

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Be Astonished* using Acts 8:26-40.

When Philip hops on the chariot of a eunuch from Ethiopia, we are overwhelmed by the eagerness of this person to learn about and embody faithfulness to God. After a quick baptism, Philip vanishes, inviting our questions about the meaning and purpose of this ritual we have inherited. With our own experiences of baptism in hand, how do we hear this story? How are we inspired to tell our own story?

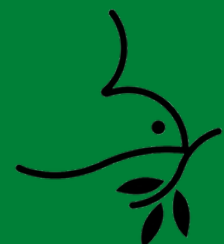
After Worship

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



SMAP Lunch

Sunday, July 28 after Sunday School

Greetings, Mennonite Church of Normal Members and Friends! Everyone is invited to gather for lunch on July 28 after Sunday School to support the Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP)! The SMAP committee is planning for another year of tuition support for those young people who choose to attend a Mennonite college or University. All regular attenders of Mennonite Church of Normal are eligible for this program. The success of this program depends upon the support of everyone, whether you have children or not. In your mailbox, you will find a SMAP brochure and pledge card. Please prayerfully consider your commitment, complete your form and return it to Darvis King. Broad-based support helps to ensure that SMAP will be viable for many years to come. Additionally, this is a very practical way for us to provide financial support to our Mennonite colleges and Universities and physical support by sending young people. They need our students! Looking forward to seeing all of you on July 28th! RSVP is not required but if you know you are coming please let the committee know.

From the SMAP Committee: Darvis King, Chair, Annette Harnish, Katie Driscoll

Midwest Food Bank Volunteering



Tuesday, August 6 from 6-8pm

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is August 6 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



Save the Date: Sunday, August 11, 2024

- **Worship:** 10:00 am
- **Lunch will** be served by camp staff at noon. Cost: We request a \$10 donation for each person age 13 or above. (Collected at Menno Haven.) Community Life Commission will cover the rest.
- **Registration** is required by Monday, July 29; sign up [here](#).
- **Afternoon activities at the camp include** use of canoes and paddleboats, swimming in the pool, lawn games, fishing, hiking trails, and use of the activity center.
- **Camping:** a number of camping spots are available. Amy Reiman has agreed to be the contact for camping.
- **Carpool:** if you are willing to share a ride with another camp attendee please indicate on the registration form. If needing a ride, please indicate on the registration form.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

Civil Rights Trip Reflection



Sunday, August 4 at 7:00 pm

What: See some pictures and hear Bess Desch and Judy & Lotus Hershberger offer reflections on their Civil Rights Trip to Memphis, Birmingham, & Montgomery earlier this summer.

When: August 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Where: Mennonite Residential Community Community Building.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

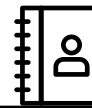


Save the Date: MCN Work Day

Thursday, August 8 at 6:30 pm

Save the date: MCN will have a work day for the building on August 8th at 6:30 pm. More information will be shared in the next Midweek.

From the Administration Commission



September 16th & 17th

Save the date: MCN will have picture directory photo sessions on September 16th and 17th. More information coming soon.

From the Administration Commission

Iona Pilgrimage

September 13-22

Come on pilgrimage to Iona this September! Jane and Jana from St Patrick's of Merna have 1 unexpected opening on the September 13-22 pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona in Scotland, a Celtic "thin place" for centuries. Our week on Iona will include significant times for personal solitude and reflection, group sharing, guided walks, morning/evening prayers, worship, soulful wandering, speakers and the occasional museum. **Contact Jane immediately if interested.**



Home Stay

Steve Thomas (from Mennonite Men) is traveling from Indiana to preach at MCN on August 18th, and is hoping to be hosted in someone's home August 17th if possible. If this is something you are willing to do, please contact Pastor Kevin at kevin@normalmennonite.org. Thank you!

Shared by the Worship Commission

Dorothy Loepf Music Scholarship Application Period is Now Open!

At the time of the celebration of fifty-three years of wonderful worship music provided by Dorothy Loepf, a generous amount of donations was collected to create a scholarship for piano and organ lessons. Applications are now being accepted for the coming academic year. The scholarship is open to children, youth, and adults of all ages. More information about the scholarship can be found. A brief application form.

Shared by the Worship Commission



Vision Team Update

- Vision Team met on July 15.
- We met with Holly Zehr, chair of Discipling Commission, to discuss ongoing plans for the youth ministry program.
- 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 survey that asked the congregation about things that excite them about MCN's past, present, and future.
- We worked on details for the upcoming annual Pastoral Team evaluations.

Shared by the Vision Team

It's Annual Evaluation Season!



