



The

# Metamora Mennonite

WEEKLY

Following Jesus together.

Vol 11. No. 38

Metamora, IL

August 13, 2023

## TODAY

9 am *Faith Fellowship*  
“Baptism & Church Membership final class session”  
10 am *Worship*

## THIS WEEK

**Tuesdays, Saturdays**  
9 am to 11:45am  
*Open Arms Food Pantry Distribution* at the OAFP

**Wed., August 16**  
5:30 pm *Elders*

## UPCOMING

**Sunday, Aug. 20**  
9 am *Faith Fellowship*  
10 am *Worship and communion*

**Monday, Aug. 21**  
3:30 pm *Missions*

**Sunday, Aug. 27**  
9 am *Faith Formation*  
10 am *Worship*

*Meal for Pastor Jon downstairs following worship*

## **Into The Neighborhood**

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.”  
John 1:14 (MSG)

In John’s gospel, God speaks salvation into history. How does God set about accomplishing such a huge mission? We might be tempted to tackle this with a top-down approach, or a televised media blitz. Eugene Peterson reminds us that God’s strategy was from the bottom- up; the Word comes to us in human form and enters history as a living human being. He comes to us as a person. He lives in a specific town. He has real neighbors with names, personalities, joys, and sorrows!

Metamora Mennonite also embraces a big mission to make God known. Might MMC incorporate some of this neighborhood strategy to become “flesh and blood” to the town in which we each live? Each of us lives in a particular town, and we have real neighbors. What could happen if we begin to imagine with faith how this could be more concretely lived out? What if salvation is experienced through leisurely conversations, growing personal relationships, and responses to life’s comings and goings?

Therefore, MMC’s Discipleship Team invites you to participate in a neighbor group, a small group offering. Our church attendees are scattered geographically in many towns. These groups will add a local offering that can complement our large group gathering on Sunday morning. Here is another option for the other six days. The structure of these groups is intentionally simple. They will meet once a month, in the individual towns, September through May. They will be facilitated by 2-3 co-leaders, and the meeting time won’t be overly long (50-70 minutes).

The purpose of Neighbor Groups is to:

- Support community life at MMC: partnering with the larger structure of our church.
- Provide a time, place and pace to build relationships and share life together with intergenerational gatherings.
- Enjoy a smaller, more personal setting as we gather in smaller groups, often in homes.
- Work together with other Ministry Teams to accomplish ministry goals (members being cared for in practical ways: a place for individuals to discern and practice their gifts: opportunities to witness to those around us: places for service and mission).
- Be an “on-ramp” for those exploring church and for new attendees.
- Be an additional church option for those unable to attend on Sunday mornings, due to illness or schedules.

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Groups are being planned for Eureka, Metamora, Morton/Peoria, Roanoke, Washburn/Lowpoint, and Washington. Maybe we will be able to add more neighbor groups in the future! Each group will discuss when/where to meet that best suits that group (Maybe a Tues evening, Sat morning, or Sunday afternoon). Helpers could volunteer to take a turn hosting or to bring cookies).

Discipleship is currently inviting 2-3 co-leaders to facilitate for each town. Your neighbor co-leaders will contact you with the date for the first meeting in September. Some leaders have already agreed to share in this ministry. Would you join in praying for God, by his Holy Spirit to lead, to inspire, to breathe life through our neighborhoods?

Jeanne Sears for Discipleship Ministry

## **MMC CHURCH: NEWS, EVENTS, SERVICE**

**\*\*BUDGET INFORMATIONAL & CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS POSTPONED\*\***

### **It's time for the MCC School Kit Challenge!**

Help us meet our goal of gathering 10,000 school kits in the month of August. By donating items like notebooks and pencils, you can help kids in places like Syria, Ukraine and South Sudan who have been forced to flee their homes or struggle to afford basic school supplies. Join this effort to share a tangible message of God's love with children around the world. Learn more about this challenge and download a free activity resource at [mcc.org/school-kit-challenge](https://mcc.org/school-kit-challenge).

