

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Steve Thomas, the USA coordinator for Mennonite Men, will preach a sermon titled *Are Animals More Than Meat? Animals in God's Creation and Our Diet* using Isaiah 11:1-9 & Psalm 104:10-18, 24-25, 27-31.



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



Park Fun & Coffee Run Saturday



August 17th from 9:00 - 10:30 AM

The next Park Fun and Coffee Run event is Saturday, August 17th from 9:00-10:30 AM, all women/moms are invited to meet at Fusion Brew (503 S Main St. Normal, IL), while dads/men will meet at the park 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

Blessing of the Backpacks



This Sunday, August 18

This coming Sunday, August 18, anyone who will be returning to school (homeschool, too!) or work after summer break is invited to bring along their backpack. We'll be offering a special blessing of the backpacks during Children's time.

From the Discipling Commission

Special Fellowship and CE Hour this Sunday

This Sunday, August 18

This Sunday, Deb and Steve Stenger will provide cupcake treats in celebration of their 50th anniversary on August 10. Discipling Commission will be providing a scoop of ice cream alongside to celebrate Back-to-School. This special fellowship hour will be in lieu of Christian education for youth and children this Sunday.

From the Discipling Commission

Installation



Sunday, September 15th

On Sunday, September 15th Lauren Satchwell will be installed as a pastor at the Mennonite Church of Normal. Doug Luginbill, Central District Conference's Conference Minister, will be preaching and will lead the installation along with a representative from Illinois Mennonite Conference. Lunch will be provided after Sunday School.

From the Pastoral Team Search Committee and Vision Team



Picture Directory

September 16th & 17th from 2 - 8:30 pm each day

It's time for our new Pictorial Directory! Our dates of photography are September 16 and 17. Just for participating you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a church directory. You will be able to view your images right away and have a chance to purchase family portraits for your memories or gifts.

You can make an appointment after church next Sunday, August 18 at a table in the back or contact the church office. We look forward to seeing you there!

From the Administration Commission

SMAP update



The Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP) had a successful fundraising picnic several weeks ago!! Thank you to all who attended and for those who supported with pledges. Just a reminder that we will be making payments next week to the colleges. If payments for the first semester could be made by this Sunday August 18th or early in the week that will allow our church to make timely payment. On behalf of the SMAP committee, thank you again for your continued support!



CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). The theme this month is partnerships with other Anabaptist organizations. We have reflections from the recent Mennonite Action March from Harrisonburg to DC, the church history behind the Bluffton University and University of Findlay merger, and an update on summer programs from Camp Friedenswald. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table soon.

Office/Building Closed



The church office and building will be **closed** the **morning** of Thursday 8/15 and Tuesday 8/20. Thank you for your understanding!



Thank You!

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- Thank you!! A big shout out and thank you to Steve Stenger for coordinating the Great Hymnal Rack Project. We appreciate your expertise and coordination in accomplishing this project. Thank you!!
 - Significant work was completed around our church building and campus on Thursday evening, August 8. Much yard work was completed by Mark Roeschley, Lauren Satchwell, Gerson Cobarrubia, Marcia Rossi, David Voegtlin, Marge Weaver, and Lynette Miller. (Even the chiggers responded to assist!!) All doors and windows were checked by Lydia Hedberg, Connie Satchwell, and Mary Dyck. The hot water heater was drained by Steve Stenger. A special word of appreciation to Mark Roeschley for coordinating the work and providing needed supplies and tools.

From the Administration Commission

Meeting Recap from Vision Team



Vision Team would like to share a few items from its July 31st meeting:

- We discussed the Youth Ministry Portfolio in advance of a August meeting with the Pastoral Team and the Discipling Commission.
- We discussed themes from our Self Evaluation conducted in July.
- We received reports about the ministries of the other Teams and Commissions, identifying ways that we can support them.

From the Vision 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

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 is.

Shared by the Worship Commission



MCN Call for Submissions

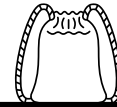
- **Theme:** "Behold! I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:5)
- **Deadline:** Pastor Kevin is now accepting submissions through September 1st!
- **Format/medium:** visual art (painting, sculpture, photography, video, design, etc.), poetry, musical performance, composition, or others!
- **Description:** 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 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

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.



