

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Alligator Logic* using Acts 15:1-18.

When this fledgling church gathers in Jerusalem, they have a complex issue to discuss. What do they teach us about how the church discerns together?

After Worship

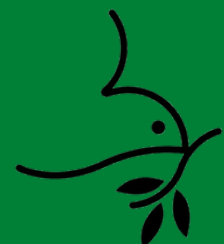
Adult CE
Room 8

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-K Grades
1st-5th Grades
Jr High School
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

"Last call" for Vision Team Nominations



Shelly's term as Vision Team Chair ends on December 31, 2025. She will be stepping down from the Vision Team at that time. Members of the congregation need to nominate a chair-elect ([Ministry Description summary](#)) now who will join Vision Team in June, moving into the position of chair on January 1, 2026. This new member will join Shelly for the remainder of her term, Shannon, Ben, and Helen on the Team. The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) is responsible for organizing the nomination and election processes for filling this position.

The process:

- Apr. 27–May 7 Nominations for Vision Team chair-elect are submitted.
 - May 8 SGDT prepares a slate of candidates including the names of the 5 people who received the most nominations. *
- May 11 Election slate announced.
- May 11–14 Ballots are submitted. (Paper ballots and online voting available.)
 - May 15 SGDT reviews the ballots. The person receiving the most votes is contacted and invited to prayerfully discern this call. If that person declines, If that person does not feel called to this role at this time, SGDT will discern who to call next.

*One may not request that their name be removed from the slate. We want the Spirit to speak through the congregation in this process. You may not want to serve, but if the congregation calls you, we want you to prayerfully consider it. And if at that point it still does not coincide with your sense of call, it is appropriate to decline.

Please send your vote for chair-elect of the Vision Team **today** to the chair of the SGDT.

Deadline: Midnight tonight! Click [here](#) to access the online ballot.

Congregational Meeting on Dual Conference Affiliation May 18

This Sunday, May 18 after CE

Vision Team is inviting you to attend and participate in a discussion of MCN's historical and future affiliation with Illinois Mennonite Conference and Central District Conference on May 18 following the CE hour in the sanctuary and on Zoom. This meeting will involve discussion surrounding an [FAQ document](#) that has been developed to dive deeper into the questions and considerations around this topic. This is considered a living document and will be updated as more information is received, or as new questions/considerations are raised. Thank you to those that have engaged with Vision Team to help provide input to this point. We invite participation from all that want to be a part of this process. **Join the Zoom meeting** . If you have any questions or comments, please contact a member of the Vision Team.

Shared by the Vision Team

Quilt Project



Wednesdays from 1-4 pm at the church

A quilt project is starting to make quilts for Home Sweet Home Ministries. They will meet every week on Wednesday from 1 to 4 pm. Contact Gerry or Ruth for more information.

The Wonderful World of Backyard Birds

This Sunday, May 18 at 5 PM at the MRC Community building

Wayne will offer a presentation entitled "The Wonderful World of Backyard Birds." Wayne writes "I will talk about my fascination with birds, how I got started watching them, what I experience and learn from them, how they ground me, and you will see photos of birds in McLean County which I have taken. You will see that they are beautiful, and varied, and so unique." There will be an opportunity for questions.

Sponsored by CLC



Blood Drive

Saturday, June 7th from 8am-12pm

We are partnering with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (just a few doors West on Hovey) for a Blood Drive on June 7th from 8am-12pm. **You can learn more and sign up to donate [here](#).**



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 TOMORROW, May 15th** and can be found at this . You can find a more detailed description of the scholarship .

Shared by the Discipling Commission

Picture Directory Update



Many have asked when we will be receiving our new church directory. Indeed, we have waited a long time. Part of that waiting process was to allow the company to book sittings with area churches so we could offer more times to our congregants that missed our time slots last September. You can schedule your appointment by contacting the church office (309-452-6622 or church@normalmennonite.org). Thank you for your commitment to the church, we appreciate all that you do to support and be a part of our church community! We hope to schedule more families for photos and submit our information for a proof the last week of June. Then we should receive our directories in August. Thank you for your patience!

If you haven't gotten your church directory photos taken yet - you are an important part of our church family and our directory wouldn't be complete without you! When participating in a session, you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait as well as an updated church directory. The process will only take about 30-45 minutes and you will have the opportunity to purchase family portraits. Sittings are available at churches in Peoria, Pontiac, Herscher, and Urbana.

