

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled 7.5G 4/8 using 1 Corinthians 14:26-33.

When we talk about the Spirit in the church, we tend to think about our more charismatic siblings who dance, practice glossolalia, and prophecy.

However, Anabaptists have a rich history of depending on the Spirit, although perhaps with less fanfare. How do we expect and depend on the Spirit in our life together in the church?

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



Outside Work Day

Today, Wednesday, June 11 at 4:30 pm

Administration Commission is hosting an outside work day on Wednesday, June 11, beginning around 4:30 pm to weed the flowerbeds and trim bushes. Bring gloves. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Everyone is welcome. Contact Mary with any questions.

From the Administration Commission

Prayer Service



This Friday, June 13

We would like to support Gerson and Lauren during the time of Gerson's green card hearing on Friday, June 13. We would like to surround them with prayer support. Please join us at the church on Friday.

Shared by Mary Dyck



June 15 Adult SS class

June 15 Session: What has happened in the US since 1787? Five questions: 1. Any changes in church attendance/involvement? 2. All the colonies except 2 had established religion written into their constitutions. Is it still there? 3. When did 'In God We Trust' show up on our coins & bills? Why? How? 4. When was the 'Year of the Bible'? Who called for it? 5. Have we followed the 'no religious test' in the constitution?

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

This 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

Pantagraph Article



Are you interested in sharing your experience at MCN as an LGBTQIA+ person for an article on inclusive local churches? The Pantagraph will be highlighting such stories this month in honor of Pride Month. If you are interested, you can get connected by talking to Pastor Kevin.



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.



Congregational Vote

Sunday, June 29

There will be a congregational vote on June 29 regarding these two items:

- With consideration of the church vision and feedback and discussion within the congregation, Vision Team proposes that Mennonite Church of Normal (MCN) discontinue its dual conference status, withdraw its membership from Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC), and continue its membership with Central District Conference (CDC) only. If approved, the exact timing and process of withdrawing membership from IMC would be determined over the coming months to help ensure a fair, responsible, and respectful exit.
- In a separate measure, Vision Team recommends that MCN add \$8,000 funding to our 2025 budget to support IMC for the remainder of this year. (Currently, only \$8,000 was approved in the spending plan which is half of the \$16,000 annual contribution determined by a percentage of our spending plan.) *Please see the document below for more information on the current status of our budget to consider before you vote on this.

There will be a potluck meal on June 29 following the CE hour (see separate post for more details), and then a time for discussion before the voting opens. The Vision Team continues to update the Information and Discussion Notes (linked [here](#)) with your questions, comments, and feedback. You can add your thoughts and questions by speaking to a Vision Team member directly or sending through email.

From your Vision Team: Shelly (chair), Helen, Shannon, Ben, and Lauren (PT representative).

Congregational Meal



Sunday, June 29 after CE

There will be a potluck meal after the CE hour on Sunday, June 29, followed by a discussion about the dual conference affiliation vote. The main course will be provided for this meal and it is recommended that other items be divided up by the first letter of last names:

- A-M Side dish or salad
- N-Z Desserts

Any questions can be directed to Shelly.



