

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Jeanne Davies, Executive Director of Anabaptist Disabilities Network, will preach a sermon titled “A Place for Everybody” using John 5:2-9 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

Is there a place for everybody in our congregations? Let’s explore how we might heal as individuals and communities by accommodating the needs and affirming the gifts of each member for the common good.

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



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 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)

Jeanne Davies – Executive Director of ADN

We are excited to welcome Jeanne Davies this Sunday as our guest preacher. Jeanne serves as Executive Director of the Anabaptist Disabilities Network and carries responsibility for outreach, advocacy, and development. She is ordained in the Church of the Brethren, has a Master of Divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana, a Graduate Certificate in Homiletic Peer Coaching from Vanderbilt Divinity School, and a Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. Jeanne has a passion for disability advocacy and inclusion, and she believes that the whole church benefits when all the members of the Body are actively connected. She lives in West Dundee, Illinois, with her husband, Joel. They attend York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard, Illinois.



Service of Anointing

There will be a service of anointing for healing in worship this Sunday, March 30, following the sermon. This is an ancient prayer practice of the church. Anointing is a means of giving an outward sign of the prayers of the Body of Christ for God's loving care to be present to a need – physical, emotional or spiritual. When you come for anointing, you may receive the sign of the cross with oil on your forehead or back of their hand. If you wish, you may share with the person doing the anointing something for which you are praying for healing – for yourself, for someone else or for the world.

From the Congregational Care Committee

Delegates Needed

The Mennonite Church USA Convention and Delegate assembly is meeting this summer. Please consider being a delegate for the conference. Let Lauren know if you have interest or questions.

From the Administration Commission
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Interfaith Green Team Meeting

This 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.



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.



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. 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.



Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 20th from 8 am to 9 am

The Fellowship Committee is respectfully requesting donations of either Fresh Fruit or pastries or coffee cake, so that we might all enjoy some very light refreshments before the Easter Service. We specifically request nothing that needs to be heated such as egg casseroles, in order to focus ourselves on the Easter Sunday celebration, and not kitchen duty. We will be serving from 8 am until 9 am before the service, so please come early and help us rejoice!! Donations can be dropped off anytime after 8 am Easter Sunday.

From the Fellowship Committee

Update from Vision Team on Dual Conference Affiliation at MCN

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.

As shared with the congregation in December, the **Vision Team will be leading the congregation through this discernment process over the next few months, with a targeted decision around future conference affiliation to be made by July 1.**

Where we started:

One year ago, Vision Team conducted an information gathering congregational survey to garner the thoughts and feelings held across the congregation. While no decisions were made from the results of that survey, the results were insightful. Here are a few results from the survey:

- 85% of survey respondents answered "No" to the question "Do you think it is important that MCN be dual-affiliated in the future?"
- 70% of survey respondents answered "No" to the question "Would you have concerns with MCN ending its formal affiliation with one of the conferences?"
- When asked, "If MCN were to maintain membership with just one conference in the future, with which conference do you believe it should maintain membership?," 87% of survey respondents indicated CDC only, while 2% indicated IMC only.

There were many valid points and concerns raised in the survey responses. We know some people feel strongly about this issue. However, **the survey results revealed a potential lean in direction among the congregation toward ending dual-conference affiliation and remaining affiliated with CDC only.** As Vision Team prepares to lead the congregation through this discernment process, we think it is helpful to go in with this baseline understanding of where the congregation appears to be at with this topic. But again, **no decisions have been made at this point in time.**

Where we are:

What questions does this prompt in you? **ACTION ITEM:** We ask that congregants send ALL questions you may have to the Vision Team for processing and inclusion within a comprehensive FAQ document that will be prepared and shared. This FAQ document will also include questions Vision Team thinks the congregation would benefit from having answered and will be used to prompt discussion on certain aspects of this issue. Please send your questions to Ben or Shannon by **April 6.**

Where we are going:

The intention is to lead the congregation to a decision around future conference affiliation before July 1, 2025. Part of a potential decision to withdraw membership from a conference would be to discuss as a congregation how we exit a decades-long relationship peacefully and with love and grace.