The ***Vision Team*** asked. *You* answered.

Here is what *you* had to say about what you are most proud of about our church's **past**:

RELATIONSHIPS

- The faithful, multiple generations of families that continue to worship at MCN.
- The mutual respect of the merger that valued open communication and planning. The many relationships fostered through the years.
- That we felt like a family, building our church and MRC.
- Close friends.
- The relationships everyone has built and developed.

PEACE & JUSTICE

- That MCN has continued to support peace and justice, MCC, MDS, missions, colleges, and camps. It "feels" like a place where being a convinced Anabaptist/Mennonite is a good fit.
- SMAP, coordinated, cooperative service projects.
- Being a peace church.
- The way people have pulled together to answer Christ's call.

INCLUSIVITY AND WELCOME

- Dirk Willems' noble deed living on. Oh! MC of Normal! -the warm welcoming nature.
- Struggling to listen to all voices and finally going with love messages and inclusion.
- Our decision to become welcoming.
- The intentionality taken to create the best environment for congregants.
- Inclusivity.

WORSHIP/MINISTRY

- Quality singing.
- Children's Time and programming.
- MCN incorporated educational and worship materials into our ministries -- SS for the kids, hymnals, worship planning magazine, etc.
- The varied music.
- The Anabaptist Perspective in worship

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



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: David and Gabriella Harnish family

West Greeter: John and Kay Reimer

Welcome Table: Nancy Fisher

Ushers: Larry and Louise Reeser

Offering Counter: Gail Fisher

Worship Planner & Leader: Marge Weaver

Sharing Prayer Leader: Kevin Chupp

Children's Story: Holly Zehr

Scripture Reader: Caroline Roeschley

Technology: Caleb Augspurgen

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Bill West

Infant Nursery – during CE:

Preschool Nursery:

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, August 14

7:00 pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, August 15

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9-10 am Office/Building Closed

Saturday, August 17

9:00 am Park Fun & Coffee Run

Tuesday, August 20

9-10 am Office/Building Closed



Birthdays & Anniversaries

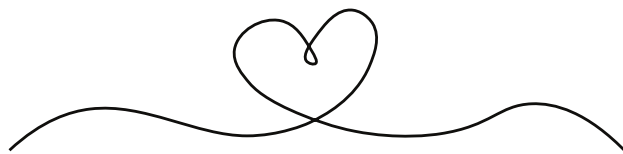
CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CARE UNIT AT CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2024



Potlikker

Central District Conference's conference minister Doug Luginbill reflects on a Mennonite Mission Network civil rights learning tour that he took with Central District Conference earlier this year. During this tour he learned the broader meaning of "potlikker," a word he and his siblings used during their youth. **Read more in his blog post published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Listen! Wisdom is Calling

Saturday, August 24 at 8:30 - 11:30 am Central Time

Join Central District Conference on Saturday, August 24 at 8:30 - 11:30 am Central Time for an online retreat, "Listen, Wisdom is Calling: Manifold Wisdom." Building on the previous retreats in this series, they will spend the morning pondering how we must both appreciate, and intentionally engage, varied sources of wisdom so that we more justly, authentically and fully display God's wisdom by being the church. Participants are asked to bring to the retreat a book, reading, image of artwork, poem, website or other source of inspiration that enriches their spiritual understanding. Especially welcome would be resources that offer a culturally non-dominant perspective. **Jane Roeschley**, MACF, spiritual director and leader of retreats and pilgrimages will be your guide for the morning.

Trees of Life for Human Health

Tuesday, August 27 at 1:30 PM Central Time

Trees offer much more than beauty and shade. Trees provide essential ecosystems services and valuable community benefits. In a webinar, MHS Association will examine the place of trees in creation care from a faith perspective and their practical importance in landscapes that MHS Association members manage. We will see that the benefits of trees far exceed their costs. We will consider trees as one of the best natural climate solutions for MHS Association partners and see how trees increase the attractiveness and livability of their communities. Dive into compelling research findings on trees for human health with expert Steve Thomas, and discover what trees can be for your community. Steve Thomas, MDiv, is the US director of Mennonite Men and coordinates the Mennonite JoinTrees campaign to plant one million trees for climate action. He also does contract urban forestry work for the City of Goshen. He is an ISA certified arborist with a graduate certificate in urban forestry from Oregon State University. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

Different is Beautiful

This post is a collaboration of [Anabaptist Disabilities Network](#) and [Mennonite Women USA](#) for Disability Pride Month.

