

# ***THE MIDWEEK***



## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM**

This Sunday, Eric Potter will preach a sermon on the topic of "One in Christ" using Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29.

Eric Potter serves as a Conference Executive Minister Team member for Illinois Mennonite Conference. Originally from Sioux City, Iowa, Eric spent 17 years as a youth pastor. He is a certified spiritual director and an Enneagram coach and consultant. Most recently, he served as the Lead Pastor at Metamora Mennonite Church. Eric now resides in Metamora, Illinois, with his wife, Miley, and their three children—Avery, Hudson, and Saige.

## **After Worship**

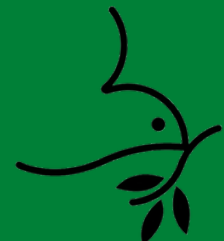
**Adult CE**  
Room 8

## **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

# Communion This Sunday



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## This Sunday, June 1st

We will celebrate Communion in worship this Sunday with Wayne Hochstetler leading. In preparation, we are all encouraged to engage in self-examination of both our relationships with God, and with others. We also receive specially designated gifts for our Mutual Aid Fund on Communion Sundays as a means of assisting others in need through being the Body of Christ. There will be a special basket in the back of the sanctuary for those funds. If you would like to take communion at home, please contact Kevin Chupp.



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## Happenings on June 1st

Eric Potter, one of our Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) conference ministers who attends Roanoke Mennonite Church, will be preaching at MCN this Sunday. Meanwhile, Pastor Kevin will be joining Roanoke Mennonite Church for worship, offering a message as their pastors Bryan and Jolene Miller are on sabbatical. We invite you to lift up these dear siblings in Christ as we continue to find new ways to be partner with one another.

Also, MCN folks who live at Westminster Village are invited to join Pastor Kevin who will be offering the message for the Vespers service next Sunday (6/1) at 3:00pm.

*Shared by Pastor Kevin Chupp*



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## Blood Drive

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### 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](#).**

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## Leaning into Summer: Lessons from Italy on Living More Mindfully and Joyfully

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### Saturday, June 14 from 5 pm to 7 pm

Do you want to slow down this summer and live more intentionally? Maybe talk to your neighbors more, or treat a shared meal as a sacred event? As we head into summer, we invite you to take a journey to live *la dolce vita*, "the sweet life," wherever you are. In this free program, spirituality author, journalist and poet Judith Valente uses image and music to distill an Italian way of life that helps us to live more joyfully and mindfully. From the sanctity of the dinner table, to the age-old practice of *chiacchiera*, chatting with others to foster a sense of belonging, these practices offer us a radical alternative to the fraught, frenetic, and disconnected way of life all too common today. The program is inspired by Judith's new book just out this May, *The Italian Soul: How to Savor the Full Joys of Life*. The book will be available for purchase at the event at a special author discount. "Leaning into Summer" is free and open to all, will last about an hour, and we'll top it off with a pizza party.

*Sponsored by the Discipling Commission*

## Adult Summer CE



The summer adult SS class is about Christian Nationalism using the book *Strange Worship* by Drew Strait. We will not use the book for the first three sessions. Other readings are possible. If you would like to do some preparation for the June 1 session, choose one the following persons: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, or Benjamin Franklin and be ready to talk for 1 or 2 minutes about them. Who was this guy? Where was he from? What was his education? President or not? When and for how long? What special contribution did he make? What were his views on religion and on the relation of church and state? ETC. Wonder how we get from this to Christian Nationalism? Come and find out!

## Bluffton Gathering



### **Sunday, June 22 after CE at the MRC Community Building**

On June 22 after church, we will be hosting a Bluffton University gathering at the MRC community building. Coming from Bluffton is our interim president Dr. J. Alex Sider and others. Dr. Sider has served the university in various roles since 2006. This will be an opportunity for us to meet Dr. Sider and get to know him. All alumni and Bluffton supporters are invited to attend. There will be a light lunch provided. Everyone is welcome.

## 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](mailto: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 throughout May in Peoria, June 10th in Herscher, and in Urbana on June 23rd and 24th.



