

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Steve Benner will preach a sermon titled *Authentic Welcome, Authentic Faith* using James 1:19–2:17.

A lot of blood (and ink) has been spilled over the meaning of the phrase "Faith without works is dead." Once the battlecry of the Counter-Reformation, it remains relevant to this day. When someone new comes through our doors at MCN, what are the criteria that ultimately lead to their staying? Authentic faith, authentic welcome, and authentic action.

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

All Adults

Room 5/7/8

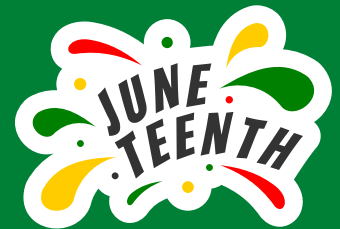
Children & Youth CE

Pre-K–K Grade

2nd–4th Grade

5th–8th Grade

High School



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Park Fun & Coffee Run



(new date) June 22nd from 9:30-11:00 AM

The Community Life Commission invites you to catch up with MCNers at rotating coffee shops and parks this summer. On Saturday, June 22nd, all women/moms are invited to meet at Panera on South Veterans, while dads/men will meet the park with the kids. The following month, in July, the roles will switch: dads/men will meet for coffee, and moms/women will gather at the park with the kids. This gathering is to foster socialization with built-in childcare. It is also meant to be flexible and inclusive, so feel free to make adaptations that suit you. Persons of all ages, whether parents or not, are welcome. If you are in need of someone to monitor your child at the park or have any questions, please contact Leah.

From the Community Life Commission

Great Hymnal Rack Project - Finishing



June 20, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm

We've rescheduled our hymnal rack event. Please come join us for 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's barn on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, June 19 and 20, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Adults and children can work together on this project; supplies and dinner 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!

Partners in Pride: Central District Conference

This weekend, a couple MCNers (Kevin Chupp & Lauren Satchwell) will be in Goshen, IN for our Central District Conference (CDC) annual meeting. Last year at this meeting, as part of an effort to respond to the denomination's adoption of the "[Repentance and Transformation](#)" resolution, the CDC ministerial committee reinstated the ministry status of Keith Schrag, whose credentials were revoked in 1987 because he was gay. You can read more [here](#). Out of those same efforts, CDC provided funding for the Queer Mennonite Visioning (QMV) retreat at the conference's camp, Camp Friedenswald. You can read more about that event [here](#).

From the Outreach 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 Social Justice, part of CDC's year-long series on stories that were gathered from the sacred listening process. It includes an article on counter-recruiting initiatives for high schoolers, the history of La Posada, Camp Friedenswald's composting program, and a reflection about growing up in Gaza. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table in the coming weeks.

Pastoral Team Search Committee Update

Last week the seven members of the search committee interviewed a candidate for the .25 pastoral team position. We have now spoken with each of the candidate's references and are sending our recommendation in favor of this candidate to the Vision Team. If the Vision Team agrees with our recommendation, then the process that follows will be much like what we did when Kevin was hired. The candidate preaches a sermon on a given Sunday. That same Sunday the congregation votes. That's it in a nutshell. Naturally there are many more details, but we have tried to answer your big questions other than your biggest one, who is this candidate? Stay curious and stay tuned!

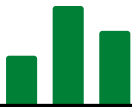
Shared by the Pastoral Team Search Committee

Vision Team Update



- Vision Team affirmed Ron Ropp's many gifts and service to our congregation over many years and recognized how much he will be missed on the Pastoral Team. We discussed how we can best support Pastoral Team at this time as they make decisions to adjust to this change.
- We received updates on the work of Teams and Commissions and discussed how we can support them in their ministries.
- We debriefed and planned follow up from the May 20 Commission Chair Check In.
- We worked on details for the upcoming annual Pastoral Team evaluations.

Shared by the Vision Team



Spending Plan Update

Joe's Bike Trip





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 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)

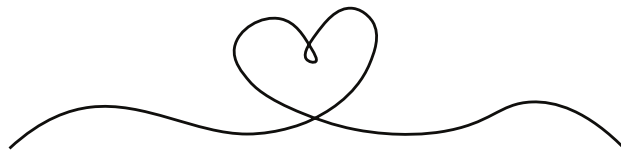
- What experiences of grace, courage, or hope have restored your sense of confidence in your own identity?

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



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.



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Brandon family

West Greeter: Nancy Fisher

Welcome Table: Lotus Hershberger

Ushers: Andy and Beth Reeser

Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger

Worship Planner: Steve Benner

Worship Leader: Gail Fisher

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Steve Benner

Scripture Reader: Judy Hershberger

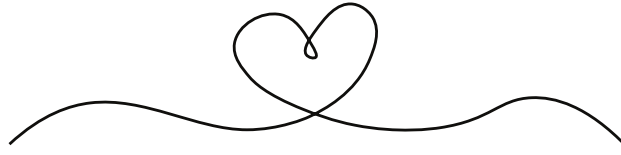
Technology: Rick Harnish & Jaron Zehr

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Bill West

Infant Nursery – during CE:

Preschool Nursery:



Camp Friedenswald Summer Camps

June-July 2024

Community. Belonging. Growth. Faith-forming. Fun! The countdown is on for summer 2024 and spaces are quickly filling. The summer theme “Animal Kin-dom” celebrates our relationship with all God’s creatures.

June 30 - July 5 - Junior Camp

July 8 -12 - Family Camp I

July 13-14 - Builders Weekend

July 15-19 - Family Camp II - Full

July 22-26 - Family Camp III

[Register today here](#) - Spaces are limited!

