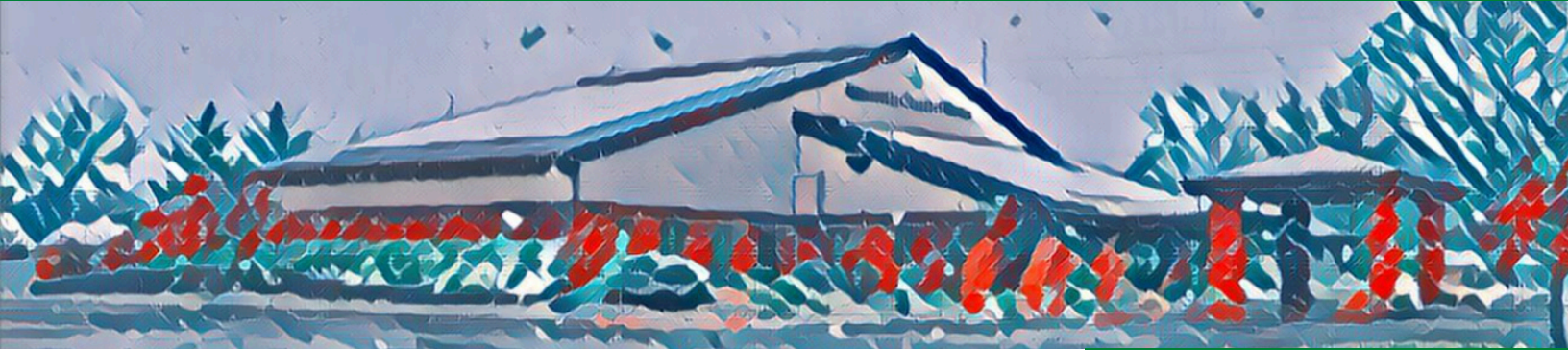


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Homecoming* using Luke 4:14-30.

Jesus returns to Nazareth after some powerful experiences and he finds that it is not cozy in his hometown. He is driven away after comparing the people to those unblessed doubters in the days of Elijah and Elisha. As we mark 500 years of Anabaptism, we remember our first leaders who were not at home in their own faith but were rejected and sometimes martyred for their witness. We have a much less controversial presence today. What do we make of that?

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

Annual Meeting



Sunday, January 19th at 1 pm

The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held this Sunday, January 19th at 1:00 PM. This will be a hybrid meeting, allowing participation in person or via Zoom. A congregational meal hosted by the Fellowship Committee will precede the meeting!

Members will be able to electronically vote on whether to accept the proposed 2025 Spending Plan following the meeting. We strongly encourage everyone to attend in person or online. However, absentee ballots will also be available in the church office for those who cannot attend or vote electronically. **View the 2024 Annual Report, including the 2025 Spending Plan** The Zoom link can be found

Last week's Midweek included more information about two line items in the spending plan: the emergency funds requested by Outreach and the added support to Illinois Mennonite Conference. If you have questions about anything in the annual report, they may be directed to the Vision Team here. **As much as possible, please ask your questions ahead of the January 19 meeting so the congregation will be prepared to vote on the spending plan that afternoon.** Thank you!

From the Vision Team (Shelly King, Shannon Neely, Ben Roeschley, Lauren Satchwell)



Potluck Information

Sunday, January 19 after CE

The meal for the Congregational Meeting is Potluck Style! As a suggestion we would recommend dividing things up by last name as follows:

- A-H Salads
- I-P Desserts
- Q-Z Main course

Feel free to trade with someone. Please try to provide for at least 6-8 people. Also, if you want your container back, please try to label it well.

From the Fellowship Committee



Winter Retreat

January 24-26, 2025

EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at camp, January 24-26! Friedenswald is a beautiful retreat with large, comfortable, warm lodges 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 details (including notes on cost and meals), and to sign up, please click.**

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

Church Office/Building Closed



January 20th

The church office/building will be closed all day on Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King Jr Day.

Proposal for IMC Funding and Timeline for Membership Decision

The purpose of this Midweek article is to share additional detail on the proposed financial support of IMC in the 2025 Spending Plan and inform the congregation that a process to decide MCN's future conference affiliation is being planned for 2025.

Background

MCN's dual affiliation with Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) and Central District Conference (CDC) continues to be a topic that is raised for reconsideration. Understanding the rich historical reasoning for why MCN is affiliated with two regional conferences, the deeply held feelings for this arrangement, and practical considerations surrounding the affiliations, Vision Team has previously stated that any church decision to alter or reaffirm this dual affiliation would follow a process that allowed for input and discernment from the congregation.

Financial Considerations

One of the practical considerations mentioned above is the financial support that member churches provide for the conferences. As of 2023, MCN was giving \$16,000 of annual support to IMC. Since IMC was operating without a conference minister at the time, MCN was encouraged to pause its giving to IMC in mid-2023. In 2024, IMC hired a conference minister and so now the resumption of financial support from all conference member churches is necessary.