## Meal Train

# Dual Conference Affiliation Document Update

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The [FAQ document](#) regarding MCN's historical and future affiliation with Illinois Mennonite Conference and Central District Conference has new updates. The Vision Team continues to welcome your questions, comments, and feedback as next steps are discerned: you can speak to a Vision Team member directly or send through email. Your Vision Team: Shelly (chair), Helen, Shannon, Ben, and Lauren (PT representative).

*Shared by the Vision Team*

## Relief Sale Coffee



The 2026 Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Board again sends special appreciation to everyone who helped in any way with our 67th Sale. Since we have a limited supply of Pasquel coffee available, the Sale Board desires to give the opportunity, to those interested, to purchase a 12-ounce package of breakfast blend Pasquel coffee for \$15. At this time we have both regular and decaf available. If you are interested, please contact Pres. Brian Veeder. The Sale Board also wishes to remind you we are planning a fall sausage sale prior to Thanksgiving. More details will follow later. God bless everyone!

*Shared by Mrs. Ruthie Roth, Relief Sale Executive Secretary*



## Spending Plan Update

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## Sharing Our Gifts Photos

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



# This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

## Wednesday, May 28

**1:00 pm** Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home

**6:30 pm** Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

## Thursday, May 29

**7:00 am** Next Man Bible Study

## Monday, June 2

**10:00 am** Loss & Grief Support Group

## Tuesday, June 3

**3:00 pm** Pastoral Team (Zoom)

## Wednesday, June 4

**1:00 pm** Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home

## 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



## Those Serving This Week







## Prevention & Accountability: Orientation on changes to MC USA abuse prevention and accountability policies

June 2, 2025 at  
7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT  
on Zoom

Learn about MC USA's updated abuse prevention and accountability policies. A webinar with Michael Danner and Nancy Kauffmann. *Intérprete al español disponible.*



## Mennonite Women: a Musical

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**Friday June 20, 7 pm at First Mennonite Church, Bluffton, OH**

As we celebrate Anabaptism at 500, we acknowledge the essential role of women which went undocumented for much of our history. In the 20th century, the founders of our women's organizations dared to claim a role specific to women and honor its importance. At First Mennonite the "Women in Mission" group went through years when their work sometimes felt futile, exuberant decades of high turnout, and times of self-reflection and even doubt, to emerge victorious and vibrant.

Wendy Chappell-Dick has set to music a century of carefully archived committee minutes from the Women in Mission group at First Mennonite into a lively dramatic production, ready to make you laugh and cry. Join us for a review of hymns and pop songs that trace our changing culture through the 1900s. Come to celebrate and learn, and be prepared to sing along! Featuring narrator Ruth Naylor, accompanist Carolyn McDaniel, and performers Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Jan Wiebe, Beth R. Boehr, Kendra Johns Nickel, Jane Steinmetz, Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Amber Steiner, Alicia DeMarco, and Wendy Chappell-Dick. This event is free and open to everyone. **View a flyer [here](#).**

## ADN and Church of the Brethren Renew Partnership

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Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) and the Church of the Brethren and its Discipleship and Leadership Formation department renewed their partnership to provide training, education, and resources that support congregations in becoming more inclusive of people with disabilities and mental illness. The renewed commitment is via a signed memo of understanding (MOU) outlining the details of collaborative partnership focused on disability inclusion and accessibility throughout the Church of the Brethren denomination. **Read more from Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

# Shine Launches Surveys to Hear from Churches and Families

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Shine: Living in God's Light Curriculum, a collaborative faith formation initiative of MennoMedia and Brethren Press, is launching two important surveys this spring—one for congregations and one for families. With these surveys, Shine and its publishers seek to better understand the people and practices shaping faith formation today and to craft future curriculum resources that meet their real-life needs. The Congregation Survey and Family Survey will be available online from May 1 to May 30, 2025, and are being administered on Shine's behalf by The Grandview Group. Congregations in Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Church Canada, and the Church of the Brethren will receive an invitation to participate, as will congregations from other denominations that use Shine products. **Learn more [here](#). Take the survey [here](#).**

