

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Crepuscular* using Luke 13:1-9, 31-35.

Jesus encounters all kind of anxiety about things that are happening around them at the hands of the government, including Jesus' own endangerment. However, instead of feeding the panic or arming himself, he tells of his intention to keep on going, even while he laments their refusal of his motherly instincts—to protect them like a hen protects her chicks. What does Jesus' resolve do for us? How might we share his confidence and receive his protection?

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 12, 6:30pm Lent Vespers

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)



IL Mennonite Relief Sale

Friday, March 14 & Saturday, March 15

The theme of the 67th Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale is: "World Relief in the Name of Christ!" On Friday, March 14, there is a Trivia Night starting at 6:00 P.M. On Saturday, March 15, the Pancake & Sausage Breakfast begins at 6:00 A.M. The booths open at 7:00 A.M., and the auction starts at 8:30 A.M. Your support will be appreciated by people in America and in forty-five countries of the world. View the schedule and learn more [here](#). Learn more about creating a trivia team and to sign up for a team [here](#).

Take some time to stop by the National Mennonite Disaster Service trailer while you are at the Relief Sale. It will be parked outside the main building Friday evening and all day Saturday. You can take a tour of the trailer. Experience an ultra sensory video showing what happens when a storm hits an area. Information is available on MDS and what they are doing now and how you can become involved. Stop and see what MDS is doing throughout our country!

Please bring your donations and baked goods to the church by noon on Friday.

Recycling



Juergen and Meredith urgently need help with the final recycling, especially of corrugated cardboard, at the end of the activities of the Relief Sale on Saturday. Agile young people are perfect for the task.

From Juergen & Meredith

Coffee Meet Up



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.



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.

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.



Sharing Our Gifts

The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to the church office at church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Report on the March 1, 2025 Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) Annual session at Menno Haven.

Sixty plus persons representing many of the 31 Ill Mennonite Conference churches met at Menno Haven on March 1. The morning session included singing, a brief drama about the first baptism that started the Anabaptist movement in 1525 and a very thought provoking presentation by Drew Strait on Christian Nationalism and how we might respond to it. Drew, a professor at AMBS, is the author of a book entitled "Strang Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism".

Following lunch, the afternoon session began with brief reports from various Church wide organizations including Mennonite Church USA (Rachel Ringenberg Miller), Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Grant Miller), Mennonite Mission Network (Eric /Frey Martin), Mennonite Central Committee (Krista Dutt), Ill Mennonite Historical Society (Mike Yoder), and Menno Haven (Phil Kauffmann).

Illinois Conference has called three persons as Conference Ministers each at ¼ time. They are Cal Zehr, Brian Miller and Eric Potter. There was a brief dedication/installation service using #964 & #965 in Voices Together followed by a prayer offered by Rachel Ringenberg Miller from MC USA.

Other items

1. Several persons were confirmed for official positions in IMC including Ann Munley as Moderator, Darrel Miller as Treasurer, Jolene Miller as a continuing member on CLT.
2. A report from the Champaign Mennonite Church on their year long process to decide which of Ill Mennonite Conference or Central District Conference they will continue to be a part of. They have now begun the 2-years process of withdrawing from Ill Mennonite Conference.
3. The moderators report, a brief report from Olak Sunuwar on the status of the Nepali Outreach program, and the approval of the proposed 2025 budget.

Prepared by Lotus & Judy and Lauren

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



A Note from Outreach

Outreach Commission committed to \$100 from the emergency funds, as requested by the [Gender Envy Fest](#) (April 4-5).

Outreach Commission committed to \$500 from the regular funds to help with Good Neighbor Village, a project for housing unhoused people in Bloomington, led by Home Sweet Home Ministries. We are grateful for Ruth Haney bringing this to our attention, and we anticipate further opportunities to help support this project as a congregation.

From the Outreach Commission

A Word a Day for Lent

The Worship Commission invites you to use this resource created by Unitarian Universalists Barb Greve and Alex Kapitan during Lent. On each day, reflect on each word and how you experience or witness it in your life and in the world. How might Jesus be calling you to respond? Maybe you can draw a picture, take a photograph, or write some words about each word. Consider sharing them on the Mennonite Church of Normal Facebook page or sending them to the Church Office for inclusion in the Midweek.

From the Worship Commission

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
MARCH		5 loss	6 chaos	7 anger	8 mourning	9 love
10 deconstruction	11 curiosity	12 faith	13 humility	14 change	15 consent	16 equity
17 resistance	18 fear	19 grace	20 blessing	21 vulnerable	22 safety	23 interdependence
24 liberation	25 bravery	26 dignity	27 courage	28 weeping	29 rest	30 justice
31 suffering						
APRIL	1 goodness	2 hope	3 relationship	4 receive	5 kindness	6 generosity
7 commitment	8 resilience	9 surrender	10 sweetness	11 family	12 creativity	13 pluralism
14 power	15 friends	16 grief	17 waiting	18 mercy	19 wonder	20 transformation



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 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 BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 12

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30 pm Lent Vespers

7:00 pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, March 13

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

8:00 am Strawberry Pie Making

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Friday, March 14

8:00 am Relief Sale Strawberry Pie Making

6:00 pm IL Mennonite Relief Sale Trivia Night

Saturday, March 15

6:00 am IL Mennonite Relief Sale

Sunday, March 16

7:00 pm Adult Choir

Tuesday, March 18

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 19

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

6:30 pm Lent Vespers



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.

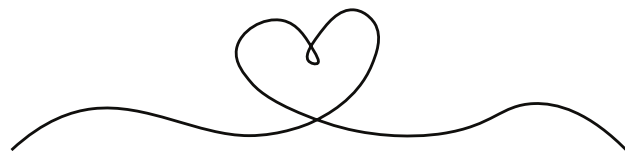


Those Serving This Week



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Online Short Course: Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication

April 23 - June 3

Join Betty Pries, PhD, CMed, to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register [here](#) by April 2 to save \$50.

Will Someone Please Think of the Children: Exploring a queer and trans inclusive theology of childhood and faith development

Sunday, March 16th at 5:30 pm Central Time

Join Caitlin Reilley Beck (they/she/he) and the Community of Hope Mennonite Church for the next Queer Theology Sunday School "Will Someone Please Think of the Children: Exploring a queer and trans inclusive theology of childhood and faith development". **Learn more and register for the Zoom link [here](#).**

There is trepidation of various kinds about what and how to teach kids about gender and sexuality and the intersection between these topics and faith. What is the theological basis for attempting this? What are some things to consider when doing so? What does it make sense to avoid? Together we will explore a theology of childhood and faith development that is inclusive of the wide variety of experiences of gender, bodies, relationships, family structures, and queer and trans identities.

SCN Training: Harnessing Our Power to End Political Violence

Tuesday, March 25th at 12:00 pm Central Time

The Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests' (BMC's) spring Supportive Communities Network (SCN) meeting will be held Tuesday, March 25th at 12:00 pm Central via Zoom, featuring a workshop on how to interrupt the political violence that increasingly targets LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized groups. BMC is grateful to offer this training to SCN members for *free* via a grant in collaboration with SCN member On Earth Peace and HOPE PV (Harnessing Our Power to End Political Violence). The amazing Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart and BMC's own Matt Guynn will co-facilitate. Come build power, skills, and relationships across our SCN network. While especially planned for SCN leaders, anyone is welcome. **Click [here](#) for details and to receive the link** (scroll to bottom of page to the RSVP box). The training is 2 hours.

Transgender Day of Visibility Storytelling Celebration

Saturday, March 29, 2025 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM CT

Join Planned Parenthood of Illinois and their community partners for a storytelling celebration to mark Transgender Day of Visibility 2025. Gather in community for this hybrid event, with the option to join in person in Bloomington or virtually via Zoom. A special guest speaker, non-binary, professional marathoner, speaker, and educator, Cal Calamia (they/he), will be the keynote storyteller. Following Cal's talk, hear a handful of stories and view a collection of art pieces by and from local trans/non-binary/gender expansive community members. Whether you're a member of the trans+ community yourself or an ally, you are welcome to join in on this celebration of our vibrancy and the power that we hold in community. There will be light refreshments and some fun arts & crafts for folks to participate in. Click [here](#) for more information.

Shared by the Prairie Pride Coalition

Gender Envy
& Coffeehouse

*A festival celebrating
 underrepresented communities*

6-10:15 pm *April 4*
JENNY SCARRA
 DUMBED DOWN • CHICKEN HAPPEN
 MOJO • EJ ALLEN • HEZ

6-10:15 pm *April 5*
SWEETMELK
 RICKI MARVEL • FIRST DATE KISS
 MS. JONES • FURY • GREY HERON

\$10 - Per Night *All Ages*
\$15 - Pass For Both Nights *114 E Beaufort St.*

04.14.25
SAVE THE DATE
 for a public demonstration
 WASHINGTON, D.C.



CQCL
 COLLECTIVE OF QUEER
 CHRISTIAN LEADERS

CQCL Ash Wednesday Statement

The Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests put out an Ash Wednesday statement [read it [here](#)] with other queer Christian groups in support of LGBTQIA2S+, working class, and immigrant rights. Feel free to share - especially given the absence of such statements from our denominations. It's also on [BMC's website](#). This collective is planning a Holy Week rally in DC. (See event above on right.) Learn about the Collective of Queer Christian Leaders [here](#).

Christians against Christian Zionism

The prospect of Mike Huckabee serving as US Ambassador to Israel is horrifying. Implore your Senators to do all that is within their power to reject his confirmation—as disastrous for Palestinians, dangerous to Israelis, and detrimental for global accord. **Sign the petition [here](#).**

Shared in the Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Weekly Newsletter

Apache Stronghold/Save Oak Flat's Supreme Court Update

The organizers with the Amicus Brief Committee of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, have shared a brief update on the timeline and status of Apache Stronghold's case. **Read it on Facebook [here](#).**

MEA Scholarship for BIPOC Students application available for 2025-26

“ennonite Education Agency is offering the [MEA Scholarship for BIPOC Students](#) once again for the 2025-26 academic year. Interested students are encouraged to apply for the scholarship [here](#), by the April 1 application deadline. First awarded in 2023, this is the third consecutive year that the MEA Scholarship for BIPOC Students has been offered. The scholarship provides financial support for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color to attend MEA partner schools, to further the education of future Mennonite Church USA church leaders.” **Learn more about the scholarship and how to apply [here](#).**

A Message from Mennonite Action

On Saturday, March 8, [Department of Homeland Security agents detained Mahmoud Khalil](#), a U.S. permanent resident and student organizer for Palestinian rights. Khalil was the lead negotiator during the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at Columbia University. His detention is a targeted act of political repression. He is being held in an ICE detention center over 1,000 miles away from his home and his wife, who is eight months pregnant. As Anabaptists, our spiritual forebears were jailed, beaten, and tortured for standing up for their religious and political freedom. We refuse to stand by silently while Mahmoud is detained for standing up for his own beliefs.

We won't stand for our political leaders wielding the weight of the immigration system as punishment for speaking out for Palestinian liberation. We will let our leaders know there are Christians and Mennonites who speak loudly for justice, who stand up for freedom, and who act in solidarity with our marginalized neighbors. We remember that our faith calls on us to follow in the example of Jesus Christ, who called us to always stand with the oppressed, and to set the prisoners free. **Please click [here](#) and take a moment today to write your representatives to demand Khalil's immediate release.**

In solidarity, Mennonite Action

Anabaptism at 500 anniversary event looks back to live forward

Thousands attended, in-person or online, MennoMedia's Anabaptism at 500 celebration at College Mennonite Church, Jan. 21. **Read Mennonite Church USA's recap of the events [here](#).**

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! **Register by May 5 [here](#).**

Shared by the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

MC USA Convention Swag

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) has launched an online storefront featuring hats, sweaters, mugs, and more. Check out the selection of swag that displays Follow Jesus, the MC USA dove, and a retro line of gear from past conventions [here](#).

Anabaptism at 500 Essay Contest Offers College Scholarship Opportunities

Want to earn a scholarship for college? The **Living Forward: Anabaptism at 500 Essay Contest** is your chance to showcase your writing skills and win financial support for your education. Current high school seniors, current college students, and those going to college after a break from academics are invited to submit an essay to compete for a scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year. The student with the best essay will receive a scholarship of \$1,000 and the first runner-up will receive a scholarship of \$500. Don't miss this chance to share your perspective, strengthen your writing, and invest in your future. Submit your essay today! **The submission deadline is April 19, 2025.** Learn more and complete the application [here](#).

Surviving Fascism: Lessons from Jim Crow

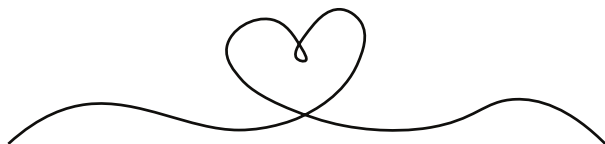
Donald Trump's third presidential campaign was full of people questioning who really has the right to vote and who really deserves full citizenship. Here are a few lessons on surviving fascism from the time of Jim Crow. **Read Joel Cook's article for Scalawag Magazine [here](#).**

Shared in the Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Weekly Newsletter

Joining the resistance

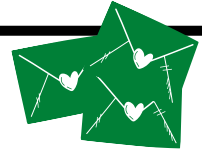
Taxpayers fund U.S.-backed wars. What's a peacemaker to do?

"What is our peace church witness against war when the U.S. military no longer demands our bodies but depends on our financial support? What shape does our conscientious objection take today, and how could it be a force for change? On Dec. 8, First Mennonite Church of San Francisco hosted a forum, 'Mennonite War Tax Resistance as Public Witness,' exploring the possibilities. The forum grew out of conversation over the past year. In the spring of 2024, First Mennonite's Outreach Committee wrestled with the incongruity of being a peace church while our tax dollars fund violence around the world. One committee member, Sarah Herrera, reflected on how the grief she felt about U.S. complicity with the genocide in Gaza was calling her to resist war taxes alongside her new husband, a war tax resister for two decades." **Read the rest of Sarah Herrera, Jim Lichti, and Joanna Lawrence Shenk's article for the *Anabaptist World* [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

Structure Documents