Proposed IMC Support in 2025 Spending Plan and Next Steps

- Vision Team recommended adding \$8,000 to the 2025 spending plan to fund support for IMC for the first half of the year. This returns to the level of giving pre-2023.
- Vision Team will lead the congregation through a conference membership decision process, aimed to conclude no later than 7/1/2025. More detail on that process will be shared in the coming weeks.
- At the conclusion of that process, the congregation will vote on conference membership.
 - Shall it decide only to retain membership with CDC, it will take necessary steps to withdraw membership from IMC. Funding for IMC for the second half of the year won't be necessary in this scenario.
 - Shall it decide to retain membership in both conferences, the congregation will need to understand a decision to retain membership with IMC will **require an additional \$8,000 of support to IMC in the 2nd half of 2025 (and years beyond)**.
 - The congregation could also decide to retain membership with only IMC and leave CDC.

Questions

Please contact a member of the Vision Team (Shelly King, Shannon Neely, Ben Roeschley, Lauren Satchwell) with questions or feedback.

Shared by Vision Team



Monday, January 20, 9am-5pm at the Mennonite Church of Normal

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



Sign Poll

Administration Commission has begun work on the outside sign. We are planning to cover the lights from the sign. We have found a company that will cover the lights with a panel. The panel can have words or phrases on it, although not very many as small words won't be readable from the street. We are interested in the congregation's opinion on the words. [Click here](#) to take the poll.

From the Administration Commission

A Note from S&DT



After serving for one year, has decided to end her role on Vision Team, and we are grateful that another nominee from that same election process, Helen Brandon, has agreed to complete 's term. We are blessed to have so many gifted leaders among us!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Open Building/Office Times



The Open Building/Office Hours for MCN have been updated to Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM & 1:30PM-3PM. These are the times I make sure I am at the church to let people in or answer any phone calls. I am often working in the building outside of these hours as well, so if you need to stop by outside of them give me a call or email and we can set up a time. If I am ever not able to be in the building during the listed times, I will send an email to everyone to let you know.

From Lydia in the Office

Hohenstein-Ernstthal

During sharing time Sunday, Jan. 5, Juergen and Meredith mentioned that the German City of Chemnitz (Karl-Marx-Stadt during Communist times) has been designated the *Capital of European Culture* for this year. To start the year properly a celebrative service was held in the Pius-X church in the nearby town of Hohenstein-Ernstthal. The church with its unique architecture was designed by their son Christopher and a colleague 26 years ago. The service can be viewed as a video [here](#). Click on the link and you will immediately see a picture of the church. Go to the end and click on *DVD Bestellung*, then click on *ZDF-Mediathek* or *Unsere Mediathek*. The church was designed as part of a tryptic, but the two buildings on each side were not built due to lack of funds. Very disappointing for the architects, of course. There is a small *Alpha* on the altar, as you can see in the video, which grows into the large *Omega* of the facade, where the people enter. Windows are strategically placed for light to enter in just the right direction at a particular time of day.

Shared by Juergen and Meredith Schroeer



2024 Contribution Statements

The 2024 Contribution Statements were emailed to everyone on Monday, January 6th. If you did not receive yours, have questions about it, or would like a printed copy placed in your church mailbox, please contact the church office at church@normalmennonite.org or 309-452-6622.

From Lydia in the Office

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





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

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 15

- 9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
- 7:00 pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, January 16

- 7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, January 19

- 12:00 pm Congregational Meal
- 1:00 pm Annual Meeting

Monday, January 20

- All Day Church Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 9:00 am Mental Health First Aid led by Steve Benner

Tuesday, January 21

- 3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 22

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

Friday, January 24 & Saturday, January 25

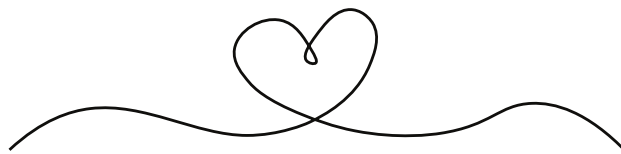
- Church Winter Retreat at Camp Friedenswald

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.



Those Serving This Week



*A time to listen
& reflect*

Listening Circles Dialogue

**4 p.m.
Sunday, January 19**

Heartland Community College
Greg Chadwick Community Room
CCB 1406/07
Community Commons Building

To help us prepare, please
register <https://shorturl.at/EMgTe>



4 p.m. January 19, 2025 at Heartland Community College

Multiple community organizations, in collaboration with Not In Our Town Bloomington-Normal, hosted by Heartland Community College, will gather to listen and share concerns about our community and nation at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 19, at Heartland Community College's Greg Chadwick Community Room, CCB 1406/07 Community Commons Building, 1500 West Raab, Road, Normal.

At the event people will join in small circles of approximately eight people with open-ended questions for individuals to share their thoughts. All are welcome--the only expectation is that all will listen quietly and carefully, and share meaningfully.

