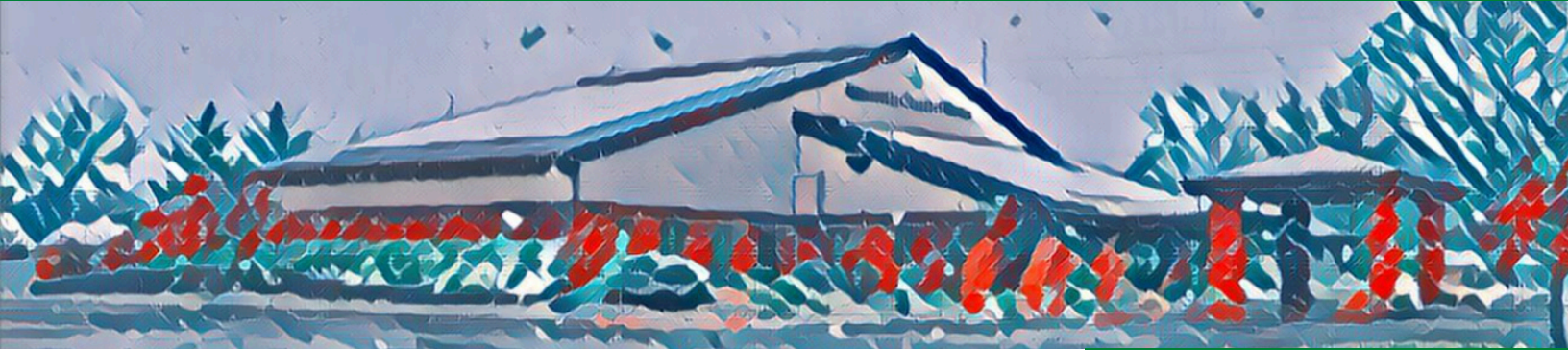


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Lauren Satchwell will preach a sermon titled The Power of Two using Luke 2:21-38.

Christmas is a proclamation that God honors his promises. The Jewish people expected a Messiah to establish God's kingdom and restore Israel just as the prophets said. Do we have that same faith in God's promises to be expecting any day for God to move?

After Worship

Adult CE
Salt & Light
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

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.

Request for Cookies for Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a cookie reception after the Christmas Eve service. We would greatly appreciate donations of all kinds of cookies. If you are able to help in this way, simply drop them off in the kitchen any time before the service. Thank you!

From the Fellowship Committee

Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

Friday, January 10 from 6-8 pm

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is Friday, January 10 from 6-8 pm. MFB wants us to sign up at least a week ahead of time to facilitate their project planning, so if you plan to go, **please sign up as early as possible using [this link](#)**. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

From the Outreach Commission

Writing the Prologue to Your New Year” Retreat with Author Judith Valente

Saturday, January 11, 2025

“Write it down, make it happen,” suggests retreat leader Judith Valente. The start of a new year is a blank page offering us many possibilities. It is a time to reflect on where we have been and also on where we want to go to turn our dreams into possibilities. This means more than listing New Year’s resolutions that start with good intentions and are swiftly forgotten.

During this morning of reflection, we will endeavor to write the plot we want to see unfold for ourselves in the coming year so that whatever unexpected events might surprise us, we will have written a clear roadmap to help us stay the course toward our goals for spiritual and professional growth.

Saturday, January 11, 2025

10:00am – 12:00pm via Zoom

The cost of this retreat is \$25. [Register here](#).

This is a virtual retreat offered via Zoom. A basic familiarity with Zoom is expected of participants.



We all have mental health. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experiences mental illness in a given year. That's 43.8 million people, or 18.5% of the population. But we all have mental health and we all struggle at times.

How do we identify the signs and symptoms in someone who is just beginning to experience a mental health challenge? How do we tell when things are getting worse? What do we do when it becomes a crisis?

Over centuries, Christians have built up a lot of misconceptions that contribute to stigma around mental health and discussing it openly. Some claim that mental illness is a sign of weakness. Some tell us to just surrender our mental illness to God or that it's just God's way of testing you and your faith. Some believe that illness, whether physical or mental, is punishment for sins. **NONE OF THESE ARE TRUE!**

Mental health disorders are the result of multiple genetic and situational factors and most disorders are highly treatable. Come learn the signs and symptoms and practice offering hope to those who are struggling.

Mental Health First Aid for Those Who Work with Youth

Mennonite Church of Normal

Friday, January 3, 9am-5pm

Mental Health First Aid

Mennonite Church of Normal

Monday, January 20, 9am-5pm

All training is free. Please register by contacting Steve Benner at benner@mcchs.org.

Immigrants in Bloomington-Normal, what's happening?

You're invited: **WHEN:** 5PM, Sunday Jan 12. **WHERE:** MRC Community Building. Helen and a friend/colleague, Kimberly, will be hosting a discussion on immigrant families within our schools and community. We will be discussing trends in immigration in Bloomington/Normal, needs and assets they bring to the community, systems of support and systems of inequality for immigrants within our community, and the reaction to changes in political climates. This discussion is to help inform our church community about immigration issues within our community and to discuss our church's role (past, present, and future) with supporting our immigrant neighbors.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

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.



A Note from the Kauffman Family

Meal Train



Musicians Wanted

Does singing bring you joy? Does playing an instrument move your spirit? The Worship Commission understands that while practicing music is hard work, sharing music with others is a benefit to all. We would love to have you share your music in worship services! You can reach Denise or any member of the Worship Commission Team and we will schedule a date with you. Thank you for considering!