"Disability is just a different way of being in the world. It isn't inherently negative. Rather, it is culture that turns a difference into a disability by excluding people, either by design or by neglect. Ableism is discrimination against people with disabilities that sees them as inferior to able-bodied people. Ableism holds that people with disabilities are in need of "fixing" and defines people solely by their disability. It is a prejudice that sadly permeates our culture and plays out in both subtle and blatant exclusion and humiliation of people with disabilities." **Read the rest of Sarah Werner's blog post [here](#).**

Women's Retreat

September 20-22 at Camp Friedenswald

Join Mennonite Women USA (MW USA) September 20-22 for spirit-filled worship, relaxation among women, trails to wander, and water to rest by. MW USA is delighted to be planning a time of connection and gathering for this year's Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald in Cassapolis, MI. It is a tradition of the Central District Conference, but it is open to ALL women. You are invited to retreat into the wilderness and immerse yourself in sisterhood. Choosing Sisterhood is about celebrating the women in your life. We hope you'll bring your mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, or friend. Choosing Sisterhood is also about making a conscious choice to engage with women you don't know. Challenge yourself to invite a new friend, someone you want to get to know better. We will be honoring the various Sistering with photos and hand crafted frames. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

Shared by Mennonite Women USA

Restoration Retreat

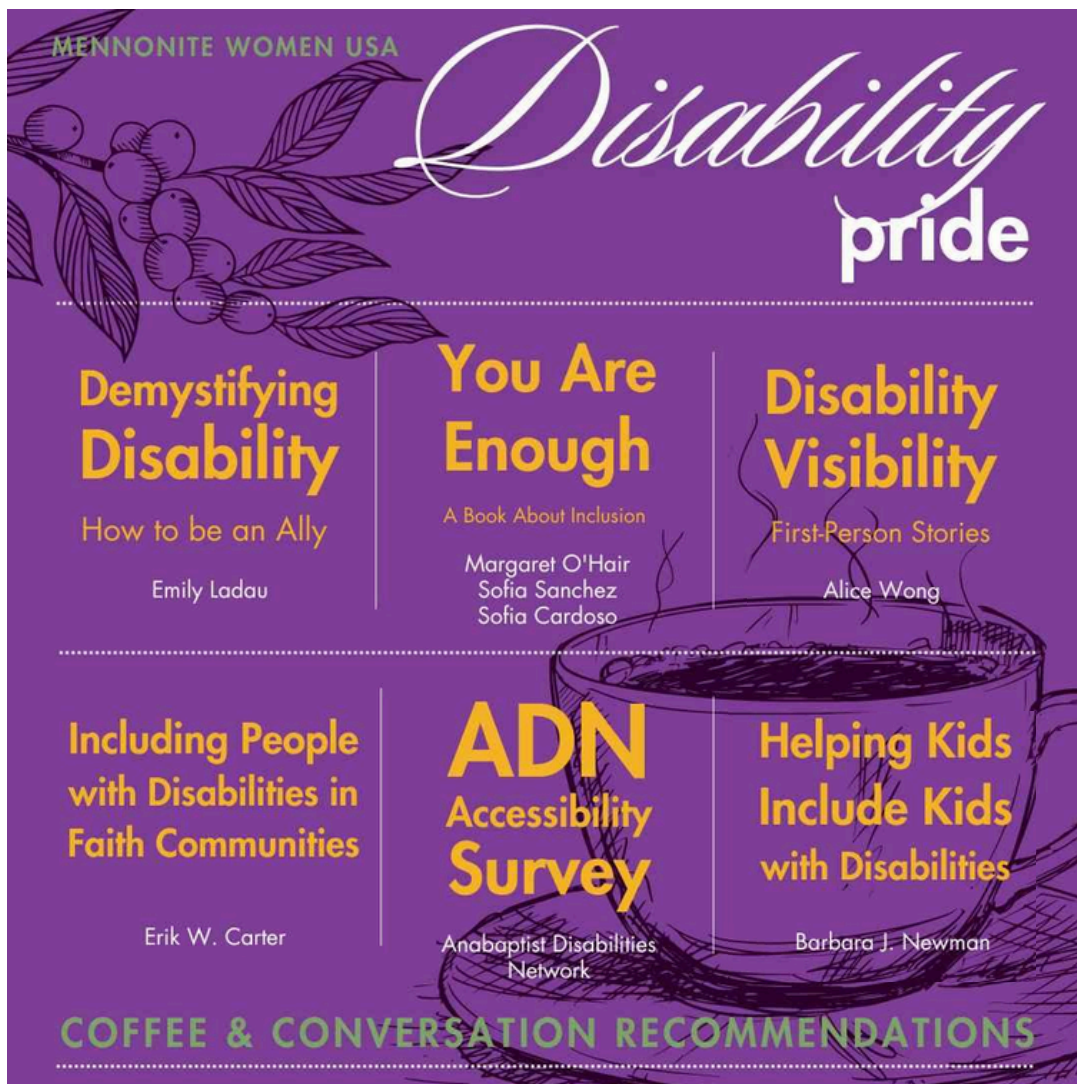
November 1-3 at Camp Friedenswald

Join Camp Friedenswald for their Restoration Retreat November 1-3. Connect with the land and life through a weekend retreat centered on restoring healthy relationships with all of creation. Take time to slow down, walk the paths, paddle the water, and simply be in community with all that is around you. Sarah Augustine will be speaking throughout the weekend on the theme of climate, creation care, and decolonization. She is the Executive Director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, a national coalition with global reach. An optional tour of the [Dowagiac River Restoration Project](#) will be available for participants Saturday afternoon. You will leave feeling more connected, inspired, and empowered to work for positive change in your community and the world beyond. This retreat is open to all ages. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

