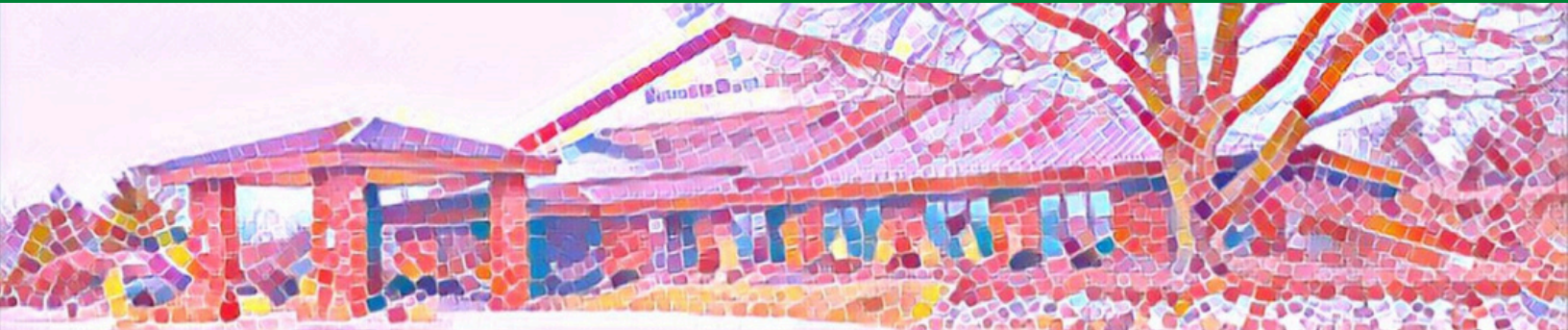


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Holly Zehr will preach a sermon titled *Lost and Found OR FYI: Found My Sheep*

👐👐👐 using Luke 15:1-32.

These parables of the lost sheep, coin, and son from Luke 15 are as familiar and well-worn as your favorite jeans. But under that surface of familiarity are questions about who is lost, how they're found, and what difference it makes to us and our understanding of God's character. You're invited to see yourself and your God in fresh ways in these stories.

After Worship

Adult CE

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

Lent at MCN



Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. We prepare for this with a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord. You are invited to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word. In addition to our regular Sunday worship, Worship Commission invites you to join the community in prayer and meditation on God's word during this holy season. MCN will be meeting the Wednesdays of Lent at 6:30 for prayer, confession, song, and lectio divina.

Wednesday, March 19, 6:30pm Lent Vespers

Wednesday, March 26, 6:30pm Lent Vespers

Wednesday, April 2, 6:30pm Lent Vespers

Wednesday, April 9, 6:30pm Lent Vespers

Wednesday, April 16, 6:30pm Lent Vespers

Thursday, April 17, 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Foot Washing (note earlier time)

Friday, April 18, 12:00pm Ecumenical Good Friday (at MCN)

Office Closed



Tomorrow, March 20th All Day

The Church Office/Building will be closed all day on Thursday, March 20th. It will re-open at the usual time on Friday. Thank you for your understanding!

From Lydia in the office

Coffee Meet Up



This Saturday, March 22 from 9:30AM - 11:00AM

The Community Life Commission invites you on Saturday, March 22 from 9:30AM - 11:00AM for another Coffee Meet Up. All are welcome to this time of fellowship and connection.

From the Community Life Commission



Good Friday

Friday, April 18th at 12:00pm

This year, we are honored to host the Ecumenical Good Friday service at MCN with New Covenant Community leading the planning of the worship, around the theme: Human Suffering and God's Redemptive Love. You can mark your calendars for April 18th at 12:00pm—a time which is intended to enable people to attend during their lunch hour. This service is put together each year with the local Christian clergy group, with pastors across traditions leading most parts of the service. We hope you will join us for this meaningful opportunity to worship across traditions! If you are interested in helping host this event please reach out to Pastor Kevin.

Interfaith Green Team meeting

Monday, March 31st at 7 pm

Those of you who attended the presentation from [Faith in Place](#) may be interested in joining the BN Interfaith Green Team meeting at First Presbyterian Church (and Zoom) March 31st at 7pm. Aiden Meyer (who was with us at MCN on March 2nd) will join us to discuss further local green team initiatives and collaborative efforts. Regardless of whether you can attend this meeting, please let Pastor Kevin know if you might be interested in being a part of a "green team" at MCN.



Holy Saturday Meditation Walk

Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 10:00 am
Merwin Nature Preserve Parklands

Come soulfully wander among the wildflowers this Holy Saturday, April 19, on a Meditation Walk co-led by Jane and Judith. The Walk will include extraordinary springtime beauty, poetry and readings, some silence, and moments for contemplation and reflection. You must be able to walk safely for 3 miles on an unpaved woodland trail that includes some steep areas and some steps. Waterproof pants and walking shoes recommended and, if needed, a stick for balance. The Walk will begin at 10 am. Please arrive in time to begin the walk at 10 am. There are porta potties available in the parking area. Bring a small notebook/journal and pen and water bottle. To register, send a text to Jane.

News From Your Vision Team



The Vision Team (VT) welcomes your prayers as they gather on Friday evening, March 21, for the annual Vision Team retreat. They will be debriefing their role and work from the past year and sharing thoughts on the vision, plans, hopes, and dreams for the remainder of 2025. Minutes from their most recent meeting in February, as well as all previous minutes, can be viewed.

Shared by the Vision Team



Lloyd and Aldine Combs Scholarship

Administration Commission and Discipling Commission are pleased to announce a new opportunity for students pursuing higher education. Lloyd and Aldine Combs generously endowed an annual scholarship of \$5000 to be awarded annually to a student pursuing college or seminary. Mennonite institutions are preferred, but not required. Students may apply regardless of their participation or non-participation in the Student Mutual Aid Program. **Applications are due by April 25th and can be found at this. You can find a more detailed description of the scholarship.**

Shared by the Discipling Commission

SGDT Announcement



The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, in consultation with the chair of the Worship Commission, has called **Katie** to serve on the **Worship Commission**. Please send any feedback to Janet by **March 23**. Thank you!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Sign Update

Our sign was updated on March 6. Please check it out!

From the Administration Commission



Thank you!



Lotus, Judy, and Lauren were our delegates at the recent Illinois Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting. We appreciate that you represented us and shared about the meeting in last week's Midweek! Thank you!

From the Administration Commission



Spending Plan Update



IL Mennonite Relief Sale

Last weekend's sale was a successful one with total gross revenues of approximately \$152,800. This is a slight increase of \$1,300 over last year. At a later date, the sale will share more finalized financial results, including net proceeds from the sale. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, baked, ate, and shopped!



Judy & Lotus Hershberger and Bess Desch would be happy to share or answer questions regarding their experience on the April 2024 Civil Rights Trip.

Information about upcoming Civil Rights trips from Pastor Kathy King-Nobles (Normal First United Methodist Church):

Both of these trips will basically follow the same itinerary used for the previous two Civil Rights Trips (2023 & 2024), with stops in Memphis, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma. In addition, there will be gatherings before each trip in order that group members can get to know each other, study the Civil Rights movement and its history, and learn more about the places we'll visit.

- **Fall 2025 trip** - Our United Methodist Conference (IGRC) is hosting a Civil Rights Trip this fall, October 2-10, 2025. Information and Registration is available [here](#). Deadline to register is June 30. Pre-trip meetings will begin after Easter. I am working with Curt Franklin (Coordinator of Missions & Outreach) to organize this trip. We will be co-leaders on the trip.
- **Spring 2026 trip** - Normal First United Methodist will be hosting the Civil Rights Trip next spring, April 16-24, 2026. Registrations will open this summer. I will be leading this trip in partnership with other faith leaders from Bloomington-Normal.

For information about either trip, please contact me [Kathy King-Nobles] (pastorkathy@normalfirst.org) or Curt Franklin (Cfranklin@igrc.org).



Join the Financial Planning Group


CLC is moving forward with plans to start a small group/class focused on financial planning and budgeting! Several people have already expressed interest, and we're planning for the group to meet for 6-7 weeks during the Sunday school hour. If you're looking for guidance on budgeting, working toward financial goals, or simply want to be more intentional with your finances, this is a great opportunity. Whether you'd like to participate or have experience and wisdom to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please email Beth to express your interest or ask any questions.

From the Community Life Commission

Delegates Needed

The Mennonite Church USA Convention and Delegate assembly is meeting this summer. It's not too early to consider being a delegate for the conference. Please let Lauren know if you have interest or questions.

From the Administration Commission



A prayer card titled "Lenten Journey" with a purple cross in the top left and a purple leaf design in the bottom right. The text is centered and reads:

O God, it is all too much!
Too much news to navigate.
Too much heartache to heal.
Too much grief to gather.
Too much cruelty to combat.
Too much chaos to comprehend.
Too much noise to nullify.
Too much stupidity to stomach.
O God, when it is all too much,
Help me hold my tongue,
stay my hand, and calm my fears
because today is not the day to test my
patience, so walk with me today!
Amen.

Bishop Deon K. Johnson

Shared by Steve Benner

CDC Connector



The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This month we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement with baptism stories from CDC congregations, a report on a children's Christmas giving project, a reflection on paying reparations, a letter from our Mennonite friends in Canada, 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 coming weeks.



A banner with a heart-shaped flourish at the top, flanked by green and yellow bunting. The text reads:

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

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

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 19

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30 pm Lent Vespers

Thursday, March 20

All Day Office/Building Closed

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Friday, March 21

9:00 am Mental Health First Aid

4:30 pm Vision Team Retreat

Saturday, March 22

9:30 am Coffee Meet-Up

Sunday, March 23

7:00 pm Adult Choir

Tuesday, March 25

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

7:30 pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 26

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30 pm Lent Vespers

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)



Safe Church Webinar

March 24 at 6 p.m. CT

On March 24 at 6 p.m. CT, join Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA's) Nancy Kauffmann, interim denominational minister of Church Safety, and Michael Danner, associate executive director for Church Vitality, for a webinar as they discuss the common understanding of the role of forgiveness in responding to abuse in the church and how it is often misused or misunderstood in the context of abuse. Register [here](#).

No Address

March 25 at 6 PM at Heartland Community College

Join Home Sweet Home Ministries for a special showing of the movie *No Address*, followed by a panel discussion on homelessness in our community! Inspired by true events, *No Address* follows Lauren, a young woman forced onto the streets, where she navigates the harsh realities of survival. Alongside a makeshift family of outcasts—each with their own story of struggle and resilience—she discovers that home is more than a place; it's the people who stand by you. Don't miss this powerful film and conversation! **Purchase tickets [here](#). View a poster [here](#).**

Listen! Wisdom is calling through creativity

Saturday, April 5 from 8am-11am Central Time

Join Central District Conference on Saturday, April 5 at 8am-11am Central Time, for an online retreat, "Listen! Wisdom is calling through creativity." This retreat will be a chance for guided creation through words, song, and visual art. No experience required, just come with an open mind and a readiness to play as we listen for Wisdom's voice. [Alison Casella Brookins](#) will be your guide for the morning.

Mennonite Action

Thursday, March 20 at 7 pm CT

We write to you holding all of the fear and anxiety that this moment brings — as deportations of our undocumented neighbors increase, as our trans loved ones are targeted, as the genocide in Palestine continues. We hold all of this with you. This week, [the abduction of Mahmoud Khalil](#) — a U.S. permanent resident and student organizer for Palestinian rights — left us particularly angry and despairing. The Trump administration is showing us they will not hesitate to use our country's carceral and deportation systems as weapons against those speaking up against genocide and occupation. Amidst all of this heaviness, Mennonite Action will continue to offer a public witness: to show our communities that there are Mennonites and Christians who say no to rising far-right Christian Nationalism. We will continue to be a Beloved Community for those taking action for peace and justice. And we will continue to stand up in our communities and say that we will not be afraid to follow Jesus's call to always side with the oppressed, even in these uncertain and often frightening times.

Join us **Thursday, March 20 for our March mass call** themed 'God's Love Knows No Borders.' We will hear from pastors leading immigrant-majority congregations about how they're organizing in their communities, learn more about how our work supporting the people of Palestine is deeply tied to the liberation of our undocumented neighbors and all marginalized people, and hear report backs from those who have organized "God's Love Knows No Borders" actions. **Click [here](#) to RSVP for our next mass call on March 20 at 7 PM CT.** The Spirit of God is upon us, even at this moment, to speak the gospel message of good news to the poor, release of the captives, healing of the sick, and freedom to the oppressed. We will act not from a place of fear, anxiety, and scarcity — but with celebration of life and love for all of God's children. Jesus takes a side, standing with the oppressed, and so will we. We hope to gather with you in community on March 20.

In solidarity, Mennonite Action

Sensitive Locations Petition

Support Mennonite Church USA's participation in a lawsuit to protect religious freedoms by signing and sharing the Sensitive Locations petition. View and sign it [here](#).

Our Anabaptist witness as Mennonites

Iris de León-Hartshorn shared the theological basis for Mennonite Church USA's recent legal action. **Read her blog post for Mennonite Church USA [here](#). Learn more about the legal action [here](#).**

Jesus the immigrant

In this Follow Jesus-inspired Epiphany blog, Rachel Ringenberg Miller shares about an anti-immigration flier that was left around her neighborhood and how it reminded her that Jesus, and many of our ancestors, was an immigrant, who fled danger and persecution. **Read Rachel Ringenberg Miller's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

FELLOW FAITHFUL FRIENDS -

Are you looking for a Friday night filled with fellowship, laughter, and a little bit of holy harmony? This spring, The Barn III is bringing you a brand new original musical comedy - A Barn Full of Nuns.



A BARN-FULL OF NUNS

HOLY, HISTORICAL, & HILARIOUS - A CLASSIC CHURCH COMEDY!

This side-splitting, spirit-lifting show follows the Hail Mary Players - a group of world-famous, showbiz-loving nuns - as they return to their roots for a special performance at The Barn. With a mix of humor, heart, and heavenly harmonies, this is the perfect outing for your congregation, no matter the denomination!

SING ALONG WITH BELOVED FAVORITES:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
The Old Rugged Cross
Because He Lives
Up from the Grave He Arose
...and many more Easter classics!

As a special thank-you to our local churches, we're offering:

20% OFF INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

Use coupon code: SPRINGFEVER at check out
online or over the phone • thebarniii.com/tickets

\$5 OFF PER PERSON FOR GROUPS OF 11 OR MORE

*when booked through our Group Booking Coordinator

Gather your group, bring your church family, and enjoy a night of faith, fun, and fantastic music! Show dates are filling up fast, so book today! We can't wait to welcome you to the Barn for an unforgettable night of laughter and song!

Blessings from your Barn III Family



To reserve group tickets, contact
our box office coordinator, Luann:
Box Office: (309) 965-2545
boxoffice@thebarniii.com
1451 Timberline Rd, Goodfield, IL 61742



WOMEN'S RETREAT
APRIL 25-27



Come. Slow down.

Embrace the peace only

God can provide.



SPEAKER:
KALA DIANE YODER



WORSHIP LEADER: STACEY TAYLOR

Register Now & For More Info:

mennohaven.com/womensretreat



Pratt Music Scholarship

The Pratt Music Foundation is dedicated to providing talented young musicians with the opportunity to develop their skills through private music lessons. We understand that the cost of music instruction can be a barrier for many families. That's why our foundation offers full scholarships for music lessons through the Illinois Wesleyan University's Music Preparatory Program. Scholarship recipients receive professional instruction in piano or string instruments, including violin, viola, and cello. Unlock your musical potential with the support of the Pratt Music Foundation!

