

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Conspicuous Blessing* using Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21.

Joseph is sold by his brothers into slavery in a dramatic betrayal motivated by envy. However, by Joseph's own description, this situation was intended for the benefit of those same brothers and many others. God is active in twisting bad intentions into good outcomes. How can we, like Joseph, be ready to bless those who have harmed us?

After Worship

Adult CE

Journey Groups A & B
Conference Room

Journey Group C
Room 14

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, September 21st from 9:00-10:30 AM

The next Park Fun and Coffee Run event is Saturday, September 21st from 9:00-10:30 AM, all men/dads are invited to meet at Fusion Brew (503 S Main St. Normal, IL), while women/men will meet 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 at Comlara

This Saturday, September 21 at 10:00 am

This Saturday, the youth will be gathering at Comlara Park at 10am for brunch and activities. Please let Lynette Miller know if you didn't get this information by email and if your youth plans to attend.

From the Discipling Commission

MDS IL Annual Meeting



Saturday, September 21 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

The Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Illinois Unit annual meeting will be here at MCN on Saturday, September 21 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm, and MCN members are invited to attend. There will be a light lunch so please notify the MCN office if you plan to attend in order for us to plan for lunch.

From the Outreach Commission



Women's Bible Study

Thursday, September 26 at 9:30 am

The women's Bible Study will begin meeting again this fall on September 26 at 9:30 a.m. We will be using a book by Liz Ditty, *God's Many Voices: Learning to Listen, Expectant to Hear*. Any woman is welcome to join this study. If you are interested, let the church office know as soon as possible so that a book may be ordered for you.

From the Discipling Commission

Save the date



Sunday, September 29 at 8:30 AM

Parents of youth will be meeting September 29 before church at 8:30am.

From the Discipling Commission

Reiman Family Laura Ingalls Wilder presentation

Sunday, Sept 29 at 5:00 PM at the MRC Community Building

Reiman Family Laura Ingalls Wilder presentation: People of all ages welcome. Between 1870 and 1894, Laura Ingalls traversed the midwestern states of Wisconsin, Kansas, Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri in a covered wagon. The Reimans covered most of that territory in eight days this past summer, pulling their cozy camper behind. Leading up to this journey, Adah had read all of the books (except Farmer Boy) and seen most of the television series. Along the journey, Amy listened to the audiobook of the Pulitzer winning biography, *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder*, by Caroline Fraser. Jeff, not having read the books and only having seen a few of the episodes, created one of his finest vacation spreadsheets of all times, and in so doing, helped craft an immersive vacation for the two Laura Fan Girls. In this presentation, we will share some of our favorite stories from our trip, and what we learned about how the history of prairie settlement and the shame of poverty continues to shape American

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

Save the date!



Friday, October 18

Fall Family Fun Night will be on Friday, October 18. The theme is The Apple of God's Eye. More information and sign-up coming soon.

From the Discipling Commission



Save the date!

November 17

Our annual Spending Plan hearing will happen on November 17. Details will be coming soon. Each Commission is working on their individual Spending Plan which are due on October 7 by 8 am.

From the Administration Commission

Thank You from Pastor Lauren

Thank you for all for the outpouring of support as I was installed Sunday. I am honored and privileged to continue to serve on the Pastoral Team. Thank you for singing me in and for all those that helped make Sunday happen!

From Pastor Lauren Satchwell



Thank You

Last Sunday, we welcomed our new pastor, Lauren Satchwell, with giant red peppers, luscious heirloom tomatoes, and a great sermon from Doug Luginbill. (Including a great reference to a donkey!) Thank you to everyone who helped with the search process and the Sunday meal.

From the Pastoral Team Search Committee

We're recruiting!



We have a number of outside groups that rent our facilities. Invariably they want microphones and live streaming in the evening. Administration Commission does pay for this opportunity. Training will be provided. If you're interested, contact Mary Dyck.

From the Administration Commission



Did you know?

Administration Commission has a new subcommittee on Safety, Access, and Accommodation. This group is working on policies and procedures related to safety issues, background checks, and access issues. Cindy Ropp is chairing and Marcia Rossi, David Voegtlin, Mark Hodel, and Darvis King have agreed to serve. They hope to complete their work within a year.