Additional resources:

- Proposal for IMC Funding and Timeline for Membership Decision 12.2024 view.
- Comments on Dual Conference Affiliation at MCN 12.2024 view .
- [MCUSA Membership Guidelines](#)

From the Vision Team



Our Welcome Statement

In consultation with the pastoral team, and in response to the guidance of Mennonite Church USA (statement linked [here](#)), the Vision Team proposes adding "immigration status" to our welcome statement. The statement would read as follows, "All people of any race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, age, education, or ability who confess faith in Jesus Christ, are welcome to participate in the full life and ministry of the Mennonite Church of Normal. Furthermore, all people of any gender or sexual orientation who confess faith in Jesus Christ, may become members, be married, and are eligible for all volunteer, staff, and pastoral positions at MCN." Any feedback or questions may be directed to a member of the Vision Team (Shelly, chair; Helen, Shannon, Ben).

From the Vision Team

Mennonite Action is Seeking Monthly Donors

Mennonite Action has recently announced the hiring of 2 new full time staff organizers and is continuing its vital work of organizing in support of Palestine and our undocumented neighbors.

To help continue its important work Mennonite Action has set a goal of reaching 750 monthly donors by the end of the year, and they're already almost a third of the way there. Mennonite Action is almost entirely funded by individual donors, not large foundations. Might you join in becoming a monthly donor to Mennonite Action?

MennoniteAction.org/donate

Shared by the Outreach Commission and Jane

Lost and Found

The lost and found alcove is once again quite full! Please take a look at the photo below and the items laid out at the back of the sanctuary and claim your items. Any items not claimed by Monday, April 7th will be donated.

From the Church Office



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 are now available to take from the Library Table.**



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

Civil Rights Trips



Judy, Lotus, 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).



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

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 BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 26

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30 pm Lent Vespers

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, March 27

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

6:30 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, March 30

7:00 pm Adult & Youth Choir

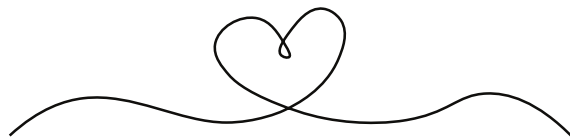
Tuesday, April 1

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 2

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30 pm Lent Vespers



Events from the MCC US National Peace & Justice Ministries March E-Memo

- **Recess advocacy:** Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate use recess periods to engage with voters, hold town halls, and conduct in-district legislative meetings. [Church World Service has developed this guide](#) to encourage constituents to schedule a lobby meeting, attend a town hall, or join a rally. Contact galenfitzkee@mcc.org with questions. The next recess is April 14-25.
- **Earth Month starts April 1!** This April, join MCC partner Anabaptist Climate Collaborative (ACC) in honoring Earth Day by learning ways to protect the Earth. Take part in advocacy, visit with ACC at the Pennsylvania Relief Sale and listen to a guest speaker in Goshen, Indiana. Find out more [here](#).
- **April 5-9: Christian Citizenship Seminar:** In a world where injustice and violence are too common, how can your faith guide you to drive change and build community? [Christian Citizenship Seminar 2025](#), an event hosted by the Church of the Brethren, invites high schoolers, college freshmen (and their age-equivalent), and their adult advisors to discover how to be advocates for change while grounded in Jesus' teachings.
- **April 10: Climate Advocacy Day:** Join MCC and Anabaptist Climate Collaborative in Washington, D.C. on April 10 to advocate for clean energy tax credits in the upcoming budget reconciliation bill. Participants will take part in a mini-advocacy training and then meet with their members of Congress. A virtual option is possible. Learn more and register [here](#) by March 26.

Shared by Mennonite Central Committee US National Peace & Justice Ministries
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Transgender Day of Visibility

A number of events are planned here in Bloomington-Normal to celebrate [Transgender Day of Visibility](#) on March 31st.