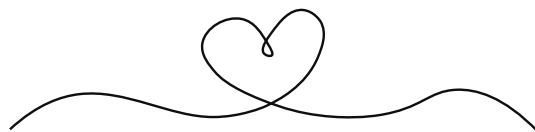


Inspired by the "Medical Debt Jubilee" campaign we participated in during 2023, First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana led a similar campaign this year as a part of their yearlong celebration of Anabaptism's 500 years under the theme "jubilee." They were able to raise \$52,333 which was used to completely eliminate all of the medical debt in the 14 Central Illinois counties (including McLean County) along with 4 other counties where they had not planned to have an impact—purchasing and forgiving a total of more than 8 million dollars! If you are interested in learning more, you can **see their report [here](#)**.



CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This month we are gearing up for CDC's Annual Meeting (June 19-21) with a preview issue filled with all the details of worship, youth programming, seminars, and more! There is also an article about a new social-justice-oriented company and the latest edition of Doug's Mug. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table soon.



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



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, May 14

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

12:30 pm Worship Commission (Zoom)

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home

Thursday, May 15

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Friday, May 16

9:00 am Mental Health First Aid

Sunday, May 18

11:45 am Dual Conference Affiliation Hearing

Monday, May 19

7:30 pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 20

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 21

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home



Those Serving This Week





Menno Haven Rally Day

Monday, May 26

Menno Haven's Rally Day - Monday, May 26th - Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the Menno Haven campus and facilities as we celebrate the beginning of a new summer camp season! Join us for the Summer Program Dedication at 11 am and for a Potluck Lunch with Menno Haven providing their traditional BBQ chicken and drinks at noon. Please bring a side dish, salad and/or dessert to share and your own tableware. Zoom down the zipline, kayak or pedal boat around the lake, and/or take a hayrack ride in the afternoon. **Click [here](#) RSVP for the meal and for more details,**

Petition to promote peace in Haiti

The humanitarian situation in Haiti is dire and worsening every day. Over 85% of the capital city, Port-au-Prince, is controlled by armed gangs and the territory they hold continues to expand. Haitians face many challenges, including indiscriminate violence, kidnappings, food insecurity and gender-based violence. Despite this context, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) partners persist in serving their communities and [building peace in Haiti](#). The illegal trafficking of weapons from the United States has exacerbated these challenges, empowered gangs, and made the work of MCC partners more difficult and dangerous. There are concrete ways the U.S. government can act to reduce violence, such as by preventing weapons and ammunition from reaching Haiti, immediately limiting the gangs' power. The Quixote Center, Mennonite Central Committee U.S., and many other faith-based groups with ties to Haiti are circulating a [petition](#) addressed to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, urging her to prevent further harm and injustice in Haiti.

The petition asks for the following:

- Screen more ships leaving Miami and going to Haiti
- Issue an executive order preventing weapons and ammunition from reaching gangs and cartels
- Increase recovery and tracing of weapons in Haiti for research purposes
- Initiate interagency collaboration to stop illegal weapons trafficking
- Extend Temporary Protected Status to Haitians and stop deportations

Please click [this link](#) and add your name to the list of people advocating for peace in Haiti.

*Shared by Galen Fitzkee, Legislative Associate for Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
National Peace & Justice Ministries*

Coffee & Conversation: Radical Listening

Friday, May 16 at 11 am Central Time

Mennonite Women USA will host a Coffee and Conversations featuring author and pastor Pat Plude who will guide us through her new book, *The Art of Radical Listening: Revealing Collective Listening for Change*. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

Centering Prayer Workshop

Want to deepen your relationship with God? Come to the Introduction to Centering Prayer workshop. Centering Prayer is a simple method of silent prayer rooted in scripture and ancient Christian tradition. You'll learn the method of centering prayer and practice two periods of centering prayer. We'll talk about the benefits of the prayer in everyday life. All are invited.



When: Saturday, May 17, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Where: East Bay Camp, 24248 Ron Smith Memorial Highway, Hudson IL

Workshop Cost: \$20.00 or free will offering to cover costs. There will be 4 follow up sessions to support you in your practice.

To Register: Email CICOfriends@gmail.com or text Anne at 309-830-3231.