## Optic Nerves and Church Community: an Interview with Eleanor Habecker

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"On a blustery day in early February, Eleanor Habecker and I met for hot drinks at a coffee shop. Eleanor describes her visual disability as a bad phone connection: 'It's like my eyes and my brain are two phones, and my optic nerves are a bad connection.' A delightful conversation of mutual learning and reflecting, our hour together covered a wide range of topics, including—but not limited to—the way her disability intersects with her faith and involvement in the church community." **Read the rest of Emily Hunsbaker's interview with Eleanor Habecker published by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

## Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program

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Encourage someone you know who has gifts for ministry to check out this distance-friendly undergraduate-level program of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Journey helps participants nurture their leadership abilities, grow in spiritual practices, and deepen their understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry with the guidance of a dedicated pastoral mentor and experienced facilitators. The Fall 2025 cohort begins Sept. 5; those who apply by July 9 can save \$100! **Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.**

## Service Opportunities with MMN

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Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) still has placements available for Service Adventure and Mennonite Voluntary Service for the 2025-26 service term.

- Service Adventure is a 10-month long program for ages 17-20 that invites its participants to live in community with their peers and unit leaders as they spend a year investing in faith formation and developing leadership skills. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Mennonite Voluntary Service is a one-year long program for ages 20+ where participants join an intentional community, serve with a nonprofit, and plug into a community and congregation. Click [here](#) to learn more.

# The weight of patriarchy: Rest, resilience and grace in a hyperproductive world

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Ana Alicia Hinojosa has fought against the patriarchy and a hyperproductive world to find her rightful place in society, while also finding rest. Her blog post is part of Mennonite Church USA's ongoing [Learn, Pray, Join: Undoing Patriarchy series](#). **Read Ana Alicia Hinojosa's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

## Unity rises after fire

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*3 congregations begin journey to recovery.*

After the [Eaton Fire devastated communities](#) in California's San Gabriel Valley, the interior of the Pasadena Mennonite Church building was unrecognizable. "Piles and piles of ash — ash on every horizontal surface," said church member Dan Sharp. The building, constructed in 1957, is not only home to the Mennonite congregation but also the Spanish-speaking Conexion Church of the Brethren, as well as the nondenominational The Church We Hope For. The fire killed 17 people and destroyed 9,414 structures in January. It also left the three congregations and their collective 270 members with no place to worship until the building could be professionally cleaned. Less than two weeks later, leaders from Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) reached out to Pasadena Mennonite Church to see how MDS could help. The MDS California Unit funded half the cost of cleaning the building, and the three churches raised the rest. By March the congregations were back in their space and working together to help their communities recover. **Read Susan Kim's article for Mennonite Disaster Service published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**

## Mosquito Procedure

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An examination of how the Israeli military's "Mosquito Procedure" led to the killing of an 80-year-old man and his wife. [Content Warning: violence.] **Read Illy Pe'ery's article for +972 Magazine [here](#).**

*Shared in the Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Weekly Newsletter*

## Anabaptists, Catholics collaborate in conference on Christian nationalism

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"On a Sunday morning in fall 2023, Margie Pfeil sat in an adult formation class at Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend, Ind., as Drew Strait presented on the rise of Christian nationalism in the United States. A devout Catholic, Pfeil attends Kern Road with her husband, Biff Weidman, who is a member. Pfeil has written extensively on violence and nonviolence as a moral theologian who teaches at the University of Notre Dame. But, to Pfeil, the Christian nationalism Strait was discussing presented a unique form of violence that requires new collaborative thinking and action by Christians to confront it nonviolently. As Strait shared, Christian nationalism not only endorses violence against people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+ people and other marginalized communities; it goes further by providing theological and biblical justification for doing so. Confronting it nonviolently therefore requires specifically Christian theological and biblical responses, in addition to political ones. For Strait, Anabaptists are uniquely positioned to contribute to this work." **Read the rest of David C. Cramer's article for the Anabaptist World [here](#).**



