

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Ordinary Resurrection* using Luke 24:1-12.

The women who approach Jesus' grave are met by messengers who explain that Jesus is risen. Peter is the only disciple who takes their story seriously. What makes resurrection believable to us? How does it move us?

After Worship

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.



Footwashing Service at MCN

This Thursday, April 17 at 5:30pm

Come join us as we think together about dust and other things that need to be washed off feet and other things. In addition to washing feet, we will also have a station for washing hands, recognizing that some of us are no longer as capable of kneeling down.



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. The service will also be livestreamed [here](#).



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. 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



Friday, April 25

Please join us for food, faith and fun on April 25th for our spring Family Fun Night, Easter in the Garden! We will sing, play, create and learn. Families are asked to contribute either fruit, veggies, or chips/dips. **Please RSVP.**

Celebration of Life



Thursday, May 8 at 3:00pm at MCN

The Celebration of Life for Alice Swift will be held here at the Mennonite Church of Normal on Thursday, May 8 at 3:00pm. All are welcome to attend. It will also be livestreamed [here](#). You can read her obituary [here](#). Please keep Alice's family in your prayers.



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. You can find a more detailed description of the scholarship.**

Shared by the Discipling Commission



Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, in consultation with the chair of the Discipling Commission, has called Robin to serve on the Discipling Commission. Please send any feedback to Janet by **April 18**. Thank you!

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

MCN Action Network



In these changing times, it is important to make our voices heard. To that end, we would like to establish a network of like-minded people concerned with freedom, peace, and justice who are ready and willing for political action. If you are interested in being a part of such a network that is ready to act when needed, please let Lydia know your email address and texting number so you can be reached with details. Also, if you have ideas of actions that could be taken, let the network know! We are not powerless unless we don't act.

From the Outreach Commission



Overage Discussion

As was shared in the Annual Meeting and year-end financials, we ended 2024 with an excess of income over expenses of \$31,091. This current excess (Unrestricted Net Assets - Current on the Balance Sheet) is in addition to the accumulation of excess income over expenses from prior years (Unrestricted Net Assets - Prior Years on Balance Sheet). In 2018 a group called the Spending Plan Task Force was tasked with developing some policies around significant mid-year deficits as well as year-end overages, and as part of that made a recommendation for a formulaic approach to keeping a reasonable amount in that Unrestricted Net Assets line (funds that are in the checking/money market account but not allocated to any Balance Sheet accounts/funds/projects) from year to year, fluctuating with the level of the spending plan.

Given the growth of that line over the past 5 years, the Administration Commission is looking at what to do with that accumulation of approximately \$84,500 and looking for input from the congregation. For example, the last distribution of an overage (at the end of 2022) was allocated 10% to donations and 90% to Capital Improvement savings.

We have an aging building with numerous capital improvement needs. Some of our ideas include replacing leaking windows, repadding chairs, disability accommodations (recommendations forthcoming from the Safety, Access, and Accommodation subcommittee of the Administration Commission), and 10% donations. We have learned that in the last few years that our giving to Mennonite Church USA does NOT include Mennonite colleges or seminaries. We are open to the congregation's ideas.

After a period of two weeks of input, AC will develop a recommendation to be shared with the congregation. Please reach out to Mary or anyone on the Administration Commission to share any ideas or thoughts on ways the money could be used. Your prayerful input is much appreciated!

Shared by the Administration Commission

We survived February



Our very own Pastor Kevin Chupp wrote an article published by the *Anabaptist World* titled "We survived February: And learned to laugh at death." **Read his article [here](#).** (And a sneak preview below.)

"Inside a cramped minivan in a Target parking lot on a humid Indiana summer afternoon, my wise older sister helped me realize it was time to propose to my significant other. With a hefty portion of hope, and little idea where we would live or what we would do, we were married one year later. Powered by curiosity, we later moved across the country to start a career where everything was new to us. The whiplash came two months later when we planned a return trip, as it became clear that cancer was beginning to take my mother's life. A few months after that, another trip became necessary. We found a much more serious scene than we had expected. My mom, 57 years old, died minutes after we arrived."