DISCIPLES NEEDED

Male Head Cabin Counselors
Male Assistant Counselors
Lifeguards
Hosting Assistant

Availability Range:
JUNE 1 - JULY 15

Contact Us :
PROGRAM@MENNOHAVEN.COM



Make (Good) Trouble!

WHAT? A peaceful protest and rally!

WHY? To speak out and show what democracy is really about, and why it is worth saving!

When? 12pm - 1:30pm, Saturday May 17

Where? Outside the BCPA
600 N. East Street, Bloomington



This event is endorsed by



Social Justice
Team of UUBN

Update from Mennonite Action

We witness with broken hearts the intensifying military operations in Gaza, as Israeli forces continue to blockade humanitarian aid and prepare for an escalated ground offensive. We are crying out for justice and praying for peace. And we are also taking action. We are standing up for a different path in Palestine, and for a new world of liberation, alongside the hundreds of members of Mennonite Action who are moved to speak out in this moment. We do not do this work alone. Surrounded by so much suffering and death, we hold fast to the community around us that nurtures and sustains us. Together, we continue to lift our voices for Gaza and for all of God's children. We know our God is weeping with us. Catch up on the latest updates from Mennonite Action's work across the US and Canada, and find opportunities to gather with us in the weeks ahead:

- **Save the Date for our May Mass Call:** Mennonite Action will hold our next mass call on Thursday, May 22. Join us to hear exciting updates about our plans for upcoming summer mobilizations, including a Mennonite Action solidarity delegation to Palestine. [Sign up here to attend.](#)
- **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 Sunday, July 6, and will continue with an all-day training on public action and grassroots organizing on Monday, July 7. [Register here to attend.](#)
- **God's Love Knows No Borders Actions:** Mennonite Action chapters across North America [continue to plan and hold public worship services](#) to proclaim that God's love is not limited by nationality or border. Hundreds of Mennonites and allies have recently taken action in the Twin Cities, MN, Baltimore, MD, Pasadena, CA, and Newton, KS. The group of participants in the Pasadena action, which took place on Easter Sunday, changed the lyrics to one of the stanzas of a popular Easter hymn to sing: "ICE cannot keep its prey — Jesus, my Savior! He tore the bars away — Jesus, my Lord!"
- **New Episode Of Front Light Podcast:** Don't miss [the latest episode](#) of Mennonite Action's podcast, Front Light, featuring Michael George — a Palestinian-American Christian currently serving on the steering committees of Mennonite Action and the Mennonite Palestine Israel Network (MennoPIN). Michael helps facilitate MennoPIN's "[Twinning with Gaza](#)" initiative in which Mennonite congregations in the United States have built relationships with Palestinian-led nonprofit organizations in Gaza.

Thank you for being part of our work for justice, liberation, and peace. We are heartened by your presence in our movement and your commitment to the long-term journey we are walking together.

In peace, Mennonite Action

Patriarchy's painful legacy and a way forward

In a blog post for Mennonite Church USA's ongoing [Learn, Pray, Join: Undoing Patriarchy series](#), Linda Gehman Peachey looks at how women, as well as other marginalized peoples and the broader society, are oppressed by the existence of patriarchy. **Read Linda Gehman Peachey's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Support Peace and Justice in Palestine

Want to do something to support Palestinians and learn God's way of peace in the Holy Land? Join MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestine Israel Network) and Mennonite Men as we travel to Palestine and Israel to plant olive trees, meet Palestinian peacemakers, and connect the land to Jesus' way of peace. Help raise \$50,000 to replace up to 3,000 olive trees lost to ongoing conflict—restoring livelihoods and helping Palestinian families remain on their land. Then, travel with us to Palestine and Israel, February 4–19, 2026, to plant trees, meet Palestinian peacemakers, and visit sacred sites. This transformative journey connects faith, justice, and action as we follow Jesus' call to peace. **Read the cover letter to congregations [here](#). View a flyer [here](#).**

Shared by Mennonite Men

Urge Congress to increase the budget for foreign assistance

Background: On May 2, the White House released [President Trump's fiscal year \(FY\) 2026 budget request](#) outlining the administration's agenda. The budget includes a 13% increase in military spending and would eliminate funding for several life-saving foreign assistance programs, including the Complex Crisis Fund and the Food for Peace program. [Previous cuts to U.S. foreign assistance](#) are already having severe impacts on vulnerable communities around the world. Unless funding is restored, we will see increases in trauma, famine and food insecurity that will likely lead to millions of deaths. This is the time for Congress to push back on the White House proposal and legislate a morally responsible FY2026 budget. The world today faces unprecedented challenges: a rise in violent conflicts globally, massive forced displacements, growing food insecurity and looming famines. According to the [Global Hunger Index](#), 42 countries are already experiencing alarming levels of hunger. [Recent funding cuts](#) by the U.S. and other nations have increased the risks for violence, hunger and deaths. Urge your members of Congress to recognize our moral responsibility and prioritize assistance for vulnerable populations.