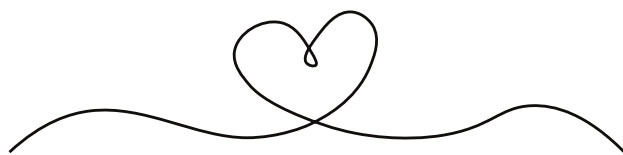
From the Administration Commission

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



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 18

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
7:00pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, September 19

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, September 21

10:30 am MDS IL Unit Annual Meeting

Sunday, September 22

Tuesday, September 24

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 25

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)
7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Mark and Pam Hodel

West Greeter: Connie Satchwell

Welcome Table: Bess Desch

Ushers: Caleb and Liz Augspurger

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Shannon Unzicker

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lauren Satchwell

Children's Time: Shelly King

Scripture Reader: Gabriella Harnish

Technology: Adam Augspurger & Rick Harnish

Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Denise 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.



Sharing of Joys and Concerns

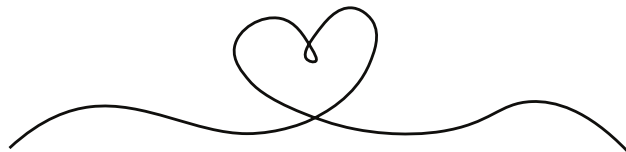


MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CARE UNIT AT
CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2024



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



September 29th is Anabaptist Community Bible Day

September 29th

Anabaptism at 500 has declared September 29, 2024 as Anabaptist Community Bible Day to celebrate and reaffirm shared values of community, discipleship and peacemaking. This special day provides an opportunity for congregations to come together in unity, explore the rich history and teachings of Anabaptism and engage with the unique insights offered by the Anabaptist Community Bible. **Learn more [here](#).**

Hold Fast to Dreams: Stories and Music of Florence Price

Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 7:00

Moses Montefiore Temple (102 Robinhood Lane, Bloomington)


The Illinois Symphony Orchestra and Moses Montefiore Temple present an Around the Town Concert titled *Hold Fast to Dreams: Stories and Music of Florence Price*. The concert will feature music by the well-known African American woman composer, Florence Price. Interspersed among the performances, the ISO's Associate Conductor, Jacobsen Woollen, will discuss Florence Price's life and her contributions to music. The concert is open to the public and there is no charge to attend.

Guest performers include: Dr. Carren Moham, Professor of Voice (IWU), Justin Johnson, Meghan Goldfarb, Jacobsen Woollen, the ISO String Quartet, and the Moses Montefiore Choir.

The concert is being performed in conjunction with Selichot, the first worship service to officially begin the Jewish High Holy Days. The service will be held shortly after the concert.

Volunteer with Prairie Pride Coalition

The Prairie Pride Coalition will be distributing resources at four events this month. They are looking for volunteers to staff their table at these events. Volunteering is easy, and you will be paired with someone who can help answer questions and provide information to people who stop by. **Learn more and sign up [here](#).**



The poster for Menno Haven's Fall Work Day features a circular logo at the top left with a central flame and the text 'MENNO HAVEN' and 'FELLOWSHIP • WORSHIP • RECREATION • RETREAT CENTER'. The background shows a collage of photos: a man in a red shirt operating a wood splitter, a man in a blue shirt working with wood, and a group of people working at a table. The text 'Menno Haven's FALL WORK DAY' is written in a mix of fonts. Below this, a list of 'POSSIBLE PROJECTS' includes painting, wood splitting, trailer reconditioning, mulch spreading, deep cleaning, and outside/inside tasks. Dates are listed as Tuesday, Oct 1 and Wednesday, Oct 2. A home icon indicates lodging is available upon request. An 'RSVP & INFO' box provides the website 'www.mennohaven.com/work-day', email 'sheena@mennohaven.com', and phone number '815-255-4649'. A closing statement at the bottom expresses appreciation for volunteers. The bottom of the poster is decorated with a row of autumn leaves and pumpkins.

MENNO HAVEN
FELLOWSHIP • WORSHIP • RECREATION • RETREAT CENTER

Menno Haven's
FALL WORK DAY

POSSIBLE PROJECTS

- Painting Projects
- Splitting Wood
- Reconditioning a Trailer
- Spreading Mulch
- Deep Cleaning
- Outside & Inside Tasks

 Tuesday, Oct 1
Wednesday, Oct 2

 Lodging is available upon request

RSVP & INFO www.mennohaven.com/work-day
sheena@mennohaven.com
815-255-4649

Menno Haven depends on, and greatly appreciates, the hard work of volunteers like you to keep our 231 acres of sanctuary looking great!

