

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *All's Well That Ends Well* using Revelation 21:1-7.

When it comes to the end of the story (and the end of the Bible) what does it really look like for this hope for “making all things new” to be realized? As we think about our future hope are we talking about resuscitation, restoration, renovation, or resurrection?

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



Q&A September 1st

Sunday, September 1st during the CE hour

On September 1st during the CE hour, join us for a Q&A with author, pastor, and Central District Conference communications coordinator Sarah Renee Werner. Her book, *Rooted Faith: Practices for Loving Well on a Fragile Planet*, challenges Christians to rethink our relationship with our creation and consumer culture. Even if you haven't engaged with the book, please share your questions about topics like creation care, simplicity, wild church, connecting with your bioregion, land stewardship, and cultivating hope amid climate crisis. We will likely have time for live questions as well, but to make sure your questions gets asked, you can send them to Pastor Kevin (kevin@normalmennonite.org) by August 29th.



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 at a table in the back or by contacting the church office.

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

Announcement from IMC

Below is an announcement from Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC):

Dear Illinois Conference churches,

The Missional Leadership Team would like to inform the Illinois Conference churches that three IMC pastors have agreed to serve Illinois Conference churches as a Conference Minister team. Bryan Miller, Eric Potter, and Calvin Zehr will collaboratively serve IMC churches in the conference staff position of Conference Executive Minister. This team of pastors will be collectively responsible for providing the leadership and function of a Conference Minister. Each individual pastor is not responsible for every responsibility of a Conference Minister.

Although a team of pastors sharing Conference Minister responsibilities is not something new in MCUSA, it is a new arrangement for Illinois Mennonite Conference. It is understood that this approach will involve a degree of trial and innovation. The search committee of Richard Gehring, Debra Sutter, and Darrel Miller recommended these pastors for this arrangement and the MLT has developed a Memo of Understanding with this team of pastors. Each pastor will serve on a quarter time basis. Bryan Miller will begin Sept. 1; Cal Zehr, Nov. 1; and Eric Potter, beginning date to be determined.

Churches, of course, will receive the necessary details about how this will initially work as they are determined. We trust that the Lord's Spirit is leading us in this step of service in God's kingdom. We thank God for the gifts given these leaders and their willingness to serve.

IMC Missional Leadership Team

Barre, VT Update



Please turn in your completed bags by **this Sunday 9/1.**

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?

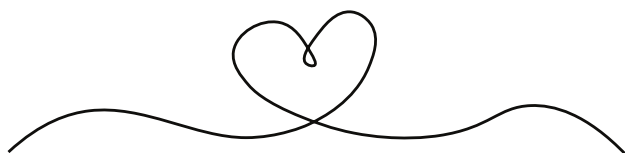
Renewing our relationships with all of creation (Aug 11 – Sep 5)

- 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

Dorothy Loepf Music Scholarship Application Period is Now Open!



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Caleb and Jessica Hall
West Greeter: Roger and Linda Clemmons

Welcome Table: Spring Neely

Ushers: Neely family

Offering Counter: Lotus Hershberger

Worship Planner & Leader: Jane Roeschley

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story: Jane Roeschley

Scripture Reader: Jaylen Raab

Technology: Adam Augspurger & Ryan Miller

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Elsa Raab

Infant Nursery - during CE:

Preschool Nursery:



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Thursday, August 28

- 9:30 am Graveside Service for Joe Jantze
- 11:00 am Funeral Service for Joe Jantze
- 6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)
- 7:00 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, August 29

- 7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, September 1

- 11:00 am Q&A with Sarah Renee Werner

Monday, September 2

- All Day Building/Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3

- 3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)



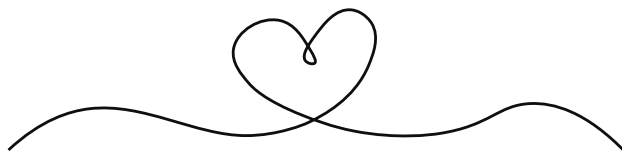
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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

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.



How to Recognize and Interrupt Possible Signs of Grooming

Monday, September 16, 2024 6:00pm CT

On September 16, 2024, at 6 p.m. Central Time, join presenter Ross Erb, associate director of the Collins Center, and host Nancy Kauffmann, Mennonite Church USA interim denominational minister of Church Safety, for an informational webinar on the vital importance of recognizing possible signs of grooming that lead to abuse. Grooming often goes undetected until abuse has caused significant harm and damage. With years of experience in dealing with this issue, Ross will help us better understand what grooming is, how to identify it, and how to prevent it. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

The power of friendship

“Why would Shia Muslims and Mennonite Christians strike up a friendship? Part of the answer might lie in their affinity as minorities within their faith traditions. Another possibility is the connection both communities draw between suffering and faith. I experienced this friendship in March when I took part in a Positive Global Ethics conference at the Islamic Science and Culture Academy in Qom, Iran, a center of Shia theology and religion. About 30 people, mostly Shia clerics, attended, and about 50 more joined virtually.” **Read more in Peter Sensenig’s article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).** *Photo (below): Peter Sensenig, left, who serves with Mennonite Mission Network and Eastern Mennonite Missions, meets with Mohammad-Taghi Eslami of the Islamic Sciences and Culture Academy at an interfaith dialogue in Qom, Iran, in March. — Mohammad Kashani*



Pollinators

Are you a welcoming congregation — to pollinators? Churches and landowners can make a big impact for the health of our planet with their landscaping choices. [Homegrown National Park](#) is a non-profit organization that raises awareness about the biodiversity crisis and encourages everyone to add native plants and remove invasive ones where we live, work, learn, pray and play. Tending native plants can become a spiritual practice that deepens our relationship with creation and with our Creator as we partner to cultivate beauty.

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

Goshen College student selected for U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program

Billy Easton II, an undergraduate student from Goshen College, is participating in the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program to study Swahili during the summer of 2024. Easton is one of approximately 500 American students at U.S. colleges and universities who were selected from over 5,000 applicants to study overseas or virtually in the summer of 2024. **Read the rest of Goshen College article [here](#).**

Protect yourself and loved ones from Medicare scams with essential tips and resources from Everence

"Everence cares about your well-being, so we'd like to pass along some tools you can use to protect yourself and those you love from opportunistic Medicare scammers." **Read the tips [here](#).**

BMC NewsNet | Summer 2024

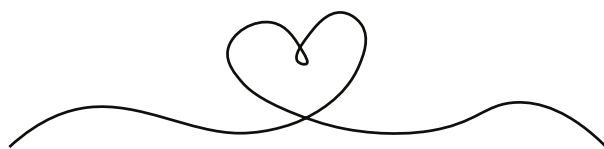
Read the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interest's Summer 2024 Newsletter [here](#). It includes BMC Summer Travel Highlights & Photos, Supportive Communities Network (SCN) Updates, and a Farewell Reflection from BMC Seminary Intern Jaylon Tasby, among other updates.

Peace churches welcome war survivors

Refugee resettlement brings diverse neighbors to Lancaster County. **Read more in Andrew Mashas's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

What makes a Mennonite writer?

"Few topics garner more interest among Mennonites than Mennonite identity. Who or what is a Mennonite? In *On Mennonite/s Writing*, Mennonite scholar Hildi Froese Tiessen addresses such questions as they relate to literature. The slash in the title acknowledges the ambiguity of identity by allowing 'Mennonite/s' to function as both an adjective and a noun, she explains, while 'writing' serves as both a noun and a verb." **Read more in Gordon Houser's article for the *Anabaptist World* [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

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

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