# Faith and Forestry in the Central Hardwoods Region

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"Growing up I had been provided opportunities to play and work outdoors in forested settings. Whether the oak-hickory forests of southern Michigan where my parents owned a cottage, or the forested slopes of the Four Corners Region of the Southwest where my family resided several times during my adolescent years. The latter experiences shaped my intention to pursue a professional forestry degree in the west and then work for public land agencies in the Rocky Mountain region." **Read the rest of Bill Minter's blog post for Mennonite Men [here](#).**

## How Western media silence enables the killing of Palestinian journalists

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Hossam Shabat and Mohammad Mansour were the latest Palestinian journalists to be assassinated in Gaza. Responsibility for their killings rests in part on their Western colleagues who have failed to accurately cover Israel's genocidal assault. **Read the rest of Ahmad Ibsais's article for *Mondoweiss* [here](#).**

*Shared by Community Peacemaker Teams*

## Antiwar witness saved my faith

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"In 2004, I moved to Philadelphia as a freshman in college. I left rural, bright red Lebanon County, Pa., to study journalism at Temple University. The Global War on Terror dominated headlines and also my body and mind. Even as a teenager, I couldn't imagine how Jesus, the Prince of Peace who called us to love our enemies, would have us kill them. But I was surrounded by Christians beating the war drums. Their overwhelming support of the Iraq invasion made me wonder if I could still follow Jesus. As I searched Philadelphia, I discovered a small Anabaptist community that firmly declared their opposition to the war in Iraq. The pastor even got arrested protesting the war. I found a worshipping community where I didn't have to hide my convictions against war and for peacemaking. The peaceful and prophetic witness of this small congregation and pastor saved my fragile faith. Their vocal opposition was, in fact, evangelistic." **Read the rest of Jonny Rashid's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Cows and strawberries and young farmers in Nepal

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*Empowering young farmers to stay and farm in their communities despite challenges.* Discover the inspiring story of two young farmers in the mountains of Nepal — Ishwor and Puja — as they support each other through shared knowledge and experience. Facing the challenges of climate change, economic pressures, and urban migration, they demonstrate how collaboration can transform farming. From raising cows to growing strawberries, they are building a hopeful future together. The Mennonite Central Committee partner organizations that are implementing this Youth Empowerment and Eco-entrepreneurship Project (YEEP) are Hilly Rural Development Organization in Northern Morang (HRDON) and Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS Nepal). Discover how these farmers are keeping agriculture alive in rural areas. **Click [here](#) to watch a short video about their story.**

## Follow Jesus: Expectations for followers of Jesus

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Rachel Ringenberg Miller will be the worship speaker during the opening [worship session](#) at Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA) Follow Jesus '25 convention. In a Menno Snapshot for MC USA, she gives readers a sneak peek into what "Follow Jesus" means to her. **Read Rachel Ringenberg Miller's article published by Mennonite Church USA's [here](#).**

## MCC Canada granted \$4.7 million for Congo aid

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"Mennonite Central Committee Canada has been awarded a grant of \$4.7 million (\$3.25 million U.S.) for humanitarian aid in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The funds come at a time of great need. The conflict between the March 23 Movement (M23) and the Congolese army has escalated, worsening a humanitarian crisis affecting 11 million people. The grant, from Global Affairs Canada, will fund locally purchased household and hygiene items as well as cash support to an estimated 9,000 people. The project also includes additional activities and training to mitigate increased risk and respond to sexual and gender-based violence against vulnerable women and girls. The project began in January and will run until December 2026." **Read the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**



## Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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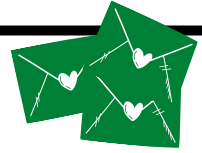
<u>Building Open:</u>	<b>Standard Hours:</b> Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM & 1:30PM-3PM
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; <a href="mailto:church@normalmennonite.org">church@normalmennonite.org</a> ; 309-452-6622
<u>Rita Munkakusi:</u>	Custodian
<u>Kevin Chupp:</u>	Pastor for Outreach Commission, Worship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

## Past Midweeks

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# Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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## Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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## Commission, Team, & Committee Members

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## Commission Meeting Minutes

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## Item Check-Out Request Form

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## Commissions and Teams Contact List

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## Items for the Midweek



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Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

# Facility Use Agreement

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## Structure Documents

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