Background: It's time for annual evaluations! Each year Vision Team (VT) and the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) are responsible for leading the evaluation process of several groups within the church structure. Intending to minimize survey fatigue, VT and SGDT have teamed up to align the timelines and conduct as one process.

What it is: There are three annual evaluations we're seeking to complete:

- **Evaluation of members of the Pastoral Team** (conducted by VT)
- **Evaluation of Vision Team** (conducted by SGDT)
- **Self-evaluation of Commissions and Teams** (conducted by SGDT)

The first two evaluations are open to anyone from the congregation to complete. The third is intended for members of a commission or team to complete.

How to complete: There are two Google Forms that can be completed:

- **Pastoral Team Evaluation**
- **Vision Team and Commission Evaluation**

There will also be paper versions of the evaluations available to complete in the church office.

When to complete: As soon as you can! But we plan to have these surveys open for at least 3 weeks and start processing responses by August 15.

Final comments: Thanks for your participation in helping our church function better. If you have a question regarding the evaluation process, please reach out to Ben Roeschley or another member of the Vision Team.

From the Vision Team

Update from Discipling Commission



Discipling Commission is thankful for the ways that children and adults have participated in Sunday school this summer. Sunday school is just one of the ways that Discipling Commission helps to encourage spiritual formation here at MCN. Throughout last school year, MYF students were invited into homes of congregation members for a meal, conversation, and fun. We hope to continue this in the new school year. We're also planning to reinstate a mentoring program for youth. Keep your eyes open for more on that. Have you noticed that our nursery is (slowly) getting updated? Painting began this week and a fresh new carpet is coming soon along with new furniture for our families. Please pray for us as we begin planning for fall Christian education. If you're interested in being a substitute or prayer partner for a class, please contact Holly.

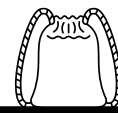
From the Discipling Commission



Note from Lauren

Thank you to my beloved congregation for your (continued) affirmation of my call and work at MCN. It is an honor and privilege to be called in this way.

From Lauren Satchwell
p. 5



Last year Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) shipped 81,048 school kits to communities in Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Sudan, Ukraine, the U.S. and Zambia. Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families who struggle to access or afford school supplies. MCC school kits are often requested after disasters as they help bring a sense of normalcy to children whose families have been forced to flee their homes.

This year through the end of August our church is again requesting school supplies for this project. Following is a list of supplies that need to be purchased for each bag. **New items only**

- 4 spiral notebooks (70 sheets each. Can be wide lined or narrow). No more than 70 sheets each.
- 8 new UNSHARPENED pencils
- 1 ruler (good quality). Must indicate 30 cm in addition to inches
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens

Kits also include 1 small all metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes). DO NOT PURCHASE THIS ITEM AS IT WILL BE PROVIDED. They have been purchased in bulk from Amazon as they are hard to find in stores.

There are bags provided in back of the sanctuary for you to take home and fill or you can also just bring the supplies in a store plastic bag and we will place them in a cloth bag for you. Thanks so much for your participation in this project. This project will run through the end of August at which time the supplies will be collected and distributed to a MCC drop off location.



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 self (July 14 – Aug 4)

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

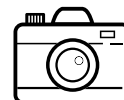
Renewing our relationships with all of creation (Aug 11 – Sep 5)

- 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

Sharing Our Gifts



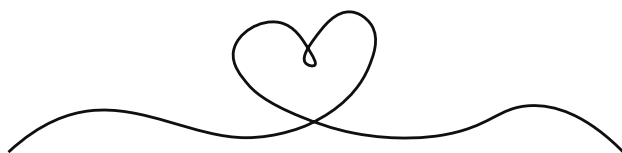
The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to the church office at church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how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

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). Inside you'll find an overview of the recent Annual Meeting with lots of photos, information about a sermon series on wisdom available through CDC, and a Doug's Mug about the recent Civil Rights tour. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table soon.



