worship, study or conversation. Karla Minter, spiritual director and pastor/doula at Open Table Mennonite Fellowship will be your guide for the morning.

Preorder the Anabaptist Community Bible Now!

Celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism with the Anabaptist Community Bible. This study Bible features commentary from 60 Anabaptist scholars, biblical insights from 16th-century Anabaptists, and marginal notes from nearly 600 study groups from Anabaptists around the globe. The Anabaptist Community Bible uses the Common English Bible (CEB) translation. **Learn more about the three binding options, get discounted presale pricing, and see a sneak preview [here](#).**



Mental Health Awareness

Saturday, May 18 from 3 - 4:30 pm Central Time

Mennonite Women invites you into a meaningful conversation about showing up for friends with mental health challenges. Open and understanding dialogues about mental health in our circles of ministry and friendship are an important way to make sure we're including everyone. On Saturday, May 18 from 3 - 4:30 pm Central Time, gather for a Coffee and Conversation on mental health awareness. **Learn more and register [here](#).**



MC USA launches two podcasts



Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) is launching two new podcasts, aimed at encouraging and equipping today's pastors and congregational leaders.

- "Lead/Follow" (mennoniteusa.org/leadfollow) is a video podcast for pastors and congregational leaders, hosted by Guyton. During a relaxed, half-hour conversation, he talks with folks across the denomination, digging deep to uncover insights, inspiration and strategies to equip those who are leading others to follow Jesus. The "Lead/Follow" podcast is best viewed on MC USA's [YouTube channel](#). Watch the first episode [here](#).
- "The Competent Pastor," is an audio podcast of MC USA's Church Vitality department, hosted by Michael Danner, associate executive director for Church Vitality, and Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for Ministerial Leadership, specifically for pastors. Each episode will feature an in-depth conversation with an experienced MC USA credentialed leader that begins with a single question, "What is the most important skill of a competent pastor?" The episodes will be released monthly, beginning this spring. "The Competent Pastor" will be available soon on Apple and Spotify.

Finding my cultural heritage

"I was invited to write this blog post to highlight Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and how my cultural heritage informs my faith as a Mennonite. It feels ironic in a sharp way, because I was adopted from China and raised in Texas, separated from my own cultural heritage, language, land, ancestors and people. Even as I try to relate my faith to my heritage, all I can think about is how I don't relate to my 'own' cultural heritage and how I've had to find a way back to myself that includes my 'Chinese-ness.'"

Hannah Koester shares how her Mennonite faith has helped her feel safe to explore what it means to be Chinese. This blog post is in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, which runs through the month of May. **Read the rest of her blog post shared by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

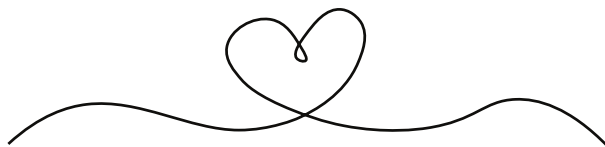
Fully Locked: The Upcoming Turkish Military Operation in Spring 2024 Deep Within Iraqi Kurdistan

When the EU-Turkey Statement was issued in 2016, it was roundly denounced by human rights groups for its complete disregard to protect the rights of refugees. While the so-called “deal” itself was no more than a non-binding press release, it set the course for the implementation of increasingly draconian and violent border policies, which eight years later have become normalized throughout Europe. **Read the rest of the article written by CPTIK for Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) [here](#).**

From Community Peacemaker Teams Newsletter

Cries for better stewardship of creation

Pastor Suzette Shreffler, White River Cheyenne Mennonite Church, Busby, Montana, and Pastor Sandy Drescher-Lehman, Wild Church gatherer, share a prayer and a blessing, respectively, crying out for better stewardship of God’s creation. These resources are part of MC USA’s Learn, Pray, Join initiative, Climate Justice: Seeking Shalom series. **Read them [here](#).**



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