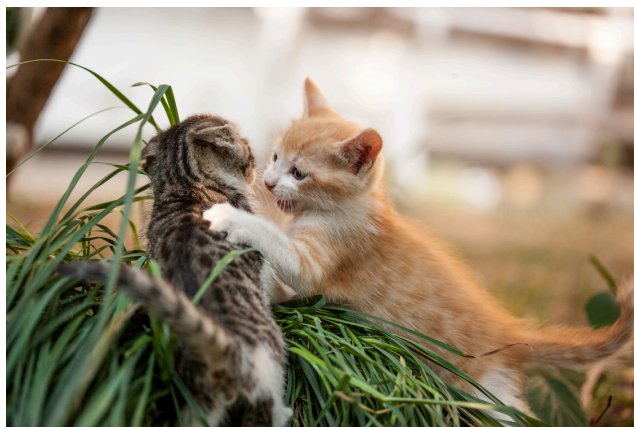


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Laura Dick will preach a sermon on the topic of Foes using Matthew 5:38-43.



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

Grief and Loss Support Group



Friday, June 28th at 12:30pm

This group will have its first meeting on Friday, June 28th at 12:30pm. The group is open until the end of July and then will close to additional participants. Please see Lynn Reha if you are interested in attending.



Office/Building Closed

Thursday 7/4 and Friday 7/5

The church office and building will be closed on Thursday and Friday next week (July 4th & 5th) for the Fourth of July. Thank you for your understanding!

Partners in Pride: Partners Across Traditions

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal

Likely, no other faith community in our town has worked harder for the LGBTQ+ community than the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal](#). They offer the [Gender Expansive Resource Center](#), they are host for [PFLAG Bloomington/Normal](#) meetings, sponsor for "[Over the Rainbow](#)" (McLean County queer youth group), and lead organizers for the [Interfaith Clergy Blessing Booth at B-N Pridefest](#).

Beyond BN

- **Thomas Jay Oord**—Church of the Nazarene. Tom is urging his own denomination toward affirmation of LGBTQ+ Christians, is receiving institutional pushback, and has committed to do handle this publicly so we can all learn from and be blessed by his work. Learn more [here](#).
- **Walter Brueggemann**—United Church of Christ. Walter is the most influential living Old Testament scholar. He offers [this recent article](#), carefully explaining a serious biblical case for LGBTQ+ affirmation.

From the Outreach Commission

Pastoral Team Search Committee



Last week you learned that the search committee recommended a candidate to the vision team. What happens next?

If the Vision Team agrees with our recommendation, we will announce the candidate in church and in the Midweek. As with Kevin, we will host the candidate for a weekend that involves, meeting the teams, commissions, and various groups and preaching on Sunday morning. Immediately following the service, the congregation will vote. Online voting will be available to members unable to attend. The date will be on the church calendar well in advance.

Shared by the Pastoral Team Search Committee

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 are now available on the Library Table.**

Joe's Bike Trip



My bike tour of the middle section of the Lewis & Clark Trail begins on Fri., June 21. After driving to Great Falls, MT, my long-time friend Guy, a retired forester, & I will cycle from Great Falls to Council Bluffs, IA - four weeks & around 1,300 miles. Guy's wife will drive support for us which will help especially in the more remote areas of Montana, North & South Dakota. I will be posting daily on Facebook, Instagram, & at [this website](#) with a more detailed narrative with some reflections & more photos Keep us in your prayers & follow along if you like!

From Joe



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)

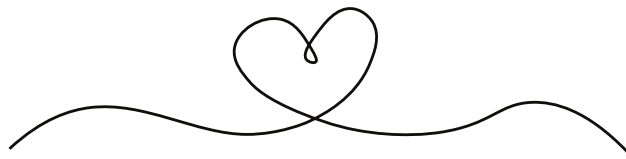
- What experiences of grace, courage, or hope have restored your sense of confidence in your own identity?

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



Anniversaries

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

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.



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Brandon family

West Greeter: Mary Ann Watkins

Welcome Table: Mary Jantze

Ushers: Mark Roeschley and David Voegtlin

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Steve Benner

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story: Holly Zehr

Scripture Reader: Diane Wiman

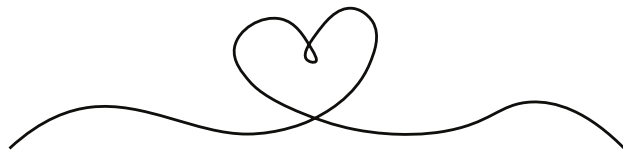
Technology: Caleb Augspurger

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Denise Hedberg

Infant Nursery - during CE:

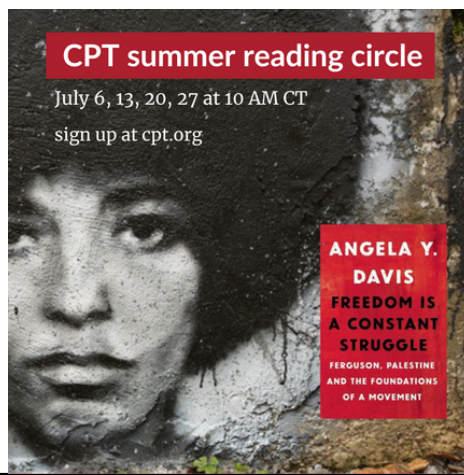
Preschool Nursery:



