

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Not All Who Wander* using Acts 15:1-21.

As Paul and Barnabas navigate through some new territory—both literally and theologically—they face pushback in how they advocate for gentile people to join the faith. While Scripture and Tradition had led them to certain, concrete practices, the Spirit was making a new way forward. How do we notice when such shifts are happening? How can we be confident that the Spirit is the one leading the way forward?

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



Moving Help

Friday, June 7 at 5pm

The Chupps have officially purchased their home and are beginning to move some things over from their unit at the Mennonite Residential Community (MRC). At 5pm next Friday (June 7th), 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!



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



Postponed

The Great Hymnal Rack Project work day originally scheduled for this Saturday is being postponed. Please keep an eye out for the rescheduled date in the coming weeks.

Park Fun & Coffee Run



Saturday, June 15th 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 June 15th from 9:30-11:00 AM, all women/moms are invited to meet at Panera on South Veterans, while dads/men will meet the playground 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 Roeschley Walker.

From the Community Life Commission



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



Mental Health Awareness

As some of you know, MCN member Steve Benner works as a Mental Health Awareness Trainer for the McLean County Center for Human Services. One of the goals of our work there is to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health challenges and to help people acquire the skills to intervene to save someone from taking their life or falling into a deeper crisis. All trainings are at A New Horizon, 530 N. Center St. in downtown Bloomington.

We have the following trainings scheduled in June:

- QPR Suicide Prevention Training, Friday, **June 7**, 10 – 11:30
- Mental Health First Aid, Thursday, **June 13**, 8 – 4:30
- QPR Suicide Prevention Training, Tuesday, **June 18**, 3:30 – 5:00
- Mental Health First Aid, Saturday, **June 22**, 9 – 5

QPR focuses on saving a person from taking their life while MHFA focuses on noticing the signs and symptoms of incipient mental health challenges to help others or yourself receive early intervention. All trainings are free. To register, write Steve.

From Steve Benner

Grief and Loss Support Group



When my son died in 2014, a group of people from MCN convened a Grief and Loss Support Group. Each person in the group was experiencing a big loss. We prayed, cried, laughed and shared resources. Most importantly, we did it together. Loss can be a lonely experience, but being able to share our stories in a safe environment was meaningful.

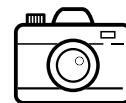
A group was formed in 2022 after Terry Wiebenga's death. We met somewhat regularly for about a year and a half. During our formal ending time, comments like this were made:

- ***Thank goodness for this group. Otherwise I would have no one to talk about this complicated grief.***
- ***Hearing others' stories makes you feel less alone.***
- ***This has been a very safe, comforting space for me to grieve.***

A new Grief and Loss Support Group will be convened in the second half of June. If you are interested in being a part of it, please contact Lynn Reha.

From Lynn Reha

Sharing Our Gifts



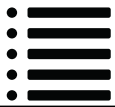
The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to the church office at church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how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

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Partners in Pride: Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC)

Did you know that we are part of the *Supportive Communities Network* of the *Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests* (BMC)? We, along with four other Mennonite Churches in Illinois, have committed to celebrating of our siblings in Christ by being publicly affirming of LGBTQ+ individuals. BMC provides resources that speak directly to our Mennonite setting and provides opportunities for collaboration for inclusive congregations across North America. You can learn more about BMC [here](#), and you can learn more about upcoming events at their Pride 2024 Newsletter [here](#).

From the Outreach Commission



Vision Team Meeting Recap

Vision Team would like to share a few items from its May 13 meeting:

- We discussed follow up conversations with several individuals based on the feedback received in the survey we conducted on MCN's conference affiliation.
- We discussed ongoing 2024 visioning activities and briefly reviewed the May 5 exercise that solicited thoughts from the congregation.
- The Vision Team discussed the agenda for the 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



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*



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?

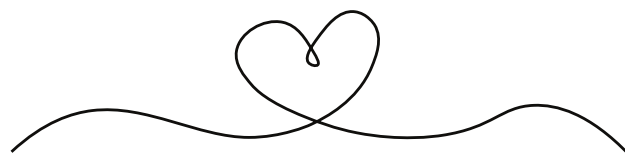
Renewing our relationships with all of creation (Aug 11 – Sep 5)

- 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



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, June 5

7:00pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

Saturday, June 8

9:00am Congregational Care Committee Retreat

Tuesday, June 11

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Mark and Pam Hodel

West Greeter: Connie Satchwell

Welcome Table: Annette Harnish

Ushers: Caleb and Liz Augspurger

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner: Ben Roeschley

Worship Leader: Leah Roeschley

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Annette Harnish

Scripture Reader:

Technology: Glenn Wilson & Ryan Miller

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

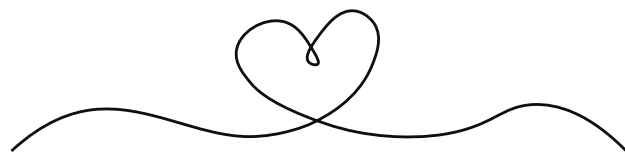
Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Lydia Hedberg

Infant Nursery – during CE:

Preschool Nursery:

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.