MCC Gaza aid begins long journey

Getting humanitarian supplies into Gaza continues to be difficult and slow. **Read more in Linda Espenshade article for the *Anabaptist World* and Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

Climate Justice Corner

In this recent article, [“God so loved the cosmos...”](#) the Creation Care Task Force of Mennonite World Conference (MWC) articulates connections between MWC’s seven [Shared Convictions](#) and our Christian mandate to care for creation. “...Creation care is at the very heart of the church’s mission to ‘witness to God’s grace,’” the Task Force writes, quoting Shared Conviction #7. Their solid theological work is a gift to MWC congregations and might inspire a creation-care themed sermon or Christian Education discussion for your congregation!

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

Is it Worth It?

Taking photos isn't just a job—it's our way to resist, exist, preserve our history, and keep our story alive.

“Is it worth it?” The question hit me like a slap. A volunteer from the United States was asking about Palestinian journalists risking their lives to document the weekly settler incursions in the Old City of [Al-Khalil/Hebron](#). Around the world, people often view taking photos as a privilege—not something worth risking your life for.” **Read the rest of Ameera Al-Rajabi’s article for Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**

Pam De Young Net Zero Energy Fund

Russell De Young established the Pam De Young Net Zero Energy Fund in memory of his wife, to help Mennonite churches install solar panels and move toward net-zero fossil fuel usage. This blog is part of Mennonite Church USA’s ongoing [Learn, Pray, Join: Climate Justice: Seeking Shalom series](#).

“While I worked at NASA’s Langley Research Center, in Hampton, Virginia, I was involved in researching aerosol — dust particles — pollution, using a lidar to transmit a pulsed laser beam into the atmosphere to detect aerosols and cloud heights and, then, calculate where the aerosol pollution was originating. The origin usually turned out to be the Washington, D.C., corridor, which was emitting pollution from the large number of vehicles located there. I also evaluated the impacts that climate change would have on the research center and proposed solutions to preserve the center.” **Read the rest of Russell De Young’s blog post [here](#).**

I am chosen, and so are you

"I love a good hero story. There's often a backstory, explaining how heroes like Frodo, Harry Potter and Batman are chosen. We like to think the chosen hold a glamorous, elevated status. But I'm not sure being chosen is all that much fun." **Read more in Sarah Augustine's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Diverse divinity

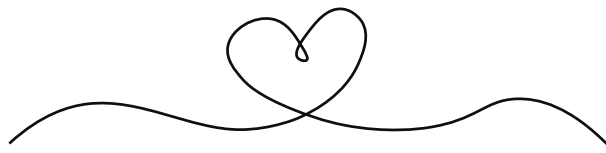
Indiana women enrich their faith while finding truth in other religions. **Read more in Sally Jo Milne, Bonnie King, Judith Davis, and Dorothy Yoder Nyce's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

MC USA Executive Board focuses on reimagination and decision-making

The Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Executive Board focused on healthy processes for denominational decision-making and reimaging organizational change at its meeting on August 22-25, 2024, in Greensboro, North Carolina, the site of the upcoming Follow Jesus '25 convention. Catherine Barnes, an affiliate faculty member of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, and freelance trainer, led a board development workshop on decision-making practices and systems. Executive Board members and staff engaged in roundtable discussions about ways to improve dialogue and enhance the effectiveness of decision-making within the context of MC USA's governance structure. **Read more in MC USA's news release [here](#).**

A call for Mercury Justice

"Members of Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek First Nation (Grassy Narrows) are once again preparing to travel 1900 km to Toronto to call for mercury justice. The people of Grassy Narrows, led by mothers and youth, have been demanding government action for decades since a pulp and paper mill dumped tons of mercury into the English-Wabigoon River system in the 1960s. For decades, the provincial government claimed that remediation of the watershed was impossible. The community has continued to advocate relentlessly and has finally begun to win. The Ontario government, in 2017, promised to clean the river and committed \$85 million in funding. In 2020, the provincial and federal governments committed to financing a Mercury Care Home to provide medical and nursing care to people affected by mercury poisoning. Change is coming, slowly. The river cleanup is still at the stage of feasibility studies. Construction on the Mercury Care Home has just begun." **Read the rest of the article from Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**

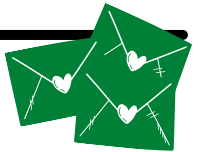


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<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, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, and Visitation 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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

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!

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Structure Documents
