

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *It Would Be Absurd* using Daniel 6:6-27.

Daniel finds himself in the lion's den in a tension-filled situation. At the end of the story, we have to ask ourselves: Who are the dangerous characters if not the lions? How do we respond to them like Daniel?

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

Office/Building Closed



Tomorrow, Tuesday 11/26 through Friday 11/29

The church office/building will be closed Tuesday 11/26 through Friday 11/29 for Thanksgiving. It will re-open Monday, December 2 at the normal time. Thank you for your understanding!

From the Church Office

Communion This Sunday



This Sunday, December 1st

We will celebrate Communion in worship this Sunday with Kevin Chupp leading. In preparation, we are all encouraged to engage in self-examination of both our relationships with God, and with others. We also receive specially designated gifts for our Mutual Aid Fund on Communion Sundays as a means of assisting others in need through being the Body of Christ. There will be a special basket in the back of the sanctuary for those funds.

If you would like to take communion at home, please contact Kevin Chupp.



Doll Clothes Sale

This Sunday, December 1st after Worship

Mark your calendars for December 1st! Once again this year you can shop Lois Jett's vast selection of handmade doll clothes that fit American Girl! Simply stick around after worship to take a look at all of the truly unique options. Lois is generously donating all of the proceeds to our Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF).

Wednesday Evening Worship in Advent

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm during Advent

We will be having special worship services at 6:30 pm on the three Wednesdays of Advent (December 4, 11 and 18). We will gather in a dimly lit church for singing, *lectio divina* and prayers of intercession for our world as we await the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World. During *lectio divina*, we will read the following Sunday's Scripture passage and engage in guided meditation about how it speaks to us and what it might be calling us to do.

From the Worship Commission



(Almost) Longest Night

December 19 at 6:30 pm

Have a Beautiful Terrible Christmas or the (Almost) Longest Night worship event. For those of us who have had a big loss, Christmas season can seem more morbid than merry. We may be facing the first Christmas without someone or something that was very important to us. It can make the unending barrage of Hallmark-happy-ending seem empty and meaningless.

If this is true for you or someone that you know, join the Loss/Grief Support Group on Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 pm. We will pray, read, and listen to poems, songs, Scripture and Christian readings that acknowledge our need for the birth of Christ as we navigate the less "happy" land of deep loss.

—Lynn Reha for the Loss/Grief Support Group



Advent Ensemble

Rehearsal: Dec 15 at 12:30 pm and Dec 22 at 8 am

Performance: Sunday, December 22

The MCN Advent Ensemble will be performing the Prelude on Sunday, December 22. We will rehearse at 12:30 pm on Sunday, December 15 and at 8 am on Sunday, December 22 (the day we perform). If you are interested in playing with us but didn't sign-up, it's not too late! You can email me if you'd like to join us. If you have any questions, please contact me at 309-452-6622 or church@normalmennonite.org. I look forward to playing with you!

From Lydia Hedberg

Christmas Eve Worship



Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve worship at MCN will be on Tuesday, December 24, at 6:30 pm, followed by fellowship.

Periodical Renewals



It's that time of year again -- periodical subscription renewals! Each year the church organizes group subscriptions to three Mennonite publications: [Rejoice!](#) (a quarterly devotional) by Menno Media for \$37.92, [The Upper Room Daily Devotional](#) (delivered quarterly) for \$9, and [Anabaptist World](#) (16 issues) for \$44. This gives everyone the opportunity to subscribe these publications with a discounted rate through the church office. If you would like to **renew**, **begin**, or **end** a subscription to **one or more** of these publications, please contact Lydia in the church office at 309-452-6622 or church@normalmennonite.org **before Monday, December 2nd**.

From the church office

The Safety, Access and Accommodation Committee is seeking your input as we organize our work going forward. Adults and youth (jr high and high school age), please complete the online survey to the best of your ability. We are looking to identify knowledge and needs in our church community. Be as detailed as possible as that will help us in planning. We will be reaching out to the younger children after a church service in the coming weeks to answer a few brief questions. Parents, if you want to include helpful information about your child(ren) in your own survey, please do. The survey will be live until midnight on Wednesday, November 27. Paper copies will be available at the church if you would prefer that format. We are excited for your responses to aid us as we look to providing for safety and accommodation in the workings of MCN! [Click here to take the survey.](#)

*From the Safety, Access and Accommodation Committee
Cindy Ropp, Mark Hodel, Darvis King, Marcia Rossi, and David Voegtlin*

Church Retreat



January 24-26, 2025

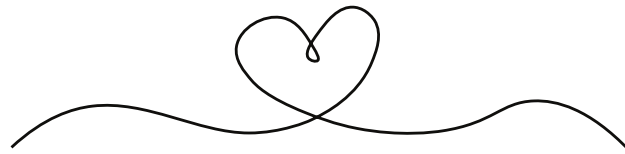
Please consider joining us for a weekend of fellowship and fun at Camp Friedenswald, January 24-26! Friedenswald is a beautiful retreat in southern Michigan with a large, comfortable, warm lodge for us to stay in. Whether you're looking for social time or solitude, there's something for everyone. Activities for the weekend can include sledding, tubing, hiking, relaxing, eating, cross country skiing, reading, games, worship, fellowship, and more! For more information contact Shelly and Darvis.