Shared by Central District Conference

Volunteers repair massive water damage at school

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteers visited Kykotsmovi Village on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona, and helped repair extensive water damage at the Peace Academic Center. After a November 2023 freeze, Lance Polingyouma, superintendent of the center, was facing an immense repair job, describing the walls of the school as “an entire waterfall.” MDS volunteer Tom Mosier, who lives in Show Low, Arizona—about a two-and-a-half-hour drive from the school—got word of the damage from MDS regional operations leadership. He knew he had to see the school for himself. “It was a short-notice project,” described Tom, who promptly became the project director—his first time in that role—then recruited several more volunteers from the region. **Learn more about the project [here](#) and view a video about it from MDS [here](#).**



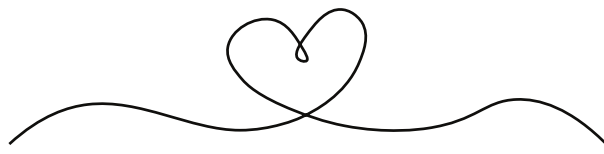
Women in Leadership plans 2025 women's summit

The MC USA [Women in Leadership](#) steering committee gathered in Valley Village, California, on July 16-18, to plan the 2025 Women in Leadership Summit. Open to all women across MC USA, this one-day event will be on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in Greensboro, North Carolina, immediately preceding the [Follow Jesus '25 convention](#). The theme for the summit is "Beholding it together." More details to come! **Read more [here](#).**

Talking Climate

Shifting away from fossil fuels to renewable energy is an essential step in seeking climate justice. A challenge in this transition is sourcing critical minerals in a way that is just and sustainable for land and people. In the most recent [Talking Climate](#) newsletter from Christian climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe, you can read about phytomining, or extracting nickel from native flowers that accumulate it from nickel-rich soil! This exciting development is underway in Albania, offering hope for a sustainable and just energy transition.

Shared by Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Mennonite Church USA Climate Justice Coordinator

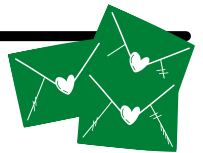


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<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

Click [this link](#) to be taken to a Google Drive folder which contains meeting minutes from each commission.

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

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