A Note from Ian

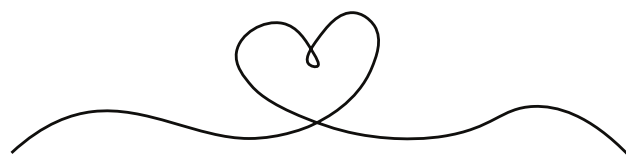
Dear MCN friends: I am excited to share that I have been accepted into the 2025-26 Service Adventure program through Mennonite Mission Network. Service Adventure is an experience designed for young adults to grow in their faith, participate in the work of the church in a new location, learn to see what God is doing in the world, and to imagine and explore ways to continue to serve in the years to come. You can learn more about it [here](#). I will be leaving in late August to spend the year in Anchorage, Alaska, where I will have the chance to live with several other participants and get to know a community different than my own. There are different ways to support me, whether through prayer, words of encouragement, or financial support. Participating in Service Adventure requires me to raise financial support so that the communities where we are serving do not have to fully support us with their own dollars. If you would like to offer financial support, you can find my fundraising page [here](#). If you would prefer to mail a check to MMN or to give through their website, please include Service Adventure and my name in the memo line (or where it asks if you are giving specifically for a participant). I know that many people from MCN have served (and continue to serve) close to home and abroad, and I grew up hearing about the impact that service has had on their lives and the lives of others. I am looking forward to having my own year full of new experiences and I know there will be challenges, growth and discovery. I would be happy to talk more about it with anyone personally in the coming months as I prepare for my upcoming service year. Thank you!

From Ian

CDC Connector



The April edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This month celebrates Earth Day with a special themed issue of the Connector! Inside we hear from folks at three CDC congregations who are involved in earth care work. Also in this edition is a reflection by Trey Ferguson, pastor of The Intention Church, a recap of Mennonite Arts Weekend, and photos from the first ever Knitting Retreat at Camp Friedenswald. **If you would like a paper copy, they are now available to take from the Library Table.**



Those Serving This Week



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, April 16

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30 pm Lent Vespers

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, April 17

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Foot Washing

7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Friday, April 18

12:00 pm Good Friday Ecumenical Service

Saturday, April 19

10:00 am Holy Saturday Meditation Walk

Sunday, April 20

8:00 am Easter Breakfast

Tuesday, April 22

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 23

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





**Beholding it Together:
A sneak peek at the
July 8 Women's Summit**

Join Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz,
along with summit presenters
Sarah Bixler and Joanne Gallardo,
for an exclusive preview of the
event. *Intérprete al español
disponible.*


**Beholding it
Together**
MC USA Women's Summit
July 8, 2025 | Greensboro, NC

 **April 24, 2025**

 **2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT
on Zoom**



Mennonite April Mass Call

Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 PM CT

From the very start of Mennonite Action's work, we have used music as a way to take action together. Singing grounds us during our mass calls. We play music as a way to build fellowship and be in community with each other. And during our public prayer services calling for our lawmakers to pursue a path of peace and justice, we use our songs to challenge the powers that be. Join us for our April mass call on "Music of the Movement"—where we will be joined by a special musical guest, Girl Named Tom. Girl Named Tom is a folk sibling trio who grew up Mennonite and who won the music competition show, *The Voice*. Don't miss this celebration of the ways that music propels our movement. We are inspired by the power that music can bring to advocacy and actions. We stand on the shoulders of the social justice movements before us that used collective singing and harmony as a way to build a better world. Now, in challenging times of darkness and uncertainty, we too can use our music to stand in solidarity with all of God's children, from Palestine to our local communities. Throughout our evening, speakers will discuss the importance of music in their faith and their advocacy, and we will hear music performed by Girl Named Tom. **Click [here](#) to sign up for the April 24 mass call.**

From Mennonite Action

Anabaptists join for collaborative response to DRC crisis

"As a global community of faith that exists to facilitate relationships between Anabaptist-related churches worldwide, Mennonite World Conference (MWC) takes the initiative to call its members together for interdependent action when crisis strikes to avoid duplication and ensure cooperation. MWC is currently calling Anabaptist agencies to collaborate in response to the urgent humanitarian crisis in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)." **Read the rest of Karla Braun's article for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

MCC's "The promise we dream" Peace Camp

When: June 16-21, 2025; **Where:** Camp Deerpark, Westbrookville, New York;

Who: Young adults aged 18-30; **How:** [Register](#) by May 30; **Registration Fee:** \$250.00

What does it mean to live into God's promise? As God's Spirit is poured out onto us, we are called to go forth searching for and proclaiming justice and love for all. With division and inequalities in our world, we can come together to imagine and create a world that is home to each one of us. Join us for a week of exploration and adventure as we discover and learn how to build bridges across our diverse identities and unique perspectives, living into God's promise cohesively. Surrounded by the pristine beauty of Camp Deerpark, we will address how to lean into restorative justice, power, and identity both in an interpersonal and societal context. MCC Peace Camps are one-week, hands-on learning experiences for young adults to build community together, experience personal transformation and apply Anabaptist foundations of peace and justice to real world issues. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