- 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks (about 21.5 cm x 27 cm) totaling 500–600 pages
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small all metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

### **HOPE WALK FOR LIFE**

Peoria Rescue Ministries' Annual Hope Walk for Life is **Saturday, August 19th**. This is a 2 mile fundraising walk that will be held along the Peoria River Front. The walk is for Our Empower Life Center which provides free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting classes, resources, school-based programs, and so much more! HopeWalk turning 25 years old this year and we want to celebrate all of the generations, past present and future who have participated in our Hope Walk. Here is the link to the website as well as the promo video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watchv=CGpcyWeit-U>

Thank you for all of the support,  
prayers, cards, and flowers in  
memory of my Mom.  
Anna Tieman and family





MARY of BETHANY

## EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

**“Your sins are released from you.”**

And again, entering into Capernaum, after (several) days it became known that he was at home. And many gathered, so that (the house) no longer could hold things, even near the door. And he was speaking the word to them.

And they came, bringing to him a paralyzed man who was being carried by four persons. And not being able to bring (the paralyzed man) to him on account of the crowd, they unroofed the roof where he was, and after digging through they let down the bed where the paralyzed man was lying down.

And Jesus, after seeing their trust, said to the paralyzed man, “My son, your sins are released from you.” Mark 2:1-5 AT

Who would not want their sins distanced, sent away, separated? Left lying, released, remitted, pardoned, forgiven. We find this verb in verses Mark 2: 5, 7, 9, and 10.

The *word* Jesus was speaking to them, the *good news*, most assuredly was “God loves you. You are accepted. ‘God is not angry with you.’”<sup>1</sup> And to the paralyzed man, “Your paralysis is not due to your sinning.”

God’s steadfast rescuing love distances our sins, separating them from us, so they are left lying and forgiven. We don’t have to always carry their weight.

All praise is yours, Lord!

Peace and All Good!

Pastor Jon

<sup>1</sup>William Barclay, *The Gospel of Mark*, 48

## WEEKLY PRAYER AND CARE LIST

*Please pray for the following requests:*

### Metamora Mennonite Church

- John Allshouse
- Ferne Bachman
- Rob and Rachel Davidsen family as they recover
- Chuck Danner
- Cyndi Davidsen
- Erica (Bell) Edwards
- Byron & Beulah Fierce
- Gary Garber
- Sheila Graber's sister Katy and husband Ben
- Jacob Hughes, cousin to Adam and Jenna Noe
- Linda Joy, Sue Bachman's friend
- Judah Miller, grandson of Ron and Jeanne Sears
- Don Schertz
- Bob & Marilyn Shepard
- Art and Crystal Taylor
- Anna Tieman
- Anna Tieman and family on the passing of her mother
- Michael Tieman's mother Ilene
- Sherrill Unzicker
- Chris White, friend of Janet Shanks
- Beth Urban's mom
- Judy and Bill Wyatt
- *Snackpac*
- Students, Parents, Families, Teachers and Faculty
- Travelers during this season
- Those in hospitals, nursing homes, and the home bound
- Those recovering from procedures and medical treatments
- The Open Arms Food Pantry volunteers, and the needs of the people that serve and are served through that ministry
- And give thanks for God's faithfulness.

### Wider Church

- Dustin and Christina Hite
- *Nourish Ministry*
- Eric and Kelly Frey Martin
- Andrea Ricardo Castro Serrano

- Linda Shelly
- Bekah York
- Friends in Colombia / Colombia delegation as they obtain visas
- *Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center*
- *Menno Haven*
- Our partner churches in Colombia
- *Zion Baptist Church*

### Our World

- Healing from, and the end of the Coronavirus and variants
- For the peace process in Colombia
- Peace and justice for our world
- Immigrants and refugees
- Those who are unemployed or underemployed
- Those who are lonely and/or homebound
- Our Nation's leaders
- The ongoing wars and the continued strains of war on soldiers, families, children and nations
- Victims of violence, terrorism, and natural disasters
- Pray for Peace. Act for Peace.

### Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA has named Nancy Kauffmann, former board president of Dove's Nest and longtime Mennonite church leader, as the interim denominational minister of Church Safety for MC USA's Church Vitality office. This new position was created so that the denomination could address the need for continued abuse education and prevention work. Read the announcement here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/interim-minister-church-safety](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/interim-minister-church-safety)

Approximately 300 youth, young adults and their sponsors gathered in Kansas City at the Kansas City Convention Center on July 7, 2023, for the Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit. The summit focused on climate change, including climate anxiety, social justice and advocacy themes. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/encouraged-challenged-climate-summit](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/encouraged-challenged-climate-summit)