Joys and Concerns in Advent & Christmas Season

As many of you know, Advent and Christmas at MCN are seasons full of extra music from the choirs and others. As has been our practice in the past, we will **not** be having open sharing of prayers and concerns from December 1 to January 5. **If you have specific concerns that you wish the pastors to bring before the assembly, please email Lauren Satchwell in advance of Sunday.** The pastors will leave time for each person to voice their prayer requests quietly or in the silence of their hearts.

From the Worship Commission

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This month it is highlighting some of the CDC congregations who sew comforters for Mennonite Central Committee. It also shares a story from Lima Mennonite Church about their welcome of Haitian immigrants into their worshipping community, a recap of Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship's 50th Anniversary, and the latest edition of Doug's Mug. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table soon.



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Tuesday, November 26

All Day Building/Office Closed

Wednesday, November 27

All Day Building/Office Closed

Thursday, November 28

All Day Building/Office Closed

Friday, November 29

All Day Building/Office Closed

Sunday, December 1

11:00 am Doll Clothes Sale

7:00 pm Adult Choir

Tuesday, December 3

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 4

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, December 5

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

1:00 pm Women's Ministry - Comforters for Appalachia

6:30 pm Women's Ministry - Comforters for Appalachia



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week



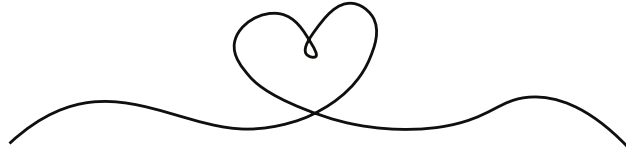
Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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

We will **not** be having open sharing of prayers and concerns during the Advent and Christmas season from December 1 to January 5. **If you have specific concerns that you wish the pastors to bring before the assembly, please email Lauren Satchwell in advance of Sunday.** The pastors will leave time for each person to voice their prayer requests quietly or in the silence of their hearts.



The Doctrine of Discovery is at work in the U.S.A.

"In the [Tonto National Forest](#) of central Arizona, Chi'chil Biłdagoteel, ("Oak Flat" in English) is a region of immense cultural, ecological and historical significance. Renowned for its unique geological formations and diverse flora and fauna, it holds deep significance for multiple Indigenous communities. Located 70 miles east of Phoenix, Arizona, Oak Flat has been home to San Carlos Apache's ancestors for centuries, if not millennia. The Apache Nation is believed to have migrated to the American Southwest from the north, possibly crossing the Bering Land Bridge thousands of years ago. The story of Oak Flat is deeply intertwined with the Doctrine of Discovery, a legal framework established by the Catholic Church that has historically justified the seizure of Indigenous lands by colonial powers." **Read the rest of Jane Morrow's article for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Mennonite Men welcomes Jon Zirkle to co-leadership role

"Mennonite Men is excited to welcome Jon Zirkle to leadership as co-director of U.S. Mennonite Men with Steve Thomas. Jon has been on the board of Mennonite Men for past two years and involved with the work of JoinMen for men's growth and JoinTrees for creation care. Jon brings a background in agriculture, land conservation, not-for-profit leadership, environmental education, and theological training. Jon is a member of Assembly Mennonite Church in Goshen where he helped form a men's group. He has an MA in Plant and Soil Science from University of Vermont and is a recent graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary with a M.A. in Christian Formation." **Read more from Mennonite Men [here](#).**

A Short Bible Study Supporting Same-Sex Christian Marriage

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) is sharing a resource Bible study titled, "A Short Bible Study Supporting Same-Sex Christian Marriage," as part of its responsibility to the Delegate Assembly (MC USA Bylaws, Article 6, 1a) and its 2022 action affirming ["A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation."](#) The eight-page Bible study is written by Martin Schupack, a retired pastor, lawyer and public policy advocate. **Download it in English or Spanish [here](#).**

Shared in the MC USA newsletter

What makes for a good religion?

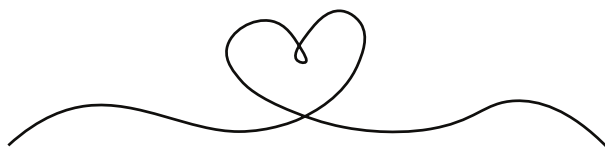
Hint: It's not 'having an answer for everything' "Sometimes you find religion in the most unusual places — like the sports section of the Winnipeg Free Press. That's where ESPN college football analyst Bill Curry was quoted as saying: 'A good offense is like a good religion. It should have an answer for everything.' It's a great quote. It's pithy. It's - humorous. It's wrong. Not about football. Maybe good football offenses really do have answers for everything the opposing team throws at them. But it's wrong about good religion. Good religion has as many questions as answers. It makes us think, and it gives us room to admit when we just don't know." **Read the rest of John Longhurst's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Listening and leaning in

Paula Holtzinger provides insight on how to effectively handle conflict, through listening, leaning in and utilizing resources. This blog is part of Mennonite Church USA's ongoing [Learn, Pray, Join: Climate Justice: Conflict Transformation series](#). **Read her insights published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

MCC partners in Lebanon provide emergency food

As deadly violence escalated in Lebanon, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) partners worked to provide emergency relief and support for people caught in the conflict. By Oct. 10, MCC had three partners responding to urgent needs: Iman Sadr Foundation, Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training and Popular Aid for Relief and Development. All three organizations have quickly mobilized emergency responses to help as many of the 1.2 million displaced Lebanese as they can. **Read the rest of Jason Dueck article for MCC published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



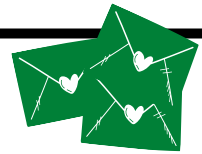
Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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!



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

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Structure Documents