Judge refuses to block immigration enforcement operations in places of worship

A federal judge declined a request on April 11 to block immigration agents from conducting enforcement operations at places of worship while a lawsuit filed by religious groups works its way through the court system. U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich in Washington handed down the ruling one week after Mennonite Church USA and more than two dozen other Christian and Jewish groups requested a preliminary injunction. [Mennonite Church USA et al. v. United States Department of Homeland Security et al.](#), challenges the Trump administration's decision to rescind a ban on immigration raids in places of worship. The faith groups represent millions of members and include the Church of the Brethren, the Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church USA, Friends General Council, and several United Methodist bodies. Friedrich was appointed by President Donald Trump during his first term. The Associated Press reported she ruled that there have been only a handful of enforcement actions at places of worship and there was not a big enough threat of legal harm to justify a preliminary injunction. **Read the rest of the *The Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

Ritual at Friedenswald marks journey of repair

Will our work of holy reckoning ripple far beyond?

"In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC) hosted its annual retreat for young adults at Camp Friedenswald in Michigan. In 2005, the camp barred BMC from hosting Queer Camp on its grounds in response to increased backlash to queer visibility throughout the church. Concerned people across BMC and Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA spoke out against this decision. Mutual interest in mediation was stated but never occurred. This is not a linear story. Repair is not linear work. On a bright and chilly afternoon in November, 17 members of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests and Camp Friedenswald gathered for a ritual of repair. Our group included current and former members of our boards and staff, some of whom were involved in the organizations in 2005, along with invited leaders from Central District Conference. The gathering embodied reparative efforts the camp and BMC began nearly two years ago. In January 2024, a group of BMC and camp leaders spent time seeking a better understanding of what happened in 2005 and thereafter. We wanted to tell a fuller, more truthful story. Reviewing old emails, minutes, news clippings and articles from this era was painful and illuminating. Some letters were hard to read. We built a digital archive for this work of holy reckoning." **Read the rest of Jenna Liechty Martin and Annabeth Roeschley's article for *The Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Giving and receiving: Chin Emmanuel Church, Houston

"While we provide support to churches, we also receive much in return. As I listened to stories of the suffering these Chin people have endured due to ethnic and religious persecution in Myanmar, I was deeply moved by their remarkable resilience. God's Spirit has clearly shaped in them a character of long-suffering. As they stay connected with family and friends still suffering in Myanmar, they offer meaningful support and encouragement. Many of them must also show resilience in balancing two jobs to make ends meet." **Read the rest of Steve Thomas's blog post for Mennonite Men [here](#).**

The border is where one community meets another

"My Mennonite Voluntary Service unit in Tucson, Arizona, was on our annual border delegation trip to the cities of Douglas, Arizona, and Aqua Prieta in Sonora, Mexico, in December 2024. During our trip we were asked to grapple with the questions, 'what do borders mean?' and, 'what do borders mean as a Christian?'" **Read the rest of a blog post by Patrick Webb, a participant with the 2024-25 Tucson, Arizona Mennonite Voluntary Service unit for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Everence ToolKit

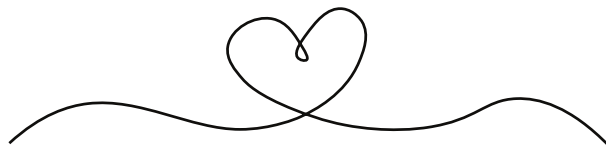
Download Everence's Spring 2025 edition of their ToolKit [here](#). (Also available [En Español](#).)

Webinar Recordings

- Mennonite Church USA Webinar recording: Listening to the Voice of Survivors and Our Faith Communities. Watch it here in [English](#) or [en español](#).
- Mennonite Church USA Webinar recording: Guiding Youth, Growing Faith. Watch it here in [English](#) or [en español](#).
- Watch the recording of Mennonite Church USA's webinar, "Following Jesus in challenging times... What does it mean to provide sanctuary for undocumented people?" in [English](#) here and [en español](#).
- Watch a recording of Mennonite Central Committee's webinar "Hospitality and Solidarity with Immigrant Communities" [here](#). View additional resources [here](#).

MC USA Executive Board nominates Todd Lehman as moderator-elect

The MC USA Executive Board unanimously affirmed the Leadership Discernment Committee's nomination of Todd Lehman of Hesston, Kansas, as moderator-elect for the Delegate Assembly cycle beginning July 2025. **Read more from Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**



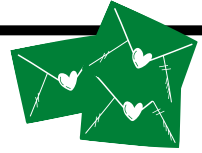
Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<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

Commission Meeting Minutes

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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

Past Midweeks

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Item Check-Out Request Form

Structure Documents

Directory
