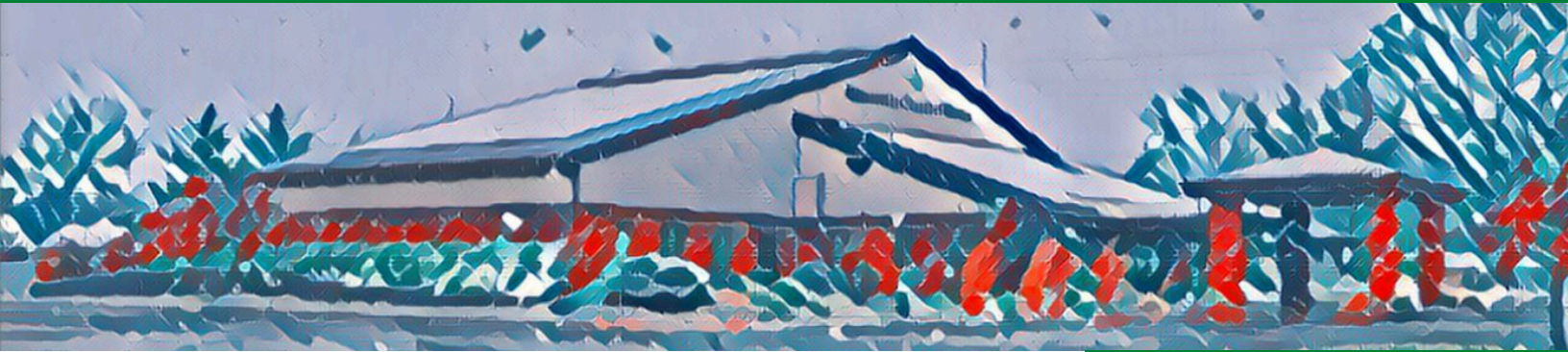


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Zing* using Luke 7:1-17.

As Jesus continues his journey through the towns of Galilee, he meets a servant whose confidence inspires him and a family whose despair stirs his compassion—both leading to healing. What do these unlikely stories of interrupted death inspire in us? How might Jesus meet us today?

After Worship

Adult CE

Salt & Light
Room 14

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K–K Grade
2nd–4th Grade
5th–8th Grade
High School

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).



Mennonite
Church
of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

International Student Dinner



Friday, February 7th

Ashley is looking for volunteers to help provide food for the international student dinner at Wittenberg Lutheran Center on February 7th. You can drop it off at MCN on Sunday, arrange a pick up with Ashley, or drop off at Wittenberg on Friday the 7th between 6-6:30pm. **Sign up [here](#).**

Shared by Ashley



Coffee Meet Up

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

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

From the Community Life Commission

A Note from Vision Team



The Vision Team (VT) would like to share a quick summary of our most recent meeting on January 28.

- We debriefed and planned follow up from the January 19 Annual Meeting and the subsequent vote on the Spending Plan. VT will continue to address some of the comments regarding aspects of the Spending Plan. Anyone with additional questions or concerns may contact a member of VT (Shelly, Helen, Shannon, Ben).
- We discussed next steps in the congregation's discernment regarding conference affiliation.
- We began planning our next VT retreat.
- We received updates on the work of Teams and Commissions and discussed how we can support them in their ministries.
- We discussed and delegated tasks for our next check-in with Commissions.

From the Vision Team



Call Your Representatives

Laura shared on Sunday about the importance of making our voices heard about government policies (she specifically mentioned immigrants and deportation) that are currently being nationally implemented. A number of us were speaking during the Fellowship Hour with similar concerns on many different issues. I have committed to making calls each week to voice my concerns, and this website that a friend shared with me, <https://5calls.org/>, has been tremendously helpful. It provides everything you need to contact your Members of Congress. Enter your zip code, and you will be provided with phone numbers for your local IL Reps and Senators. There are simple scripts provided on a variety of current issues and legislation that you can use to voice your support and/or concern.

Shared by Shannon



Resources

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

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

Shared by the Outreach Commission

Financial Planning Group



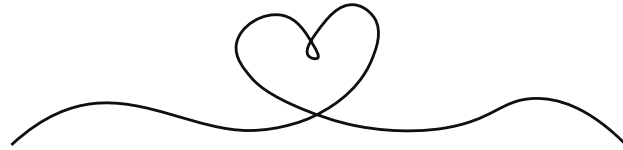
CLC is still exploring the idea of starting a small group/class focused on financial planning and budgeting. Several have expressed interest, but we're still looking for more to join! If you're looking for guidance on budgeting, working toward financial goals, or simply wanting to be more intentional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

From the Community Life Commission



CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This month's issue includes news from Camp Friedenswald, an update from Matt Pritchard, immigration resources for congregations, ideas for yard signs for peace, and the latest edition of Doug's Mug. **If you would like a paper copy, they are now available on the Library Table.**



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, February 5

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

Thursday, February 6

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Monday, February 10

5:00 pm Outreach Commission

Tuesday, February 11

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 12

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

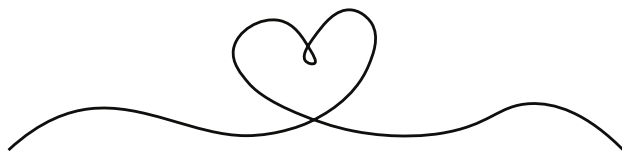


Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week



What does it mean to provide sanctuary for undocumented people?