Climate Webinar

Thursday, June 20 at 1pm

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) is partnering with [One Home One Future](#) to offer a webinar *Climate Resiliency as an Act of Love* on June 20. Extreme weather and climate shifts are impacting our congregations and local communities. Preparing for current and future impacts is an important way that congregations can love and serve the wider community. This webinar will help participants understand weather and disaster risks, learn ways to reduce their risks while promoting physical and spiritual resiliency, and provide resources to start preparing. Josh Richardson, pastor of St. Louis Mennonite Fellowship and founder of [Brugmansia Ministries](#), will be a featured panelist, and Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler will moderate this webinar. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

By Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Mennonite Church USA Climate Justice Coordinator

Concert this Friday!

Friday, June 7 at 6pm

Chart-topping Christian drag musician Flamy Grant is coming to Bloomington this Friday, June 7th! You can get tickets [here](#). You can learn more about Flamy Grant [here](#). Be sure to [check out her latest single](#), "S.P.R.K.L." which stands for "stay proud, radiate, keep laughing."

Halt arms shipments to Israel

This month represents the 76th anniversary of the Nakba, or catastrophe. In 1948, as many as 750,000 Palestinians were forced to flee from what is now Israel, taking refuge in places like Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Action is needed now to stop another catastrophe as the Israeli military begins its attack on the city of Rafah in Gaza where more than one million are sheltering, including [600,000 children](#). The bombing of Rafah [has already begun](#).

The United States is supporting this ongoing Nakba through diplomatic, economic, and military support for the government of Israel. Since October 7, the Biden Administration has sent over [100 arms shipments](#) to Israel, received approval from Congress for a [26 billion USD](#) supplemental aid package (which includes \$9 billion in non-committed humanitarian funds) for the Israeli military, and has [vetoed multiple](#) United Nations Security Council ceasefire resolutions.

The destruction of Gaza, with the support of the Biden Administration, is nothing short of apocalyptic. All universities in Gaza have been destroyed, along with most hospitals, 60% of housing, and nearly 50% of Gaza's [agricultural land](#). Israel has both targeted humanitarian workers and severely limited the delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza, especially now that its [military has seized the Rafah crossing](#). Since October, more than 35,000 Palestinians have been killed, 78,000 have been injured, and at least [10,000 are missing](#) under the rubble. At present, experts estimate it will take [14 years](#) and [\\$30-40 billion USD](#) to make [Gaza livable again](#).

Ways you can take action

- Urge your members of Congress and the Biden Administration to [halt arms shipments to Israel](#) and push for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.
- Support ongoing nonviolent protests by connecting with organizations such as [Mennonite Action](#).
- Learn more about the ongoing Nakba and MCC's response
 - FAQ: [MCC and Palestine and Israel](#)
 - [On the Nakba](#) by Israeli MCC partner Zochrot
- [Donate to MCC's response in Gaza](#)

New affiliation frees congregation to fulfill its hope to ordain a woman

It was the end of a long and sometimes challenging road — including a transfer to a different Mennonite denomination — when Aberdeen Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Man., finally ordained a woman to be its pastor. The ordination service for Teresa Enns Zehr took place May 5 at the church, which is part of Mennonite Church Manitoba. **Read more in John Longhurst's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

The first First Mennonite

Dozens claim the mantle, but which was truly the 'First Mennonite Church'? **Find out in Tim Huber's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).** Image credit: First Mennonite Church of Philadelphia



O ancient doors!

Scripture invites us to join a conversation about what matters most. "My love of the Bible goes back many years. At about age 7 I connected with the adventures of the children of Israel as my dad and I mapped their wilderness travels. Now that I'm retired from 27 years of pastoring, my life is still richly nourished by biblical words. I also think about why the Bible is so suspect these days, even among churchgoers. There are good reasons for this. People have been hurt by the way the Bible was used in their families and churches growing up. They are troubled at how the Bible is used to justify domination and violence. It is disturbing that there is so much violence in the Bible and that the God of the Bible at times promotes violence, even commands people to conquer and colonize. Is it possible to find truth in a book that opposing factions use to say opposite things? How do we look for guidance from prescientific tales of visions and miracles? I'm grateful for these questions, which the church is overdue to take on. I'll offer some thoughts as part of the conversation." **Read more in Brenda Hostetler Meyer's article for *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

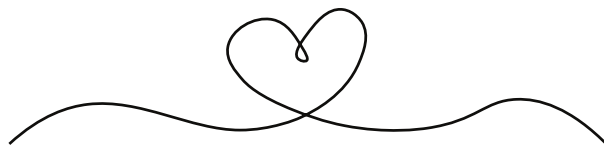
SOOPer volunteers needed

Are you feeling called by God to serve, but unsure about how much time you can share?

Service Opportunities with Our Partners has flexible service terms at 60 locations for individuals ages 25+ and families of all ages.

Share your skills doing home repair, cooking, tutoring, and gardening. Lead tours, host guests at a retreat center or a summer camp - there is so much to do! Stay for a week or stay for a month, bring your family or come alone. SOOP has diverse and rewarding experiences for everyone.





Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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

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

Structure Documents