- **Friday, March 28:** Momma's Birthday Show, 9 p.m. at the Bistro. See [this flier](#) for additional information.
- **Saturday, March 29:** Transgender Day of Visibility Storytelling Celebration, 12:30 p.m at Bloomington Public Library. This event is sponsored by Planned Parenthood Illinois Action; Prairie Pride Coalition; and Uniting Pride. RSVP [here](#). See [this flier](#) for additional information.
- **Saturday, March 29:** [Gender Euphoria](#), 6-8 p.m. at The Bistro. See [this flier](#) for additional information.
- **Monday, March 31:** Queer Coalition's 4th Annual [Transgender Day of Visibility Sashay](#) at the Rosa Parks Room, Watterson Towers.
- **Friday-Saturday, April 4-5:** Gender Envy Music Fest at The Coffeehouse, Uptown Normal. For additional information, check out the [Illinois Eagle story](#) and [this flier](#).
- **Sunday, April 6:** Expressions of Pride Art Classes at [Inside Out Accessible Art Cooperative](#) in downtown Bloomington. See [this flier](#) for details.

Shared by the Prairie Pride Coalition Team. If you would like to sign up to receive emails from them, please complete this [PPC e-mail list form](#).

A prayer for women

Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler kicks off Mennonite Church USA's [Learn, Pray, Join: Undoing Patriarchy](#) series by sharing a prayer to Mother God from her daughters. **Read her prayer [here](#).**

'The least of these'? No, just neighbors.

In Appalachia, the labor is transient, the relationships priceless

"In August, Peg and Lee Martin said goodbye to friends and coworkers in Kimball, W.Va., in McDowell County, which has the lowest household median income of any county in the United States. The Martins were location coordinators of Mennonite Central Committee's Appalachia Build program there for seven years. Appalachia Build is a service and learning home-repair ministry program, formerly called SWAP, with locations in West Virginia and Kentucky. Just prior to joining MCC, Lee Martin was a pastor at Mount Clinton Mennonite Church near Harrisonburg, Va., for 17 years. Before that, they were co-managers at Highland Retreat, Bergton, Va., for 11 years. Peg Martin practiced nursing throughout most of those years." **Read the rest of Chad Martin's article for the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

Our golden calf

"Early Anabaptists championed religious liberty. Christian nationalism threatens it." **Read John E. Sharp's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

An Update from Mennonite Action

This past Thursday, hundreds of people gathered online for our March mass meeting on “God’s Love Knows No Borders.” If you missed the call, you can find a [recording of it here](#), and you can find all the links shared during our call [here](#). Pastor Kristin Jackson of Living Water Community Church in Chicago, Illinois emcee'd the evening. We heard from Pastor Aldo Siahaan of the Philadelphia Praise Center about ways that their mostly immigrant church is partnering with other Mennonite churches in the region to provide resources about ICE and offer accompaniment during services. And Saulo Padilla of Mennonite Central Committee shared with us the similarities between the US/Mexico border wall and the walls in Palestine, and how our analysis of Palestine is deeply interconnected and intertwined with understanding oppression across North America/Turtle Island. We also heard updates from different regions that have recently taken action or that are preparing to hold their own actions across North America to proclaim that ‘[God’s Love Knows No Borders.](#)’ This is part of a series of coordinated public actions that Mennonite Action is hosting this spring. We want to draw your attention to a number of important Mennonite Action updates that our staff shared at the end of the call:

