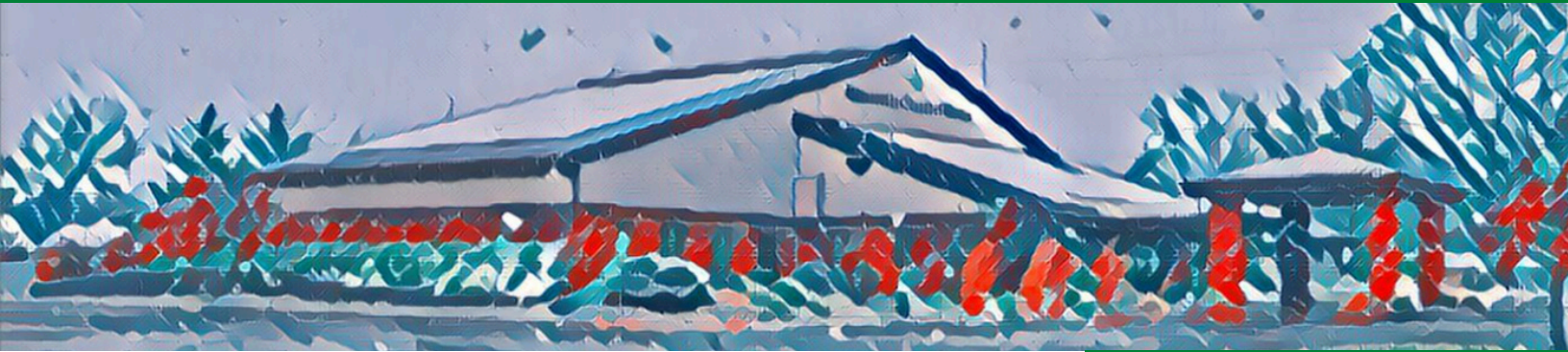


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Flute & Violin* using Luke 7:18-35.

Hearing stories of healing and raising the dead, John the Baptist sends two of his disciples to Jesus to inquire about what he is doing. Has Jesus gone off script or is he still the “mighty savior” who will save the people of God from their enemies, as Zechariah envisioned? Mary sang about Jesus bringing down the powerful from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

Does Jesus meet his family’s expectations? Does he meet anyone’s expectations? How do we know whether we are in step with Jesus, when those closest to him were perplexed?

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



Coffee Meet Up

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

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

From the Community Life Commission

MCC Comforter Bash at First Mennonite Church of Morton

Friday, February 21 - Saturday, February 22: 9:00am to 4:00pm each day
First Mennonite Church: 250 S. Baltimore Ave, Morton, IL 61550

Everyone is invited to gather to assemble comforters that MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) will distribute to those in need around the world. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. First Mennonite Church invites all women, men, and children to join them. There will be something for everyone to do - tie knots, thread needles, help with meal preparation and cleanup, and so much more! Adults to children there's a job for you. Lunch and snack breaks will be available each day.

Please come when you are able and stay as long as you can. **Please contact the First Mennonite Church of Morton office (309) 266-7591 by Sunday, February 17 to let them know if you plan to attend.** This will help plan for lunches and snacks. **As well, please contact Gerry if you plan to attend! She is happy to coordinate carpooling.**

From the Community Life Commission

Congo: beyond the heart of darkness



Through February 21

Laurie Bergner, who participated in the April 2024 Civil Rights Trip, has a photo exhibit from her November 2023 trip to the Congo at the McLean County Art Center in Bloomington. Entitled "Congo: beyond the heart of darkness", it is "an attempt to introduce visitors to the country itself, the people, the culture, and the situation there". Hours for the Art Center are Monday through Friday from 10 to 5 and 9 to 1 on Saturday. There is no admission fee. The exhibit will be there through February 21.

Shared by Bess

Frozen and Forgotten: An Unhoused Winter in Bloomington-Normal

Wednesday, February 26 at 6 p.m.

Bloomington Public Library, 205 E. Olive St., in Community Room 2

Join WGLT in person at 6 p.m. Feb. 26 for the debut screening of the 30-minute video documentary *Frozen and Forgotten: An Unhoused Winter in Bloomington-Normal*, followed by a panel discussion with some of the organizations and unhoused people featured in the documentary. This event will be held at the Bloomington Public Library, 205 E. Olive St., in Community Room 2. If you need a special accommodation to fully participate, please contact WGLT at (309) 438-2255 or wgl@ilstu.edu. Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation. Learn more [here](#).

Shared by Cindy



Outreach Commission Disbursements

The Outreach Commission has contributed \$500 to Mennonite Action, as they continue to organize Mennonites for public witness and advocacy for justice in Gaza as well as in response to the ongoing threat of mass deportation. This amount will come from our regular funds.

The Outreach Commission has also responded to the needs of college students at ISU who have been affected by the policies and political environment of the current administration. We have committed to \$250 toward offering them a safe space for solidarity and support. This amount will come from the emergency funds.

Shared by the Outreach Commission



Resources

There are many new troubling realities related to immigration and deportation in the U.S. and it is helpful to know that we are not alone in our concerns or our hope for answers. Here are some resources that you may find helpful for getting involved yourself or helping others who might be affected:

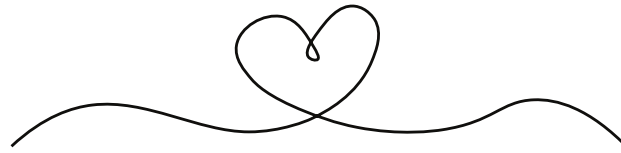
- [5 Things You Can Do Now To Protect Yourself And Your Loved Ones](#) - National Immigrant Justice Center
 - If you or a loved one are immigrants of any status, here are some steps you can take to be ready for any situation involving (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) ICE.
- [Know Your Rights When Interacting with Immigration Officers \(ICE\)](#) - Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
 - These are some very practical things to know about ICE—they have no right to enter your home or business unless they have a specific kind of warrant.
- [Following Jesus During Challenging Times](#) - Mennonite Church USA
 - Wednesday, Feb 5th, 6pm (central) - While the guidance for ICE officers has shifted dramatically in recent days, lawyers will share about ways churches can/have supported for people who are undocumented.
- The easiest and most effective way for U.S. constituents to make a political impact - [5calls.org](#)
 - As Representative Sorenson's office explained to those of us who advocated for ceasefire in Gaza, phone calls are very effective in determining which issues get the attention of politicians.
- [Local Legal Services for Immigrants](#) - The Immigration Project
 - The Immigration Project has offices in Bloomington and offers free consolation and low-cost legal services for immigrants in our community.
- Reach out to the Outreach Commission
 - We are eager to use our resources to meet the needs created by this jarring time. You can email or call any of the members with your concerns or ideas, or arrange with Phil Dick (chair) to bring them to the Commission directly (our next meeting is February 10th).

Shared by the Outreach Commission



CLC is still exploring the idea of starting a small group/class focused on financial planning and budgeting. Several have expressed interest, but we're still looking for more to join! If you're looking for guidance on budgeting, working toward financial goals, or simply wanting to be more intentional with your finances, this is the group for you. If this sounds like something that would be helpful to you, or if you have experience and wisdom to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please email to express your interest or ask any questions.

From the Community Life Commission



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



Birthdays & Anniversaries



CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, February 12

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30 pm Safety, Access, & Accommodation Committee (Zoom)

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, February 13

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

6:30 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

7:00 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Saturday, February 15

9:00 am Coffee Meet Up

9:00 am Worship Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, February 16

Tuesday, February 18

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

7:30 pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

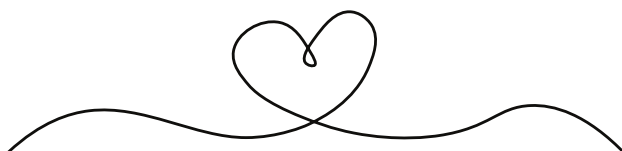
Wednesday, February 19

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

7:00 pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)



Those Serving This Week



Urgent News from MC USA

As you're likely aware, the current administration recently rescinded the "sensitive locations" policy that directed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to avoid conducting enforcement actions at houses of worship. Many people within and beyond Mennonite Church USA have expressed concern for the detrimental impact this will have on our ability to gather for worship, prayer, and fellowship, as well as to reach out to our communities through tangible acts of service such as food pantries or legal aid clinics. [Yesterday, February 11], in response to these concerns, Mennonite Church USA has joined with 26 other faith traditions to take legal action that seeks to restore the rights of people of faith to gather, worship, and serve without government interference. Please read these important documents immediately:

- [MC USA news release](#) about the legal action

By taking this action as a denomination, we can help local congregations bear witness to the challenges they face while allowing them to remain anonymous, thereby minimizing the threat of reprisal. The Executive Board strongly endorsed taking this action.

Jon Carlson
Moderator, Mennonite Church USA

Volunteer with Prairie Pride Coalition

The Prairie Pride Coalition has three volunteer opportunities in the coming days:

- Assistance with the setup and take down of the Stonewall exhibit. The exhibit is very light so no heavy lifting is necessary. Help is needed on various dates.
- Volunteers to staff the information table at the ISU Pride Charity Drag Show on Saturday, March 1.
- Volunteers to staff the information table at the IWU Charity Drag Show on Saturday, March 22.

If you are interested in helping, please sign up. Thanks for any help you can provide!

The Prairie Pride Coalition Team

SPECIAL YOUTH VENTURE TRIP

Anabaptism at 500: Looking Back to See the Future

Dates: May 23 – June 1
Ages: 18-30 years old
Cost: \$2,900
Application deadline: Feb. 15, 2025

Discover the history of the Anabaptist movement as we commemorate its 500th anniversary with a **Youth Venture excursion to Germany and Switzerland**. Visit key historical sites of the 16th-century Anabaptist movement and take part in the Mennonite World Conference's Anabaptism at 500 events.

Mennonite Mission Network

Take Action

In their weekly newsletter, Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) shared ways to take action:

Mennonite Action - Thursday, February 20

[Mennonite Action February Mass Call](#)

Join Mennonite Action to gather in community together, get updates about our upcoming “God’s Love Knows No Border” actions, hear report backs from chapters digging in on local organizing, and receive updates about the Trump administration.

World Beyond War - February 23, 2025

[Global Day of Action to #CloseBases](#)

At a military base near you! The thousands of military bases, both foreign and domestic, around the world are a critical piece of the war machine that must be dismantled. Closing bases is a necessary step to shift the global security paradigm towards a demilitarized approach that centers common security — no one is safe until all are safe.

Shared in the Community Peacemaker Teams’ Weekly Newsletter

Regional dynamics of conflict and migration

Saturday, February 15 11 AM CST

Regional dynamics of conflict and migration: Community Peacemaker Teams’ (CPT’s) work in Palestine, Iraqi Kurdistan and Lesvos. Join CPT for an insightful discussion on the challenges faced by conflict-affected regions and the migration crises they generate. In this webinar, we will explore how Community Peacemaker Teams’ (CPT) work intersects three key areas of the region: Palestine, Iraqi Kurdistan, and Lesvos. This webinar will delve into the complexities of conflict, migration, and the human cost of war. CPT members will share their first-hand experiences and discuss the vital role of peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts in these regions. [Register here.](#)

Sacred Connections: Knitting Retreat 2025

March 28-30, 2025

Sacred Connections: Knitting* Retreat 2025 (*Crocheters welcome)

When there’s lots of unraveling going on all around us, it’s time to knit. Join Central District Conference for a weekend of knitting at Camp Friedenswald’s “2025 Sacred Connections: Knitting Retreat” March 28-30, 2025. There will be lots of time for knitting, conversing, creating, learning, reflecting, and gaining inspiration from one another in the peaceful woods. **Register [here](#).** In addition to a few workshops (ie: Knitting for Beginners, Lightning Fast Mittens, Crocheting Creatures) Gwen will also offer some insights gained from her Doctor of Ministry dissertation that focused on the meaning behind knitting for a small, intergenerational group of contemporary Mennonite women. Questions? Contact Gwen Gustafson-Zook at gwen@friedenswald.org.