From Denise, Steve, Kevin, Joe, and Wayne



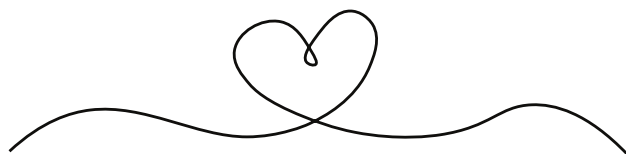
Financial Planning Group

CLC is considering starting a small group around financial planning and budgeting. This supportive group would explore ways to budget, save, invest, and manage debt in a way that's both practical and in line with our faith. Whether you're looking for help with budgeting, paying down debt, or just want to be more intentional with your financial decisions, this group could be a great way to support and learn from one another. If this sounds like something that would be helpful to you, or if you would like to share your own experience, please email Beth.

From the Community Life Commission



Log for Visiting/ Sitting with Alice Swift



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Tuesday, December 24

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24 through January 2

Office/Building Closed

Friday, January 3

9:00 am Mental Health First Aid



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 at 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.

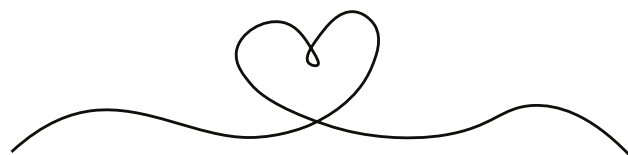


Those Serving This Week



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



CDC Mid-Year Gathering

Feb 1, 2025

Mark your calendars for the Central District Conference Mid-Year Gathering! Annual Central District Conference Mid-Year Gathering: Feb 1, 2025; 8:30-11a Central Time; Zoom Video Conference

Peace Theology in Movement: A Lunchtime Colloquium

A collaborative effort of AMBS and Mennonite Action

Wednesdays, Jan. 15 – April 30 | 11 am – 12 p.m. Central Time via Zoom

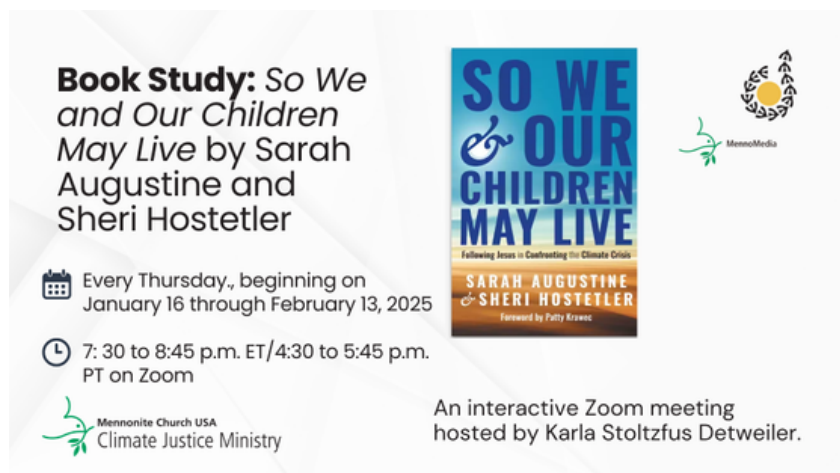
Instructors

- Janna Hunter-Bowman, PhD, Associate Professor of Peace Studies and Christian Social Ethics at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)
- Jonathan Smucker of Mennonite Action

This weekly lunchtime colloquium will focus on the Mennonite Action movement as an expression of Mennonite peace theology. Together, we'll step outside of the intensity of practice to reflect and interpret, considering the following questions:

- What forms of knowing, being and doing from Anabaptist traditions contribute to strategies that challenge and transform violence and organize movements?
- What responsibility do U.S.-based Christians hold in the war in Gaza?

Speakers will include members of the AMBS learning community, members of the Mennonite Action movement, scholars of religious studies, sociologists, theologians, activist-scholars of peacebuilding and decoloniality, pastors and adjacent movement thinkers. **There is no cost to attend, but registration is required for all participants.** Learn more and register [here](#).



Book Study: *So We and Our Children May Live* by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler

Every Thursday, beginning on January 16 through February 13, 2025

7:30 to 8:45 p.m. ET/4:30 to 5:45 p.m. PT on Zoom

Mennonite Church USA
Climate Justice Ministry

An interactive Zoom meeting hosted by Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler.

Thursdays, January 16 through February 13 at 6:30 pm CT

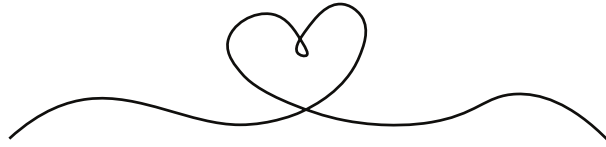
Join Mennonite Church USA in imagining a sustainable future for ourselves, our children, and our planet by participating in an online book study of the compelling and timely book, "So We and Our Children May Live" by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler. Drawing from Scripture, science, Indigenous wisdom, and personal stories, the authors invite us to open our hearts and our culture to deep, Spirit-led transformation. [Register here](#).

Using our power to create spaces for healing and community care

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Pastor Katerina Gea shares about the Community Care and Trauma Healing gatherings her church has been hosting to support Palestinian solidarity. **Read her post [here](#).**

Mary as My Rule of Life

"I am someone who thrives when given an assignment—a specific product needed at a specific time with specific requirements in place. Maybe that's why I enjoy being a pastor so much—I get to "turn in" my sermon on each assigned Sunday. That's probably why I've written two devotional books—trading in school due dates for publisher deadlines. And that's certainly why I'm spending a bright, crisp fall Saturday morning snuggled in a recliner writing this reflection." **Read the rest of Rev. Joanna Harader's blog post for Mennonite Women USA [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

Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

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!

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

Structure Documents