- **Monthly Donor Organizing:** On Sunday March 23, over 25 congregations across the US and Canada made announcements asking people to become monthly donors to Mennonite Action. We are now only about 50 donors short of our goal of securing 300 monthly donors by April 1. [Can you become a monthly donor today?](#) Becoming a monthly donor allows Mennonite Action to offer more hands-on trainings, hire more staff, and continue putting our theology of peace and justice into action.
- **National Organizing Training at MennoCon:** [Mennonite Action is holding a national organizing training](#) in Raleigh, NC preceding this year’s Mennonite Convention. The training will open with a worship service and gathering in the evening of Sunday, July 6, and will continue with an all-day training on public action and grassroots organizing on Monday, July 7.
- **War Tax Resistance as Public Action:** [Join Mennonite Action on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 8 PM ET / 5 PM PT](#) for a conversation on war tax resistance. We’ll explore Christian and Mennonite legacies of resistance and redirection to war taxes. We’ll learn about examples of movements that have used tax resistance to change the forces of power in the world around them. And we’ll discuss how Mennonites might use tax resistance today as a form of collective public action to apply pressure to powerful institutions.
- **Movement Safety Gathering:** It’s easy to feel overwhelmed and fearful right now. [Join Mennonite Action on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 8 PM ET / 5 PM PT](#) for an evening gathering where we will commit to holding onto and lifting up each other’s safety, and learn practical tips for staying safe in-person and online in this political moment.
- **New Front Light Episode:** In the latest episode of Mennonite Action’s podcast, [Front Light](#), Pastors Joanna Lawrence Shenk and Jonny Rashid interview Iris de León-Hartshorn about her life, her enduring commitment to justice, and the lawsuit for which she is the spokesperson: Mennonite Church USA vs. the United States Department of Homeland Security. Check it out wherever you get your podcasts. Reach out to frontlight@mennoniteaction.org with your thoughts in response to our latest episode.

We were grateful to gather with you in community on our latest mass call, and we continue to be invigorated by all of the work we are doing together to advance God’s vision of justice. Together, we will continue giving breath and life to this movement for peace and liberation.

In solidarity, Mennonite Action

A Note from Community Peacemaker Teams

The "ceasefire" in Gaza is over. At 2am on Tuesday, Israel resumed its bombardment, killing over 400. They say it's just the beginning. Israel's Defence Minister has warned that "[the gates of hell will open](#)", while Trump's press secretary said "[all hell will break loose](#)." In the US the suspensions and detentions have continued: [Leqaa Kordia, a student from the West Bank, was arrested](#) and [Indian Fulbright scholar Ranjani Srinivasan](#) chose, in the ugly words of the Department of Homeland Security, to "self-deport" after her student visa was revoked; she had fled to Canada as [DHS officials searched the Columbia university](#) campus where she lived.

The raid on Srinivasan's home is an echo of Palestinians' daily experiences. In a letter from immigration jail this week, [Mahmoud Khalil writes](#) "I see in my circumstances similarities to Israel's use of administrative detention". This week a CPT Palestine team member [describes the cruelty of Israeli Occupation Forces barging into their home](#); last month another team member described [the harassment that accompanied their cousin's release from an Israeli jail](#). "Who has the right to have rights", Khalil asks. "It is certainly not the humans crowded into the cells here." Invoking the 1798 Alien Enemies Act, the US deported 238 Venezuelans, accused gang members neither tried nor convicted. They will be incarcerated in El Salvador in exchange for 6 million dollars a year. The US deported them despite the blocking order of a judge, who Trump later called a "Radical Left Lunatic". Upon arrival the detainees were bent double, frogmarched, and shaved in front of the press. If that's what they'll do when the cameras are rolling...

Meanwhile in Greece, the government's latest appointee as Minister of Migration is a man with [history of involvement in openly fascist groups](#). He says his foremost responsibility is the "[organization of the pushbacks](#)", violent and illegal returns of migrants that, until now, the government denied existed. The mood has undeniably shifted. Whereas before governments would deny or try to justify what was morally, legally and officially unacceptable, they now embrace it. What's striking is the lack of shame. Writing from Lesbos, [CPT Aegean Migrant Solidarity explains why people all over Greece are taking to the streets](#) in unprecedented numbers. Demanding justice for "yet another state crime", demonstrators express "the frustration and exhaustion of a society that has watched its people's lives devalued". Across the world, outside the courts and detention centres, the embassies and arms factories, we are creating new frontlines.

Ryan James, Community Peacemaker Teams' Communications Associate

Summer Courses at AMBS

Take a summer course at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! **Hybrid** courses (combining online work and one week on campus) include "Ethics and Care: Living and Dying with Purpose" and "Preaching." **In-person courses** (also open to auditors) include "Religion, Violence and Peacebuilding" and "The Spirit World and the Global Church" (also available via videoconference). Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours! Courses run in May, June and July. Register [here](#) by May 5.