Faith reflection: In the Scriptures, Jesus repeatedly reminds us of our responsibility toward each other, especially in responding to basic needs and saving lives, describing how God blesses and rewards those who are compassionately generous to others (Matthew 25: 31-45).

Take action: [Urge Congress to increase the budget for foreign assistance](#)

Shared by Mennonite Central Committee US National Peace & Justice Ministries

MC USA seeks nominations for BringThePeace 2025

Mennonite Church USA is seeking award nominations for its 2025 [Bring the Peace](#) initiative. The denomination grants the award to a Legacy Peacemaker and a Young Peacemaker each year. A Legacy Peacemaker is someone who has devoted their life to peace and justice work, while a Young Peacemaker is a young adult or teenager who has just begun their peacemaking journey and is positively impacting their communities through their contributions. **Submit your recommendations for nominees by completing [this form](#) by May 23. Read the full press release [here](#).**

Climate Action for Peace from the MCC US National Peace & Justice Ministries April E-Memo

- Earlier this month, a small group of Anabaptists gathered around the conference table in MCC's Washington, D.C., office. Along with a dozen participants on Zoom, they prayerfully prepared to speak with congressional staff about protecting clean energy tax credits and urban forest grants. Some shared that raising their voice in a context that is hostile to climate policy felt futile. Yet, the advocates were clear that climate change is not something to be managed as individuals. Government policy is an essential mechanism for collective practices that can heal the planet. According to Kate Knuth, climate director of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and former Minnesota state representative, "The work of our time is to reweave the fabric of our democracy even as the broken systems seem overwhelming, even as the work we each can do feels so small. It's time for an intentional practice of climate citizenship." **Take action:** [Protect clean energy tax incentives](#).
- **The power of God: From extractive theology to transformative faith:** Rediscover and reimagine how God's power moves through all of creation with this new worship and study guide from MCC partner Creation Justice Ministries. Download your free copy today [here](#)!
- **A month of climate actions for peace:** Take a different climate action every day this month to learn more, engage with climate solutions, have meaningful conversations and advocate for change. Download the calendar [here](#).
- **Peacemaking through native plants:** Katrina Lefever describes how MCC lives out its commitment to 'right relationship with creation' on its Akron campus. Read the story [here](#).
- **Threads – Climate resilience in Guatemala starts with choice:** A talk with Marta Bunnett Wiebe about farming challenges in Guatemala and growing peace. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

Shared by Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries. Read the full April E-Memo [here](#).

Célébrer 100 ans de unité

Un centenaire n'arrive que tous les 100 ans! La Conférence Mennonite Mondiale célèbre son 100^e anniversaire par un culte et une fête à Schwäbisch Gmünd, en Allemagne, le 25 mai 2025. « Nous espérons que les anabaptistes de toute l'Europe feront des centaines de kilomètres pour venir à Schönblick pour fêter cet anniversaire mémorable avec des responsables du monde entier. Des mennonites qui vivent l'unité inter-églises depuis 100 ans, c'est vraiment quelque chose à célébrer », dit Liesa Unger.

[En savoir plus ici.](#)

Celebrate 100 years of unity

Mennonite World Conference is celebrating their 100th anniversary with a worship service and reception in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, 25 May 2025. "We hope Anabaptists will be able to make the journey to Schönblick from hundreds of kilometres in each direction around Europe to celebrate this momentous anniversary with leaders from around the world. Mennonites living out interchurch unity for 100 years – truly something to celebrate," says Liesa Unger. [Read more here.](#)

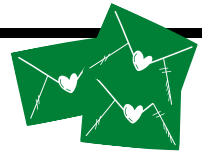


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<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

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



Facility Use Agreement

Commissions and Teams Contact List

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

Past Midweeks

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

Item Check-Out Request Form

Structure Documents
