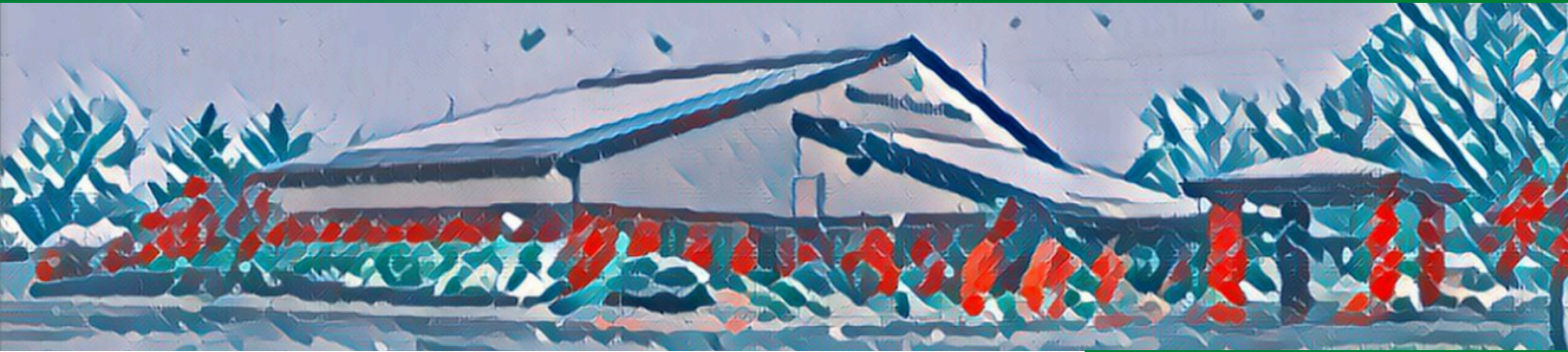


# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Joe Culpepper will preach a sermon titled *Becoming a Fisher Follower* using Luke 5:1-11.

Jesus was the Master Fisher of People. When he called those first fishermen to be his disciples, he gave us a pattern for what it means to be his followers. What do you see in this story that we need to do to also be his followers?

## 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

# 2025 Spending Plan



The 2025 Spending Plan has been approved with an approval rate of 77% (67% was required to pass). The Vision Team appreciates the congregation's feedback and participation in this process. If you have additional feedback to share, please reach out to a member of the Vision Team (Shelly King, Shannon Neely, Ben Roeschley, and Helen Brandon).

*From the Vision Team*



## 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 [here](#).**

*Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee*

## Il Mennonite Relief Sale



**Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15, 2025**

The 67th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale is scheduled for Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15, 2025, at the Interstate Center in Bloomington. NEW THIS YEAR on Friday, March 14, there will be a Trivia Night from 6:00 P.M. until 8:30 P.M. Doors will open at 5:00 P.M. Some food and beverages will be available Friday evening. Learn more on the website [here](#).

This year our church representative for the sale is Lauren Satchwell. If you would like to attend the Annual Distress Supper/Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30pm in Morton, please let Lauren know by Saturday, February 1st.



## Coffee Meet Up

**Saturday, February 15th 9:00AM - 10:30AM**

The Community Life Commission invites you on Saturday, February 15th from 9:00AM - 10:30AM. All are welcome to this time of fellowship and connection.

*From the Community Life Commission*

## Quilt Tops



**February 21 and 22**

The First Mennonite Church in Morton is having a Quilt Bash February 21 and 22. They are inviting our church to participate in knotting comforters for MCC. They also are requesting pieced tops to be used for this project. If you can donate a quilt top please let Gerry Schrock know.

*Shared by Gerry Schrock*

## Sharing Our Gifts Photos

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## CDC Connector

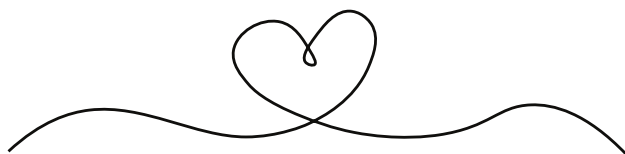
The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This month's issue includes news from Camp Friedenswald, an update from Matt Pritchard, immigration resources for congregations, ideas for yard signs for peace, and the latest edition of Doug's Mug. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table in the next few weeks.



