

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Well Up* using Amos 5:18-27.

Amos has a strong rebuke for those whose worship is self-serving and insular, and he invites us with prophetic clarity into the hope that our worship might be focused outward. How might our worship, and especially our individual acts of devotion be used to serve a purpose beyond ourselves?

After Worship

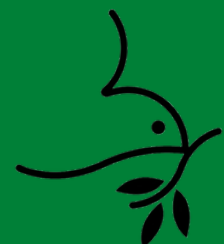
Adult CE
All Adults
Room 5/7/8

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



Bloomington-Normal Pridefest

This Saturday, August 3rd from 4-11 pm

Outreach Commission is once again supporting the "Blessed at Pridefest" interfaith blessing booth this year at Pridefest, where affirming clergy from our community (including Pastor Kevin) offer blessings to any and all who would like them, regardless of their faith. Learn more about PrideFest [here](#).

As well, everyone is encouraged to consider volunteering at the Prairie Pride Coalition Bloomington-Normal Pridefest booth. According to Prairie Pride Coalition, "If you've been wanting to volunteer or engage in any of the events we do in the greater Bloomington-Normal LGBTQ+ community, tabling can be a great way to start. First time volunteers are encouraged and we can walk you through the process of any event so you feel prepared. Even volunteering an hour out of a long event can greatly help all our efforts. For more information please check out the First-Time Volunteer announcement." **Sign-up [here](#)**.

From the Outreach Commission

Sunday School on Feet



Sunday, August 4 at 11 am

Next week, August 4th, our PK-5th grade Sunday school class will participate with Jane Roeschley on a meditative nature walk at the Children and Elder's Forest in Maxwell Park. Any child who still uses a booster seat will need their special grownup to drive and accompany them. Children should bring a hat. We will leave church at 11 and arrive at the Children and Elder's Forest by 11:05. Holly and Randy Zehr can provide rides for older children whose parents prefer to stay at church for Adult CE. If that is your preference, can you please let Holly know by emailing her. If you'd like to learn more about the Children and Elder's Forest, check out this [link](#). Please plan to join us for this special Sunday school session!

From the Discipling 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

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. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

From the Outreach Commission



MCN Work Day

Thursday, August 8 at 6:30 pm

When? 6:00 - 8:30 PM on Thursday, August 8

What? MCN Work Night

Who? All able-bodied people who are willing to lend a hand in caring for the MCN facilities under the direction of the Administration Commission

We will be checking the condition and operation of interior items such as doors, windows, walls, ceilings and floors.

We will be weeding and trimming outdoor beds and landscaping, checking gutters and drainage, clearing exits, and attending to other outdoor maintenance.

Please bring appropriate tools such as hoes, trimmers, loppers, buckets, garbage cans, and other items that would seem necessary for completing the jobs above. Snacks would be welcome, as well. Please contact Mark Roeschley with any questions.

From the Administration Commission

Menno Haven Sunday



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 was required by Monday, July 29.

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

Save the Date: Picture Directory



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

Sharing Our Gifts Photos

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 [here](#). A brief application form is [here](#).

Shared by the Worship Commission



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 are now available on the Library Table.

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



Vision Team Update

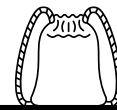
The Mennonite Church of Normal (MCN) is affiliated with two conferences: Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) and Central District Conference (CDC). In April of this year, IMC sent a proposal to their affiliated churches concerning credentialing practices and same sex marriage. After consultation between the Pastoral Team and Vision Team, MCN's response is as follows:

Mennonite Church of Normal's (MCN's) affirmation of the dignity, marriage, and leadership of LGBTQ+ congregants is rooted in our commitment to Jesus and to the Bible. The Vision Team of MCN, in consultation with our Pastoral Team, has discerned that to agree with the current proposal put forth by Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) as written would undermine MCN's commitment to our vision and welcome statement. We will continue to engage in this discussion with IMC moving forward but do not support the proposal in its current form.

You can read the proposal and MCN's response in its entirety [here](#). Please feel free to bring questions to anyone on the Vision Team (Shelly King, chair; Shannon Neely; Erin Ponnou-Delaffon; Ben Roeschley; Lauren Satchwell, PT rep)

Shared by the Vision Team

MCC School Kits



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 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:

Friday, August 2

10:00am Hands All Around Quilt Guild Sale

Sunday, August 4

7:00pm Civil Rights Trip Report

Monday, August 5

6:30pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 6

6:00pm Midwest Foodbank Volunteering

Thursday, August 8

6:30pm MCN Work Day



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Jon and Janelle Friesen

West Greeter: Bernice Valverde

Welcome Table: Mary Ann King

Ushers: Hoffmann family

Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger

Worship Planner & Leader: Joe Culpepper

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Story: Gail Fisher

Scripture Reader: Marianne Israel

Technology: Adam Augspurger & Ryan Miller

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Denise Hedberg

Infant Nursery - during CE:

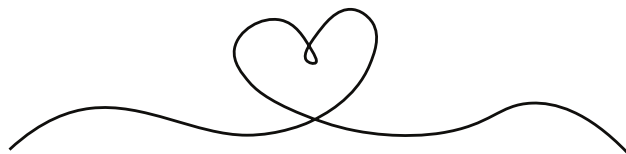
Preschool Nursery:



Birthdays & Anniversaries



CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Saturday, August 10th

Charlotte Hedberg will be selling her artwork at The Painted Wraith Street Festival. The Festival will be August 10th in Downtown Bloomington adjacent to the Farmers Market. The festival will have over 50 vendors selling their various creations as well as live music. Charlotte will be selling prints and stickers of her original paintings and drawings as well as some original artworks. You can see more of Charlotte's artwork on her website [here](#).