The sponsoring organizations are Not In Our Town, NAACP-Bloomington-Normal Branch, YWCA of McLean County, Prairie Pride Coalition, the McLean County Museum of History and Heartland Community College. Advance registration is requested to ensure adequate preparation. **Learn more and register [here](#).**



Join other LGBTQ+ gaming fans on the 3rd Saturday every month, from 7 to 11 p.m. for a night full of games, food, and fun! You are welcome to bring your own games to play or play any we have in our game library.

We are happy to teach games and other activities may be organized by fellow attendees.



Food for the Gaymer's Night is provided by PPC; Donny B's Gourmet Popcorn & Gifts; Great Harvest Bread Co.; Grove Street Bakery; ISU Queer Coalition; and Jay's Cheesecakes & Bakes.

October 2024 Printing



Note: you can click on each image above/below to be taken to their website.

- **Thursday, January 16**, 5-8 p.m. at Jazz Upfront, 107 W Front St in Bloomington - Opening Reception for Stonewall National Museum Traveling Exhibit. See below flyer for details. Please join us for this fun event; admission is free, cash bar!
- **Friday, Jan. 17**, 5:30 p.m. virtual meeting - Rainbows of Steel group. For LGBTQIA+ people living at the intersection of LGBTQIA+ and Disability. See above graphic for details.
- **Saturday, Jan. 18**, Peoria Heights - National People's March sponsored by Peoria Proud. See above flyer for details about this event!
- **Saturday, Jan. 18**, 7-11 p.m. at Red Raccoon Games, downtown Bloomington - Gaymers Night. Join dozens of other LGBTQIA+ people who gather monthly to enjoy games, FREE food, and networking with each other! See above graphic for details.
- **Friday, Jan. 31** - SAVE THE DATE - Pride Night at ISU Women's Basketball. We need volunteers to help us staff our table at this event; if you are interested, please [sign up here](#).

Shared by the Prairie Pride Coalition





ANABAPTISM at FIVE HUNDRED

On Tuesday, January 21, we will celebrate 500 years of the Anabaptist movement. Anabaptism at Five Hundred invites everyone to join them in person or online for a special worship service at 7 p.m. Eastern Time (6 p.m. Central Time) at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana. [Click here](#) to find the livestream link on January 21. [Click here](#) to read the full press release.

Everence Toolkit

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



Mental Health Awareness Trainings January - March 2025



QPR Suicide Prevention Training
90 minutes to save a life
Thursday, January 23, 3-4:30 (Zoom)
Friday, February 7, 3-4:30 (A New Horizon)
Thursday, February 13, 3-4:30 (Zoom)
Thursday, February 27, 3-4:30 (Zoom)
Friday, March 7, 3-4:30 (A New Horizon)
Thursday, March 13, 3-4:30 (Zoom)
Thursday, March 27, 3-4:30 (Zoom)



Learn the Signs, Get the Tools, Make a Difference in Someone's Life
8 hour training
Monday, January 20, 9-5 (Normal)
4 Mondays via Zoom, 2-4, starting February 17
Friday, March 21, 9-5 (tbd)

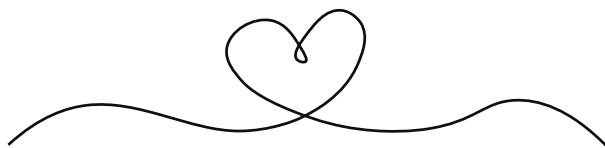
Contact Steve Benner or Rose Addo to sign up
benner@mcchs.org and addo@mcchs.org

Community Peacemaker Teams Iraqi Kurdistan wins the Human Rights Tulip Award

“[Community Peacemaker Teams Iraqi Kurdistan](#) (CPT-IK) won the prestigious [Human Rights Tulip](#) annual award, presented by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague, Netherlands, on December 12, 2024. Foreign Affairs Minister Caspar Veldkamp presented the award, recognizing the team’s significant contributions to advancing, protecting, and raising awareness of human rights. In presenting the award to Kamaran Osman, who represented the team at the ceremony, the Minister stated, ‘CPT Iraqi Kurdistan has empowered countless individuals by teaching them conflict resolution, reconciliation, and by providing a much-needed alternative narrative to the world. Because of your work, human rights will prevail.’” **Read the rest of the Community Peacemaker Team’s press release [here](#).**

MC USA PeaceMail

In this special edition of PeaceMail, Mennonite Church USA reflects back on 2024 by highlighting some of their top news stories. **View it [here](#).**



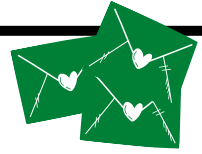
Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

- Building Open:** **Standard Hours:**
Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9AM-11AM
and Monday-Friday 1:30PM-3PM.
- Lydia Hedberg: Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org; 309-452-6622
- Rita Munkakusi: Custodian
- Kevin Chupp: Pastor for Outreach Commission, Worship Commission,
Congregational Care Committee, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team,
and Visitation Team; kevin@normalmennonite.org
- Lynette Miller: Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commission
- Lauren Satchwell: Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS.
SEND A CARD IF THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!



Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

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