Camp Friedenswald is committed to ensuring that everyone who wants to participate in a Camp Friedenswald program can do so, regardless of financial ability. If you would benefit from a need-based scholarship, please indicate your need during registration. Please please call 269-476-9744 or email program@friedenswald.org with questions. If you would like to support our scholarship program, you may do so [here](#).

Parable refutes the legal gospel

“The Prodigal Son is one of Jesus’ best-known parables. Those raised in the church could no doubt recite the story’s main plot points by memory: A son’s squandering of his inheritance on luxurious living, then returning home. A father running to embrace his child, celebrating the son’s homecoming. An older brother’s anger over a party he sees as unjust. Jonny Morrison’s *Prodigal Gospel* challenges us to take another look at this parable we think we know so well. He says the parable offers wisdom for our fragmented time, when there seems to be a gap ‘between our faith and world, between the realities of everyday life and the story of God our churches, traditions and even religious friends are offering.’ The parable, Morrison believes, offers an inclusive story about God, one that invites reconciliation and relationship.” **Read more in Melanie Springer Mock’s article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

A countercultural gospel

“The world today remains full of warfare. Military invasion and illegal occupation, civil wars between armed factions and the Western powers ignoring or fueling an escalating human toll. We Anabaptists, members of the historic peace churches, bear a unique responsibility to proclaim our message of peace and proclaim justice ever more loudly than before. Having said and affirmed that, though, would it sound abominable to our nonviolent legacy if I say that sometimes the church’s most radical message is not either about global peace or social justice?” **Read more in Shuji Moriichi’s article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

The Creator, present in soil and seed

“In May, a delegation from the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery went to Hopelchén, Campeche, Mexico, for a seed festival hosted by Colectivo In Laak Le Ixiimó. CILLI is a group of Maya seed savers organized to improve the health of Yook’ol Kab, the land-water interrelationship that sustains the world. Colectivo In Laak Le Ixiimó can be understood in English as ‘our sibling, corn collective.’ At the festival, the delegation and the Maya community celebrated life itself and a precious ingredient that makes life possible: seeds, the source of food security year after year. Across the United States, a dozen or so congregations joined with us in celebrating seed parties in solidarity with the Maya. I was blessed to be part of one of these parties. It is wonderful to find hope in each other and in the one who brings life, season after season.” **Read more in Sarah Augustine’s article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Uncomplicated: Simple secrets for a compelling life

Brenda L. Yoder, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, school counselor, speaker and the author of “Uncomplicated: Simple Secrets for a Compelling Life, and Fledge: Launching Your Kids Without Losing Your Mind,” has found that the uncomplicated life of living in a rural Amish/Mennonite community has appeal for many people, due to the slower lifestyle and values that come with living this way. **Read the Menno Snapshot blog post published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

MC USA offers ministry internships for young adults

The Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Church Vitality office encourages college students and churches to participate in the [Ministry Inquiry Program](#) (MIP), which pairs students from Bethel College, Bluffton University, Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College and Hesston College with MC USA host congregations across the country for ministry internship. Each year, MC USA and its affiliated colleges are able to support 14 college-age students through the MIP. Students participating in the program set their own ministry goals, with the guidance of their supervising pastor and college administrator. Participants spend 11 weeks, usually during the summer, at a host congregation, where they put their gifts to the test and participate in hands-on ministry. The program culminates in a short final reflection paper and evaluation. **Read more in Mennonite Church USA’s new release by Jessica Griggs [here](#).**

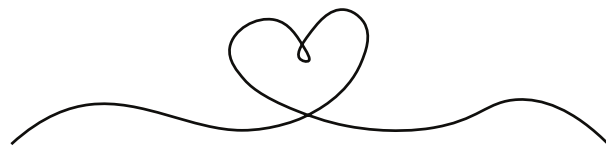
MC USA's Women in Leadership recognizes outgoing founding members

Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA's) [Women in Leadership](#) Steering Committee recently bid farewell to two of the founding members, Linda Gehman Peachey and Erica Littlewolf, after more than a decade of service. The group, which empowers Mennonite women in leadership, especially by centering the voices of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) women, began meeting 2012, after a 2009 church-wide audit revealed a decline in the number of women providing leadership in Mennonite churches. Gehman Peachey and Littlewolf were among the first women asked to join the committee, and while others came and went, Gehman Peachey and Littlewolf remained consistent members since the beginning. While on the WiL Steering Committee, Gehman Peachey and Littlewolf participated in a number of committee-wide initiatives, including developing the anti-patriarchy curriculum, [Laboring Toward Wholeness](#), and planning Women Doing Theology conferences in 2014, 2016 and 2018. **Read more in Mennonite Church USA's new release by Jessica Griggs [here](#).**

To Hope and Act with Creation

Plan now to celebrate the Season of Creation this fall! MC USA and Mennonite Church Canada have partnered together to provide congregations with a worship guide for this season: [To Hope and Act with Creation](#). In a time when the groans of creation are growing in intensity, Mennonites are invited to join Christians all over the world in worship, prayer and action dedicated to the healing of our common home. Designed for use during the six weeks of the international, ecumenical Season of Creation spanning from Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, this resource can be adapted for use at any time.

By Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, MC USA Climate Justice Coordinator

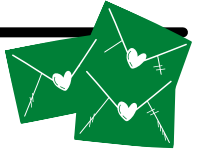


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<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>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

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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms