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Music scholarships are available to students in grades 2 through 12 who demonstrate:

- Financial need
- Dedication and motivation
- Musical talent

Important Details

- Application Deadline: May 1
- Free Resources: Scholarship recipients receive free music books from The Music Shoppe. Instruments are also available at minimal fee (\$20 annually) for those who need them.

How to Apply

Applications can be downloaded at www.PrattMusicFoundation.com.

For more information or to request an application, please contact us:

- Phone: 309-827-5534
- Email: prattmusicfoundation@gmail.com

Racial Justice Pilgrimage | South Africa



**JUST
PEACE
PILGRIMAGE**

July 13-19 | Register by June 1

Delve deeper into the struggle for freedom and explore the ways – both figurative and literal – people took in search of their emancipation. Explore the role that faith and faith communities played in helping enslaved people escape their bonds through compassion, sanctuary and aid. The pilgrimage will begin in Washington, D.C., and end in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**JUST
PEACE
PILGRIMAGE**

September 16-28 | Register by May 15

This pilgrimage takes you on a deep and reflective exploration of South Africa's history, shaped by the intertwined forces of settler colonialism and apartheid — an unjust socio-political policy that fostered racial segregation — and the struggle of the South African churches during and after apartheid.

Cost: \$2,500, includes transportation in South Africa, lodging, meals and entrance fees. The optional safari is an additional \$1,000.



Racial Justice Pilgrimage | Underground Railroad

Occupation: the beginning, the end, and everything in-between

“After the ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel, the announcement of the release of hostages and Palestinian prisoners brought happiness beyond words. These prisoners, who have spent years locked in small rooms, some up to 35 years, endured a significant part of their lives behind bars. I was born, lived, and built my life – going to university, and making plans – but someone else spent those same years in prison. During the second prisoner exchange, my cousin was one of them! We didn’t know until 10 AM on Saturday, 24 January. It was a day I will never forget, as all of Palestine waited, glued to the news.” **Read more from Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**

Peacebuilding Skills

Gain peacebuilding skills at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)! Prepare for work and scholarship at the cross-section of theology and transformative peacebuilding through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies program. Explore a topic of your choice from multiple angles and design a peacebuilding internship in your area of interest. **Learn more [here](#).**

Shared by the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

MCC Action Alert: Rising violence in the West Bank

[Respond to rising violence in the West Bank](#)

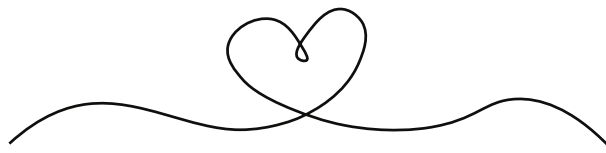
Background: In the midst of a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, settler violence, Israeli military bombings and displacement continue to increase in the West Bank. On January 21, days after the Gaza ceasefire was announced, Israel launched an offensive in the [northern part of the West Bank](#) which included airstrikes. The offensive has displaced [over 45,000 Palestinians](#) from refugee camps, exceeding any other displacement since the 1967 War. A few days later, under the protection of the Israeli military, settlers were able to [rampage through surrounding towns](#) in the area of the Israeli military offensive. Since the January 19 Gaza ceasefire agreement, increased [Israeli military and settler violence](#) has killed at least 44 Palestinians, caused widespread destruction to homes and infrastructure (roads and commercial buildings), and has increasingly targeted medical services. Additionally, the movement of Palestinians in the West Bank has been further restricted. This is a critical moment to urge the U.S. Congress and the Trump administration to:

- Return to pressuring Israel to stop settler violence and illegal settlements on Palestinian land.
- Increase humanitarian assistance to the region rather than halting it.
- Push for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.
- Fully fund UNRWA and press Israel to allow UNRWA to operate in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Faith reflection: Psalm 27:5 – “For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.”

Take action: [Respond to rising violence in the West Bank](#)

Shared by Mennonite Central Committee



Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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

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!

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Item Check-Out Request Form

Structure Documents