A new kind of community

“At a congregational meeting in December, members of Columbus Mennonite Church in Ohio gathered to figure out how they might respond to President-elect Trump’s call to enact “the largest deportation” in U.S. history. The church has long been a part of the sanctuary movement, which offers shelter for undocumented immigrants who might otherwise be deported. During Trump’s first term, the Mennonites in Columbus gave a woman with a deportation order a place of refuge for more than three years. Now, church members wanted to consider how their ministry to migrants might look in a second Trump term.” **Read the rest of Yonat Shimron’s article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Mennonites, Measles and Vaccines

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA (MC USA), Duncan Smith addresses the measles outbreak and MC USA’s position on vaccines and medical exemptions. Duncan Smith has been director of The Corinthian Plan, MC USA’s healthcare plan for pastors and church workers, since 2014. “By now, you have likely heard [reports of a measles outbreak](#), which has killed at least one person to date and sickened more than 290 others in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. It has been determined that the epicenter of this outbreak is a Mennonite community in Gaines County, Texas.” **Read the rest of Smith’s blog post [here](#).** Read an article from the *Anabaptist World* about the outbreak [here](#).

“War and Peace”

New Vision issue on “War and Peace” available for free online. The Spring 2025 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Karl Koop, PhD — invites reflection on how Anabaptist Christians are called to respond in the face of intensifying military conflicts across the world and violence in the context of their own communities. What does a peace witness entail? Do Mennonites have new insights to offer about what it means to work for peace — both at home and abroad? **Find it [here](#).**

Shared by the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Shreffler is second Cheyenne woman to be ordained in MC USA

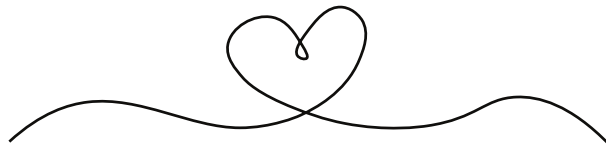
Suzette Shreffler was ordained for Christian ministry on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, at [White River Cheyenne Mennonite Church](#) in Busby, Montana, with Susan Janzen, conference minister for Ministerial Leadership, officiating. Shreffler is the first Northern Cheyenne woman to be ordained by Central Plains Mennonite Conference. She joins Susan Hart, a Southern Cheyenne from Oklahoma, as the only ordained Cheyenne women in Mennonite Church USA. Hart is an MC USA Executive Board member and pastor of Koinonia Mennonite Indian Church, Clinton, Okla. **Read more from Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

For MDS at 75, it's 'all hands on deck'

"Conceived at a Sunday school picnic in Kansas 75 years ago, Mennonite Disaster Service is stretching to keep up as natural disasters grow more frequent and severe. Fortunately, its capacity to serve — thanks to thousands of volunteers from Anabaptist churches of all kinds who wield hammers, paintbrushes and chainsaws — is growing, too. More than 600 people gathered Feb. 14-15 at Ridgepoint, a Mennonite Brethren church in Wichita, Kan., to celebrate the 75th anniversary of an organization whose mission has evolved beyond quick cleanup — although it still does some of that — to long-term rebuilding of homes and restoring of hope." **Read the rest Paul Schrag's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Tree planting as a hopeful solution in DR Congo

"Many of us in North America do not rely on wood for cooking or shade trees for cooling. In contrast, millions in the Global South depend on trees for life-saving shade, livestock fodder, cooking fuel, and building materials. As deforestation continues worldwide, people and the environment suffer. Mennonite Men is committed to addressing deforestation and caring for God's creation. Historically, our JoinTrees grants funded projects in the U.S. and Canada, but we now support initiatives in Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Angola, Benin, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These projects help mitigate climate change by planting trees that absorb carbon dioxide. We are also evaluating how to support tree planting for firewood alternatives, recognizing the complexities of deforestation globally." **Read the rest of Jon Zirkle's blog post for Mennonite Men [here](#).**



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