MC USA Archives welcomes a new collection of MEDA materials

Olivia Krall writes about the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Archives' Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) collection and a new donation of archival materials from Dan Sauder, grandson of MEDA founder, Erie Sauder. **Read her article published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).** *Image: The first MEDA project. Fernheim Paraguay. A registered bull to improve breeding stock was imported by Sarona dairy farm.*





Saturdays July 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10 AM CDT

Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) invites everyone to read together *Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the foundations of a movement* by Angela Davis. 'Freedom is a Constant Struggle' is a compilation of speeches and essays by feminist scholar and political activist Angela Davis. As a prison abolitionist and Black woman in the United States, Davis leans into an intersectional understanding of movement organizing and guides her work by pulling together several global struggles including Ferguson and the Black liberation movement alongside Palestine and the anti-colonial movement. Join CPT for conversation of hope in our summer reading circle, as we move through the book over the course of four weeks and learn from each other through response and discussion that stems from the text. **Learn more, sign up, and view the schedule [here](#).**



Reading the Bible with head and heart

"I have always been steeped in the Bible. In childhood, daily Bible reading was encouraged and occasionally accomplished. I studied the Bible in youth group and argued about it. My understanding of the Bible started to change when I attended what was then Canadian Mennonite Bible College. I developed an appreciation for the Old Testament/Hebrew scriptures. I encountered scholarly approaches to the Bible that challenged my childhood readings. This did not lessen my faith but created more questions where answers used to be. Later I attended Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, where I learned Hebrew and Greek and discovered new meanings behind the English translations. At seminary the Bible was not only a subject for academic study but an essential resource for worship and faith formation. I learned to encounter the Bible with head and heart." **Read more in Kevin Driedger's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



Seven former Mennonite Central Committee workers released an open letter June 11 alleging a pattern of workplace abuse and termination practices that disregard health and well-being. An online petition calling for greater transparency from MCC was signed by 642 people as of June 20. **Read more from *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Special issue of 'Anabaptist Witness' lifts Ethiopian voices & raises funds

Preparing to host the Mennonite World Conference assembly in 2028, Ethiopian Anabaptists are telling their stories of mission and peacemaking in a North American journal. The stories appear in a special issue of *Anabaptist Witness*, which sells for \$20 as a fundraiser for an Ethiopian prison ministry and seminary scholarships. "I was deeply moved by the powerful stories and wisdom shared in these incredible firsthand stories about the work Meserete Kristos Church is doing," said Henok T. Mekonin, who guest edited the issue. Mekonin is global leadership collaborative specialist at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. *Anabaptist Witness* is a publication of AMBS, Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Mission Network. **Read more in Eileen Kinch's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

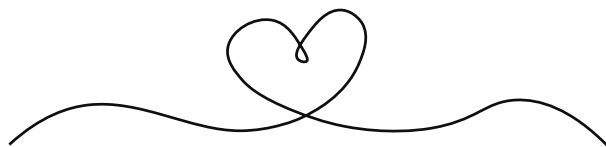


Thoughts and Prayers AND Action

"Senseless murders from gun violence are now at epidemic levels. Almost every day we read of homicides at public gatherings, mall shootings, and active shooters in schools. Many of us react with feelings of hopelessness, despair, and fear. I have experienced each of these and pray that I don't become numb to the horrors taking place in our communities. As Nana to two wonderful boys, I don't want to be at the other end of that dreaded phone call. I've asked myself what I can do. How could I make even a small difference? I don't have an answer. However, I believe God has been preparing me for a divine assignment. I have never been an activist but, in retirement, maybe... just maybe." **Read more in Cindy Scheetz's blog post for Mennonite Women USA [here](#).**

Biden issues executive order limiting asylum

On Tuesday 4 June, US President Biden issued an executive order that would effectively close the US/Mexican border to people who attempt to enter the US without proper documentation. This order creates a threshold of an average of 2,500 daily crossings, meaning that someone's right to movement is not determined by the strength of a person's claim but by arbitrary cut offs. Biden has removed the path of migration where people cross the border wall irregularly into the US and then plead asylum and remain in the country to wait for a court date and an asylum hearing. Instead, the order requires the Border Patrol to immediately send these people back to Mexico. **Read more in an article by Linda Knox published by Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

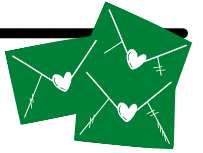
<u>Building Open:</u>	Standard Hours: Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9AM-11AM and Monday-Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org ; 309-452-6622
<u>Rita Munkakusi:</u>	Custodian
<u>Kevin Chupp:</u>	Pastor for Outreach Commission, Worship Commission, Congregational Care Committee, and the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team; kevin@normalmennonite.org
<u>Lynette Miller:</u>	Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Commission Meeting Minutes

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
