

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Meredith Schroeer will preach a sermon using Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8.

Our sermon this Sunday will conclude the summer series on the Creation, and begin a new year in the Narrative Lectionary. One possible reading of our Scripture, Genesis 2.4 to 3.13, is that God's purpose in creating the earth and the heavens is for human beings to live in a close and caring relationship with one another and with all the rest of creation. How are we doing with that? How are any of us doing with that?

After Worship

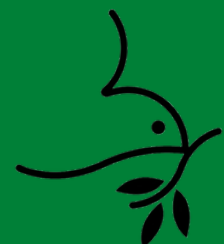
Adult CE
All Adults
Room 5/7/8

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



Adult CE

This Sunday, September 8th

Christian Education will begin a new quarter this coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join any class.

Journey Groups A&B will meet together in the conference room with Joe Culpepper as leader. The study will be drawn from the book of Luke exploring the relationship between wealth, salvation and discipleship.

Journey Group C will be using a Salt and Light Study, "We Belong to God", examining our identity is formed and shaped in our relationship with God and Christ. Lynette Miller will lead the class which will meet in the former Head Start area. Study books for this class are available on the desk in the conference room until 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 Bryan Miller 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

Photography for our new pictorial directory starts in just a couple of weeks! Photography will be taking place Monday, September 16 and Tuesday, September 17 at MCN. If you haven't scheduled already, we still have slots available and we want you to be included! You are an important part of our church family and our directory wouldn't be complete without you! When participating in a session, you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait as well as an updated church directory. The process will only take about 30-45 minutes and you will have the opportunity to purchase family portraits.

You can schedule your appointment by contacting the office. Thank you for your commitment to the church, we appreciate all that you do to support and be a part of our church community.

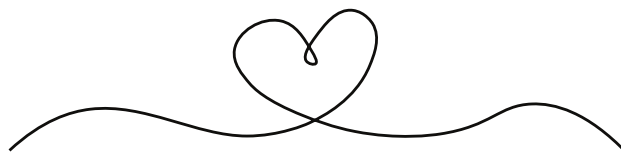
From the Administration Commission

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. It has 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 are now available on the Library Table.**

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 4

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, September 5

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Monday, September 9

5:00 pm Outreach Commission

Tuesday, September 10

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 11

7:00 pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

7:30 pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)



Those Serving This Week



South Greeters: Driscoll family

West Greeter: Sheila Kuria

Welcome Table: Gail Fisher

Ushers: children & youth

Offering Counter: Mark Roeschley

Worship Planner & Leader: Holly Zehr

Sharing Prayer Leader: Lynette Miller

Children's Story:

Scripture Reader: Rita Ngongo

Technology: Glenn Wilson & Ryan Miller

Song Leader: Wayne Hochstetler

Accompaniment, Prelude, & Response in Music: Denise Hedberg

Infant Nursery - during CE:

Preschool Nursery:

Prayer Requests and Announcements

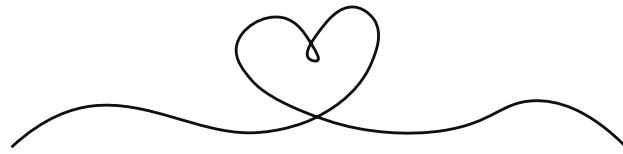
Prayer requests can be shared during the Sharing Joys and Concerns portion of our Worship Service. For other announcements, please send them to Lauren Satchwell ahead of time so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful 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



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](#).**

Climate Justice Corner

The Honorable Harvest is a framework for relating to the natural world with respect and gratitude. Rooted in Indigenous wisdom, the Honorable Harvest is described beautifully by Robin Wall Kimmerer in her book [Braiding Sweetgrass](#). The Honorable Harvest can also serve as a guide for relating to people, as Clare Krabill reflects in a recent [MHS Association newsletter](#).

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



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



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!

Confessions of a spiritual director

Spiritual director Jane Hooper Peifer laments the difficulties of staying present while at her listening post. **See her post for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

I hate when that happens.

I hate when I forget to stay curious,
when some word spoken to me from the heart
trips me,
catches me,
triggers me or invites me
into some certainty about something
I think I know about,
and I leave my listening post
and begin wandering down my own path.
I hate when that happens.

O God,
Be near me and keep me curious;
Fill me with questions and wonderings;
Keep me from thinking I know about another,
when the soul of another is
as mysterious as the rumblings in my own soul.
Help me to stay by my listening post, O God.

Everence ToolKit Fall 2024

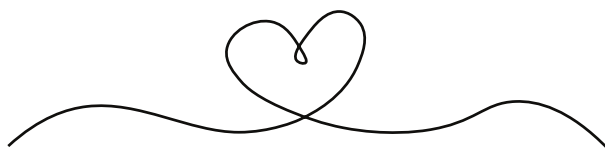
Download Everence's Fall 2024 edition of their ToolKit [here](#). (Also available [En Español](#).)

Finding home: How the Mennonite church became my family

Jon Carlson, moderator for Mennonite Church USA, shares his story of how he came to call the Mennonite church home the family-like belonging that has felt since joining this church. His blog post is part of the "[Menno by Choice](#)" series **Read Jon Carlson's blog post [here](#).**

How a congregation came to pay reparations

Theft of Black labor and Indigenous land left a debt, both moral and financial, that needs to be repaid. "What comes after the book studies? For decades, members at Assembly Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind., did what congregations do to be informed participants in God's liberating justice. We heard sermons, clarified our values, became politically engaged and read a lot of books. Good, essential books. But after the summer of 2020, after George Floyd's murder by a Minneapolis police officer, we did something new. We formed an Anti-Racism Accountability Group for White people who recognize their tendency to engage antiracism work for a while and then get distracted. We met monthly to share what we did last month and what we intended to do next month. It provided not only accountability but encouragement." **Read the rest of Karl Shelly's article for *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, 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