Fabulous Fierce & Sacred 2025

May 2-4, 2025

Need a respite to look forward to? Join BMCers for Fabulous Fierce & Sacred (FFS) – a weekend gathering led by and for LGBTQIA+ Anabaptists to celebrate Queer & Trans JOY! FFS will be held in Philadelphia, May 2-4, 2025. FFS is an event open to all people of all ages, and since we are working to center queer/trans peoples there may be a cap on the number of allies invited to attend. Details and registration are online. Space is limited, so register soon and we hope to see you in May!

Shared by the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interests

A Note from CPT

As the new editor of the Friday Bulletin, I had hoped to write something else today to introduce myself to the CPT community. But it hardly seems appropriate not to comment on the aftermath of Trump's inauguration. He sounded like a buccaneering imperialist. "The spirit of the frontier is written into our hearts", he said, as he threatened Panama and Mexico. He spoke of sending back "millions and millions of criminal aliens", of sending troops to the border to "repel the disastrous invasion of our country", of revoking birthright citizenship, and promised to "end the government policy of trying to socially engineer race and gender into every aspect of public and private life". His climate policy is three words: "drill baby drill". In the lobby outside, a man in a ten-gallon hat smiled ear to ear. While exonerating militiamen and suspending federal workers hired in "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" positions, Trump has declared a "Golden Age". But he hasn't so much turned the page as dropped the fig leaf. As Tom Stevenson puts it, what upsets the old guard about him is his ["withdrawal from the justificatory ideology of American power. When you give up on the dishonest profession of respect for norms, rules and order you give up the game itself."](#) In other words, this has been there all along; Trump has simply stripped the veneer, and granted pardon to peoples' basest instincts. There's a lot of talk about the return of fascism, and it's hard not to be dumbstruck by an image of the world's richest man giving that salute, or by the attendant guest-list of European populists harnessing racism to reverse engineer our societies. But many of us know that this is entirely consistent with what went on before. In my years living in Lesbos, Greece, working with CPT's [Aegean Migrant Solidarity](#) team, you could discern signs of this in the dispassionate faces of the prosecutors who pushed for life sentences against migrants, people who, whatever the justificatory rhetoric, were on trial for simply daring to enter Europe. This is just what it looks like when justification is no longer needed. We cannot make sense of this resurgence without first acknowledging that our societies have functioned as normal alongside infrastructures that dehumanize, so long as this only applies to some, so long as it happens in the dark. To recognize that would mean holding up a mirror. The task at hand is to find new eyes with which to see. As I step into the role of Communications Associate, I hope these bulletins can be a space in which we find ways together of doing just that.

Caldwell Manners
Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Communications Coordinator

Black History



in the Mennonite Church

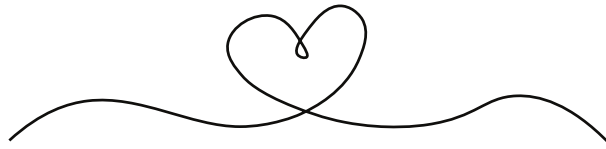
February is Black History Month. Be sure to check out Mennonite Church USA's timeline on "Black History in the Mennonite Church." View it [here](#).

Shared by Mennonite Church USA

Resource Highlights

- [Hub of resources](#) BMC started post-election, including trans-led mental health hotlines.
- [Community Resilience Hub for Congregational Safety Planning](#) from the UUA.
- [Harnessing Our Power to End Political Violence](#) (HOPE) - our friends at On Earth Peace are organizing with this group and can plug you in.
- [Some Actions That Are Not Protesting or Voting](#) - compiled by Mariame. It can help to pick just one thing, and then do it!
- [Know Your Rights](#): For lgbtqia+ and all allied people affected by ICE raids. Know Your Rights cards you can print and distribute in your community [here](#).
- [Trans Youth Emergency Project](#)
- Dear Trans Kids, You Don't Need the Government's Permission to Exist: from Raquel Willis [read here](#).

Shared by the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interests (BMC)



Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<u>Building Open:</u>	Standard Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM & 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!



Commissions and Teams Contact List

Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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

Structure Documents