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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, July 24

6:30pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, July 28

11:00pm SMAP Potluck

Tuesday, July 30

3:00pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Neely family

West Greeter: Mark Roeschley

Welcome Table: Phyllis VerSteegh

Ushers: Jon and Janelle Friesen

Offering Counter: Kristen Hartwig

Worship Planner & Leader: Steve Benner

Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp

Children's Story: Melika Hershberger

Scripture Reader: Annette Harnish

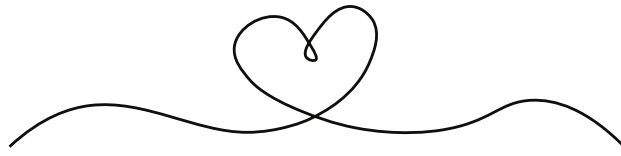
Technology: Caleb Augspurger & Ryan Miller

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Bill West

Infant Nursery - during CE:

Preschool Nursery:



Host:
Steve Bustos,
Everence Stewardship
Consultant

Presenter:
Kim Miller,
Partner Relationship
Specialist, Financial
Choice (LSS)

Scam-proof your finances

Webinar by Everence and Financial
Choice (LSS)*

Thursday, July 25 at 2 p.m. ET

Outsmart the scammers! Protect your finances by learning how to:

- Recognize the most common forms of scams and fraud.
- Reduce your risks.
- Take the next steps to report and respond if fraud occurs.

**Everence has partnered with Financial Choice (LSS) since 2008 to provide free financial counseling on a variety of basic financial topics. LSS Financial Counseling is one of the nation's leading consumer credit counseling agencies and has a 35-year history of providing nonprofit, certified financial counseling.*



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Register at
everence.com/partners



Everence®

Call for poetry: Work and Hope

Poets! Taking a cue from a printer's mark in the 1748 edition of the *Martyrs Mirror*, *Anabaptist World* is looking for poems on Work and Hope. **Read the rest of *Anabaptist World's* call [here](#).**

MCC statement in response to open letter and petition

"Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is aware of the open letter and online petition launched by seven former staff members who worked for the organization over a period of 24 years. When employee concerns arise, MCC follows its policies and seeks to resolve the issues for the mutual benefit of all individuals involved." **Read the rest of Mennonite Central Committee's response [here](#).**

Latin American women theologians mark 20 years

The Movement of Anabaptist Women Doing Theology from Latin America, or MTAL, celebrated its 20th anniversary with a workshop in El Salvador on April 14-16. Thirty women leaders from Central America, Mexico and Puerto Rico attended the event, themed "Women in Movement: Purpose and Meaning in the Cycles of Sarah's Life." This followed online celebrations and local events throughout Latin America. **Read more in the *Anabaptist World's* article [here](#).** *Image: Cindy Alpízar, left, of Costa Rica, displays a banner with Mary Cano, center, of Honduras and Angela Opimí of Bolivia at the anniversary gathering of the Movement of Anabaptist Women Doing Theology from Latin America. from Linda Shelly/MMN*



Shared Spaces, Shared Hearts: Casa Betania in Newton

There had long been a desire for a Hispanic Mennonite Church in Newton, Kansas. Finally, in March 2008, four Hispanic Mennonite women started leading services, while Western District Conference (WDC) helped search for a church planter. In June, Jaime Cazares arrived in Newton with his wife Suhelen. Several WDC Newton churches helped with financial support during the first years. First Mennonite Church of Newton offered a recently purchased house next to the church as a place for the new church to gather throughout the week. Children and youth of Casa Betania were welcomed into First Mennonite's programs. When the church outgrew the living room, First Mennonite offered a large double classroom on the lower level, for the church's Sunday gatherings. Eventually, Casa Betania requested using the sanctuary for their worship service, and moved their service time to Sunday afternoon. **Read more of the blog post by Linda Shelly & Clarence Remple for Mennonite Men [here](#).**



Gain strategies for challenging Christian nationalism in this six-week noncredit Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary online short course! Explore realistic, everyday, effective nonviolent resistance for congregations. Interact with Drew during optional weekly video meetings. Learn more and register [here](#).

MC USA calls for prayer in response to assassination attempt

Ephesians 4:1-3: I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humanity and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Mennonite Church USA is saddened by the assassination attempt that took place last weekend. We denounce all forms of violence. Please pray for the two critically wounded men and former President Donald Trump, who was also injured, as well as the grieving family of the attendee who was killed. Let us also remember the family of the suspected shooter, who died at the scene. As a church, we are committed to be a witness for peace, demonstrated by bearing with one another in love. Remember all who are hurting from the trauma. Pray and act for peace in our communities.

Resources for further reflection:

- [Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence](#)
- [Confession of Faith in Mennonite Perspective, Article 22: Peace, Justice and Nonresistance](#)
- [Journey Forward](#) churchwide renewal process



Commission Meeting Minutes

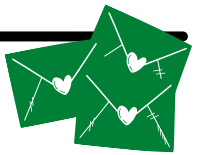
Commissions and Teams Contact List

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

- Building Open: **Standard Hours:**
Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9AM-11AM
and Monday-Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
- Lydia Hedberg: Office Administrator; 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
- Lynette Miller: Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions
- Lauren Satchwell: 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!



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