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025 at 6 pm Central Time

What does it mean to provide sanctuary for undocumented people? This webinar on Feb. 5, 2025, at 7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT, will feature several pastors whose congregations have previously served as sanctuaries. Lawyers from the Institute of Constitutional Advocacy and Protection will discuss the legal issues related to sanctuary, specifically focusing on section 1324, and will allow time for participants to ask questions. For churches that are currently working with or are interested in supporting undocumented individuals in their communities, this webinar will provide crucial information on what to expect and what legal assistance is available if your church faces challenges from ICE or immigration agents. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

Hope for the Future Conference

February 28 - March 2, 2025

Join Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) for a transformative celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Damascus Road anti-racism process and its pivotal role in the Anabaptist commitment to justice and reconciliation. Co-hosted by MC USA's Hope for the Future, this special event will gather BIPOC leaders and white allies who are actively engaged in the ongoing work of confronting and dismantling racism in the church. Together, we will honor the legacy of the Damascus Road while deepening our connections and renewing our dedication to equality and love in action. Hope for the Future is sponsored by Everence, Mennonite Central Committee, MC USA, Mennonite Education Agency, Mennonite Mission Network, MHS Association and The Schowalter Foundation. **Register [here](#).**

Christ at the Borders, Chapter 2: Calais, France

JUST PEACE PILGRIMAGE

April 7-18, 2025
Register by Feb. 15, 2025



Embark on a life-changing journey to Calais, France, a lesser-known migration hub that mirrors the challenges faced at the U.S.-Mexico border. Thousands of hopeful souls travel here and attempt crossing the English Channel to the United Kingdom in search of a better future.

Cost: \$2,750 (excluding airfare to and from Paris, France)

Mennonite Mission Network

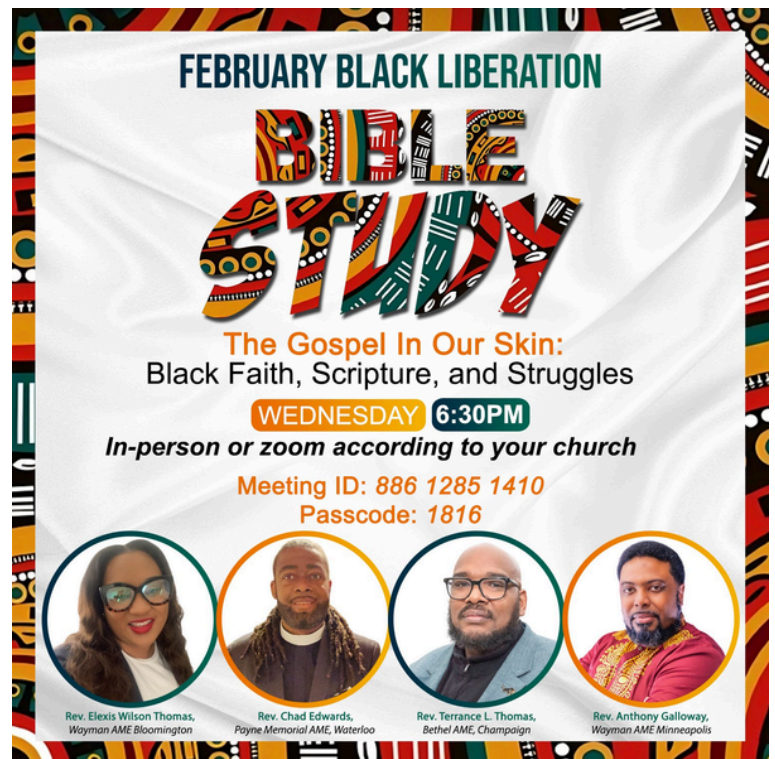
FEBRUARY BLACK LIBERATION BIBLE STUDY

**The Gospel In Our Skin:
Black Faith, Scripture, and Struggles**

WEDNESDAY 6:30PM

In-person or zoom according to your church

Meeting ID: 886 1285 1410
Passcode: 1816



Rev. Elexis Wilson Thomas, Wayman AME Bloomington
Rev. Chad Edwards, Payne Memorial AME, Waterloo
Rev. Terrance L. Thomas, Bethel AME, Champaign
Rev. Anthony Galloway, Wayman AME Minneapolis

A Note from CPT

As I scrolled through the news about the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, I came across this part of a poem from Gaza:

"When a ceasefire is announced, I will just run. No one ask me where. I myself don't even know. I will just run, and run. Maybe to a space in this city, maybe to my old solitude, maybe towards the sun. I don't know. The important thing is to arrive at a quiet place. A place that allows me to weep for a long time." — Hasan Qatrawi, Gaza. As I read about the potential ceasefire deal a few days ago, which has now been approved by the Israeli cabinet, I went through a roller coaster of thoughts. Finally, the killing will stop. No, this might just be a trick in the current global political theatre. Does this mean the occupation will end? Or is this just a longing, like Hasan, looking for respite? After fifteen months of bombings, this is welcome news, even though thousands of deaths later, it seems a little too late. Every moment of delay was calculated, every death avoidable. In fact, this same deal was available since July but lacked the right political pressure to be accepted.

Let us not be mistaken; the ceasefire is not an act of goodwill but a calculated political decision. Whether Biden or Trump should receive credit for brokering the deal does not matter because the United State's enabling posture toward Israel has not changed. On Wednesday, Trump's incoming security adviser, Rep. Mike Waltz, said Israel has the green light to keep attacking Gaza. Additionally, Israel has a reputation for finding excuses to reinitiate violence and back out of truces. While the deal was being negotiated, Israel escalated its violence, raining down bombs in Gaza. Suchitra Vijayan accurately describes Israel's strategy as one of "violence as policy, diplomacy as spectacle."

We need to be vigilant in the coming days, weeks and months because a fragile ceasefire does not mean the cruelty of the occupation will not continue. Israel Occupation Forces' military actions have intensified in the West Bank, paving the way and appropriating land for the development of new and expanded settlements. The apartheid regime under which Palestinians live will not change with the ceasefire. Justice and a liberated Palestine demand the end of Zionism and the end of the occupation. Justice also demands our global solidarity — our organizing and actions for peace need to intensify. For right now, I'm grateful for a ceasefire. I'm thankful families in Gaza can find some respite. I'm grateful Hasan can find a quiet place.

Caldwell Manners

Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Communications Coordinator



A Message from Mennonite Action

We have some big news. Mennonite Action is launching a series of coordinated actions throughout February and March — with a goal of taking action in at least 40 places across the US and Canada. We are calling on Mennonites, Christians, and friends to hold public, nonviolent, disruptive worship services to demonstrate that [God's Love Knows No Borders](#).

We are boldly stepping into this moment because our political leaders have failed us. Reactionary populism is on the rise across the world, from the US to Canada to Germany. In response, our elected leadership is not offering a different vision. We aren't hearing enough strong, moral voices speaking out against the Trump administration's cruel deportations of immigrants, discriminatory policies targeting LGBTQ Americans, and recent calls for the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Gaza. There is silence in the face of the rising violence in the West Bank and both US parties' ongoing support of Israel.

But we will not be silent. Together, we will speak out against Christian nationalism, against tearing apart immigrant families, and against violence and occupation everywhere. We will take mass action for Palestine, for our undocumented neighbors, and for the safety of our communities. To get ready to take nonviolent action together, there are things you can do right now:

- Check out our brand new action toolkit. [Our new "God's Love Knows No Borders" toolkit](#) will equip you with practical information to hold a public action in your local community. Consult the toolkit for everything you need to know about messaging, recruitment, planning, and programming.
- Sign up for Peace School next Tuesday. On **Tuesday, February 11**, we are offering an [action planning training](#) during our ongoing Peace School sessions. This training is open to everyone, including people who aren't joining our entire February Peace School series.
- Join our Winter Term Peace School: This February, we will be holding weekly online trainings on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm CT. This training series will provide you with the concrete skills you need to organize in your local community around Mennonite Action's two major areas of focus: changing the "common sense" around western support for the genocide and occupation of Palestine, and publicly demonstrating an alternative to the Trump administration's Christian nationalist ideology. [Click here](#) for more information and to register for the weekly sessions.
- Check out Mennonite Action's new podcast: We're excited to announce the launch of our new podcast, Front Light! The name comes from Dr. Vincent Harding, who implored Mennonites to be a "front light" in struggles for justice, instead of a "rear light." The podcast is hosted by two members of Mennonite Action's Pastoral Team, Jonny Rashid and Joanna Lawrence Shenk, and edited by a member of our Communications Committee, Ken Ogasawara. You can listen to the first episode [here](#) or on your preferred podcast platform.

Taking action together is a form of public witness. We want to show our communities that there are Mennonites and Christians who say no to rising Christian nationalism, and who reject a cruel and violent theology that seeks to divide and exclude. Instead, we will demonstrate that we are not afraid to follow Jesus's call to side with the oppressed. We are not afraid to stand with our marginalized neighbors, even in these uncertain and often frightening times. We are not afraid because we know God is here — even now. Will you join us?

In peace,
Mennonite Action

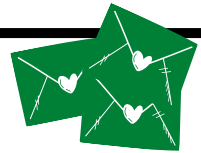


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<u>Building Open:</u>	Standard Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM & 1:30PM-3PM
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org ; 309-452-6622
<u>Rita Munkakusi:</u>	Custodian
<u>Kevin Chupp:</u>	Pastor for Outreach Commission, Worship Commission, Congregational Care Committee, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, and Visitation Team; kevin@normalmennonite.org
<u>Lynette Miller:</u>	Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Pastor for Vision Team & Administration Commissions

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



Commissions and Teams Contact List

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

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!

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

Structure Documents