## 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*



## Prayer Requests and Announcements

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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

## This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### Wednesday, January 22

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

### Thursday, January 23

- 7:00 am Next Man Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

### Friday, January 24 & Saturday, January 25

Church Winter Retreat at Camp Friedenswald

### Sunday, January 26

### Tuesday, January 28

- 3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)
- 7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

### Wednesday, January 29

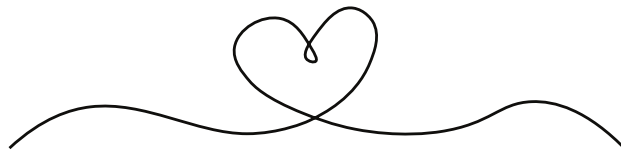
- 9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



## 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](mailto:benner@mcchs.org) and [addo@mcchs.org](mailto:addo@mcchs.org)

# What does it mean to provide sanctuary for undocumented people?

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**Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025 at 6 pm Central Time**

What does it mean to provide sanctuary for undocumented people? This webinar on Feb. 5, 2025, at 7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT, will feature several pastors whose congregations have previously served as sanctuaries. Lawyers from the Institute of Constitutional Advocacy and Protection will discuss the legal issues related to sanctuary, specifically focusing on section 1324, and will allow time for participants to ask questions. For churches that are currently working with or are interested in supporting undocumented individuals in their communities, this webinar will provide crucial information on what to expect and what legal assistance is available if your church faces challenges from ICE or immigration agents. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

## Brethren in Christ churches in Cuba use MCC supplies to help neighbors

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“The people of Cuba were already dealing with an economic recession and ongoing recovery from a previous hurricane when Hurricane Oscar flooded parts of the east side of the island in October. Hurricane Rafael then rampaged on Cuba’s western side in November followed by an earthquake in the west. Electricity, which is normally only available three hours a day, went out completely before Hurricane Oscar came, says Bishop Luis Hernández of the Brethren in Christ (BIC) Church in Cuba. Without electricity, people did not have information about the storm, leaving them unprepared when the hurricane lashed the island. Currently the church is distributing canned meat and hygiene supplies that were prepositioned in the country. A new shipment of MCC supplies is waiting to clear customs in Cuba. Another was being packed at the MCC East Coast Material Resources Center in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, when Hernández and his wife, Yanaisy Marrero, visited in mid November.” **Read the rest of Linda Espenshade’s article for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) [here](#).**

## Compassion House welcomes refugees

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“It took many hands and many hearts to build the Compassion House. The single family home, property of the Lancaster (Pa.) Brethren in Christ Church, is the fruitful result of a partnership between Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), and Church World Service (CWS). A family from Afghanistan moved into the newly renovated home at the end of November after resettling to Lancaster earlier in the month. The home was renovated largely by MDS volunteers and members of the Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church.” **Read the rest of the Mennonite Disaster Service post [here](#).**

## Everence extends hurricane relief matching initiative

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Everence is expanding its hurricane recovery matching gift initiative in response to the generosity of its members and community. Since the launch of [Everence Helps: Hurricane Relief](#) on Oct. 14, Everence members, clients and employees have contributed nearly \$68,000 — exceeding the initial \$50,000 challenge. Everence is adding another \$50,000 to the initiative, bringing the total potential impact to \$200,000. **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

# Travel ticket

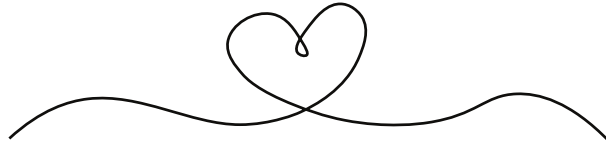
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“The documentary film [Light](#) was nominated for screening at the International Human Rights Film Festival in Karama, Tunisia, for the Best Human Rights Film Award. The news filled us with immense joy and pride. For two members of our team at [CPT](#), the opportunity to attend the festival was not only a chance to represent Palestine but also a rare opportunity to share our narrative with the world. Yet, for a Palestinian, the act of travelling is a decision fraught with complexity, challenges, and, often, heartache. Departing from Palestine isn’t as simple as booking a flight and heading to the airport. It involves navigating a labyrinth of restrictions, checkpoints, and borders, each with its own set of hurdles.” **Read the rest of the Community Peacemaker Team - Palestine’s article [here](#).**

## MC USA Executive Board commits to prioritizing historical BIPOC narratives; Sets direction for new structure review task group

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At its meeting on Nov. 14-16, 2024, in Destin, Florida, the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Executive Board affirmed a call from the denomination’s Racial Ethnic Council (REC) to increase awareness of the historical record of BIPOC Mennonites and to fund BIPOC contributions to the MC USA Archives. Executive Board members also discussed the responsibilities and objectives of a task group commissioned with reimagining MC USA’s structure and governance. **Read more from Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**



## Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

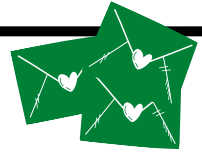
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|--------------------------|--|
| <u>Building Open:</u>    | <b>Standard Hours:</b><br>Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9AM-11AM<br>and Monday-Friday 1:30PM-3PM.   |
| <u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>    | Office Administrator; <a href="mailto:church@normalmennonite.org">church@normalmennonite.org</a> ; 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; <a href="mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org">kevin@normalmennonite.org</a> |
| <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

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



## Commissions and Teams Contact List

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## Commission, Team, & Committee Members

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## Commission Meeting Minutes

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## Items for the Midweek



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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

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## Item Check-Out Request Form

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## Structure Documents

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