Around the Town Concert

This Sunday, August 4, 2024

at Moses Montefiore Temple (102 Robinhood Lane, Bloomington, IL)

Join the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and Moses Montefiore Temple for a FREE concert with the String Quartet performing music from Broadway and Light Classics, including Bernstein, Gershwin and more! A post-concert reception, sponsored by the ISO Guild and Herm & Fran Brandau, will immediately follow the concert to allow the audience, the musicians, and the conductor to mingle.

Living that Matters in Retirement

Saturday October 18-19 | The Hermitage, Three Rivers, MI

Mennonite Men is hosting a retreat for men contemplating retirement, recently starting retirement, or have been retired for significant periods of time. Led by Leon Bauman, participants will examine habits for a healthy retirement, define "doing" and "being", set goals for this life stage beyond financial matters and find purpose in and beyond "work". Gatherings will include focused conversations, meaningful rituals, and delicious meals together. There will also be time for solitude in the rolling hills, meadows, and woods of The Hermitage. **Find more details and register [here](#).**

MCC Learning Tour

MCC Central States will be hosting an immigration-focused learning tour in South Texas: MCC learning tours present a unique opportunity to engage directly with the work done by MCC and partner organizations. This learning tour will give the opportunity for participants to have the chance to meet with law enforcement officials from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), gain insights into the complexity of immigration enforcement, including deportation and apprehensions, and visiting migrant response shelters. Additionally, the tour will shed light on the challenges faced by migrants on their journey and raise awareness about the asylum process, and conditions faced by displaced and uprooted individuals. For additional questions, please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso, MCC Central States - Immigration Program Coordinator at abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org. Click [here](#) to learn more or register.

Registration Period: May 1, 2024, to August 09, 2024

Learning Tour Dates: Sunday, August 18, 2024, to Friday, August 23, 2024

Locations: McAllen and Brownsville, Texas, USA; Matamoros and Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico

Registration Fee: \$750 USD (Covers lodging, meals, honorariums and transportation in the region.) *does not include airfare*

Our march is over but our witness continues

Below is an update from Mennonite Action. Photo (below): Schrock Photography

We made it to Washington, DC. After an 11-day, 141-mile journey, our “All God's Children March for a Ceasefire” concluded on Sunday afternoon outside the White House. More than 125 people joined the final 8-mile leg of the march on Sunday. As we walked through the streets of downtown DC, we prayed, sang, and carried banners and signs calling on our elected officials to stop supporting the genocide in Gaza. Together, we demonstrated our Christian and Mennonite solidarity with the people of Palestine. Our feet are tired from marching. But our spirits are lifted by coming together in beloved community to live out the central tenets of our faith. Our love must extend to all of God’s children, and that’s why we need our lawmakers to support a permanent ceasefire now. Every step of our long journey to the White House, our hearts have been with the people of Gaza who have suffered so much from attacks with weapons of war supplied by our own government. **Now that we have arrived in DC, our work here is not done.** If you’re unable to join us in DC this week, you can follow along for updates on [our website](#) or on our social media accounts (including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)). And if you want to financially support our ongoing organizing efforts, you can make a donation to Mennonite Action [here](#). We appreciate your continued prayers as we take bold action for a just world. **Read the full announcement including additional photos [here](#).**



In peace,
Mennonite Action

Mennonites and allies arrested in Hart Senate building

Mennonites were arrested Tuesday, July 30th in the Hart Senate building after Mennonite Action’s 11-day, 141-mile “All God's Children March for a Ceasefire” concluded Tuesday. **Read the full announcement including additional photos [here](#).**



Trans Myth Busters: New BMC Resource

The Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interests (BMC) is excited to share this new resource designed by and for our community!

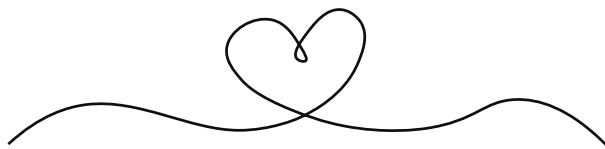
The short guide aims to debunk common myths that too often get spread about trans and nonbinary people and offers clarifying truths. It debuted as print brochures at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in July, and a full PDF version is available on BMC's website [here](#).

A huge thank you to Jaylon Tasby and Karen Orr for making this resource come to life.
From the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interest's Summer Newsletter

Recording: Climate Resiliency as an Act of Love

A recording of Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA) recent webinar, Climate Resiliency as an Act of Love, is now available on YouTube [here](#). Featured panelist Josh Richardson, pastor of St. Louis Mennonite Fellowship and founder of Brugmansia Ministries, helps congregations understand weather and disaster risks and points to resources for making your congregation a place of refuge and resiliency. MC USA partnered with One Home One Future to produce this webinar.

Shared by Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, MC USA Climate Justice Coordinator

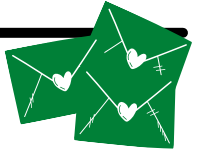


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<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!



Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Structure Documents