### Follow Jesus

In this Menno Snapshots blog, Glen Guyton, executive director of MC USA, introduces and reflects on the new theme for the next biennium, "Follow Jesus." "MC USA's role in our society is more critical than ever. Our message of peace, love, community and reconciliation is needed in this hurting world," Guyton said. Read more about the new theme here: [mennoniteusa.org/follow-jesus](https://mennoniteusa.org/follow-jesus) View the slide graphic here: [mennoniteusa.org/fi-gr](https://mennoniteusa.org/fi-gr)

### Menno Snapshots

The pandemic was a time of great anxiety but also a time for reflection and healing. Jessica Lynn Nichols, a member of Lowville (New York) Mennonite Church, reflects on how and why she became a Mennonite during the pandemic. Read more of her story here: [mennoniteusa.org/blessings-amid-pandemic](https://mennoniteusa.org/blessings-amid-pandemic)

Lisa Longacher, a development officer for Hesston College shares about how her art can be used for positive change. Longacher co-led a youth seminar, "Art for Change: Exploring Your Creativity," at MennoCon23. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/art-for-change](https://mennoniteusa.org/art-for-change)

### Mennonite Mission Network

Everett and Miriam Ramer are serving with Mennonite Mission Network's SOOP program in Quebec, Canada, for more than two months. Pray for them as they work at Maison de l'Amitié (Friendship House) in Montréal and Camp Péniel, which offers a Jesus-centered experience for children and youth.

### Friends To Remember

Please remember our members who are not able to worship with us regularly.  
Thank you for your kindness.  
Pastor Jon

Let us continue to pray for one another.

Psalm 147:3 He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.



In June, CPT carried out an advocacy tour in Bogotá where we met with national institutions, international organizations and embassies, to visibilize our work and, in turn, advocate for our partner organizations such as CAHUCO-PANA and the Popular Women's Organization - OFP. We also publicized at the national level the difficult humanitarian crisis that the community of El Guayabo is facing after the heavy rainy season.

For information on Colombia go to:  
[www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org);  
[www.witnessforpeace.org](http://www.witnessforpeace.org);  
[www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org) (Fellowship of Reconciliation)

**Coins for Colombia**  
**7/30/23**  
**\$98.55**

<b>OFFERING</b>	
(In person/by mail)	
<b>AUGUST BY SUNDAY</b>	
08/06	\$3,570.05
<b>SPECIAL OFFERINGS</b>	
08/06	
Mennonite Women/ School Kits	\$100.00
Snackpac	\$120.00
<b>Year-to-date:</b>	<b>\$185,104.53</b>
<b>JULY ONLINE GIVING</b>	
\$2,325 -- general offering	
\$400 -- MCC	
\$300 -- Open Arms Food Pantry	

**Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain**

If you have an emergent need and want it on the confidential prayer chain, please contact the church office at:

[admin@metmenno.org](mailto:admin@metmenno.org), Pastor Eric or Pastor Jon, and we will get your request on the prayer chain as soon as possible.

If you would like your request on the Weekly Prayer and Care List, contact the church office before 9 am on Friday of each week.

Requests remain on list for 2 weeks unless we receive word otherwise.

**ABOUT OPEN ARMS  
 FOOD PANTRY**

Tuesday or Saturday between 9 am and 11:45 am.

Visit the Open Arms page on the MMC website at: [www.metmenno.org](http://www.metmenno.org)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

1200 W. Mount Vernon St.  
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 email: [admin@metmenno.org](mailto:admin@metmenno.org)  
 phone: 309.367.4892

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Pastoral Staff**

*Eric Potter, Lead Pastor*  
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 309.648.6895

Office Hours:  
 Best reached by appointment;  
 feel free to text, call, or leave a message.

*Jon Byler, Associate Pastor*  
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309.444.9407 (home)  
 309.360.1787 (cell)  
 Office Hours: Tues. 10 am - 1 pm

**Secretary**

*Michelle Burns*  
[admin@metmenno.org](mailto:admin@metmenno.org)  
 (will be phasing out:  
[metmenno@mtco.com](mailto:metmenno@mtco.com))

309.367.4892 office  
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 Office Hours: Hours vary with Joe's new therapy appointments!

**Treasurer\***

*Amy Johnson* - 309.532.1948  
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 Home Office Hours: Tuesday

**Worship Director:**

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**CPC Team**

(Child Protection Committee):  
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To place information in the Metamora Mennonite Weekly, please contact the church office by phone or email. All items must be in the office **no later than 9 am on Thursday** to help ensure inclusion in Sunday's edition.

Metamora Mennonite Church  
 on-line giving page:



Please contact Amy Johnson, Treasurer, with any questions.

QR Code for Giving!