From the Outreach Commission

- **NO KINGS RALLY** - Please join us for a NO KINGS Nationwide Day of Defiance at noon on **Saturday June 14th** for a rally in front of the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts at 600 N. East St. in Bloomington. Please bring signs and plan to chant. Bring your family and friends.
- **MCN Action Network** - The Outreach Commission has established an MCN Action Network of like-minded people concerned with freedom, peace, and justice who are ready and willing for political action. There are 26 people on this list. Please let me or Lydia in the church office know if you would like to be added to this list.
- **Mennonite Action Mass call** - There will be a Mennonite Action Mass call at **7:00 pm on June 26th**. Mennonite Action is a large group, primarily composed of Mennonites from the US and Canada, seeking a cease fire in Gaza and peace and justice in Palestine. This month's mass call features a panel of LGBTQ organizers that includes queer Palestinians. Please use [this link](#) to register for this mass call.
- **Community Peacemaker Teams** - The Outreach Commission is seeking a person to go on a Community Peacemaker Team Delegation to Palestine. We have someone considering joining this delegation and are hoping he will go!
- **MCC School Kits** - We have agreed to provide to MCC School Kits again this year. These kits are needed more now than ever. Please plan to support this project.
- **Dr. Nick Maynard Keynote Address** - Please use the following link to see an up to date unbelievably informative presentation by Dr. Nick Maynard on what has happened in Gaza. This keynote address was presented at the Columbus, Ohio Mennonite Church after it was cancelled at the Ohio State University due to concerns about following the US Governments position on DEI. [Dr. Nick Maynard Keynote Address on Vimeo](#).
- **Emergency Fund** - The Outreach Commission contributed money from our emergency fund to Lauren & Gerson for immigration legal expenses.
- **Amicus Brief** - The Outreach Commission signed an Amicus Brief for MCN along with many other churched for protection of Oak Flat by Apache Stronghold. We learned that the Supreme Court rejected the request to hear Apache Stronghold's case to save Oak Flat on May 27, 2025.
- **See the photo below.**

In Peace, Phil, Chair, MCN Outreach Commission

In light of the celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism, we will spend this Summer together in worship reflecting on some of the central convictions that have guided Anabaptists through the centuries with an eye toward how we have changed and what might be next. Here is the outline of where we are going:

- June 15-June 22: Scripture
- June 29-July 13: Peace
- July 20-August 3: Community
- August 10-24: Simplicity
- August 31: Hope

If you would like more information, you can find a more detailed outline [here](#).

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 on June 16th in Herscher and on June 23rd and 24th in Urbana.**



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, June 11

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home

Thursday, June 12

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

6:30 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Friday, June 13

12:30 pm Prayer Service

Saturday, June 14

5:00 pm Talk & Pizza: Leaning into Summer: Life Lessons from Italy on How to Live More Joyfully and Mindfully with Author Judith Valente

Monday, June 17

7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, June 17

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 18

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home



Those Serving This Week



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.



Prairie Pride Coalition Volunteer Opportunities

Pride month/summer is underway and there are many events...so check out our [Prairie Pride Coalition calendar](#) for all of the information!

There also are opportunities to volunteer at several of these events:

- Saturday, June 14 - Bloomington/Normal Pride Mobile Parade (staffing at PPC table)
- Saturday, June 21 - Bloomington/Normal Juneteenth Celebration (staffing at PPC table)
- Sunday, June 22 - Prairie Pride Coalition Pride Picnic (setup and cleanup help needed)
- Friday, June 27 - Transgender Resource Fair (staffing at PPC table)

If you are interested in volunteering, sign up for a shift at our [online volunteer site](#). Please feel free to share this e-mail widely with your LGBTQIA+ friends and allies!

Shared by the Prairie Pride Coalition Team

An Overview of the Prevention & Accountability Resolution

Monday, June 16 at 6:00 pm CT

Join Michael Danner, Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) associate executive director for Church Vitality, Jon Carlson, MC USA moderator, Amy Zimbelman, conference minister for Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Eric Massanari, executive conference minister for Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference and Heidi Regier Kreider, conference minister for Western District Conference, for an informational webinar as they discuss the Prevention & Accountability resolution being presented to the 2025 MC USA Delegate Assembly on Friday, July 11. Intérprete al español disponible. **Register [here](#).**

Save the Date

May 29-31, 2026

For nearly 50 years, BMC's mission has been to care for lgbtqia+ Brethren and Mennonites and to transform systems of harm. We resolve to carry on, courageously and creatively, as the shape of this work shifts to meet the demands of this era. Please reach out to us if you or someone you love needs safety planning, resources, or spiritual care in this time of increasing violence.

Shared by the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interests (BMC). Read the full Spring 2025 Newsletter [here](#)

A letter to MC USA members from Moderator Jon Carlson re: Mosaic Mennonite Conference process

"Dear Mennonite Church USA, I'm writing to share an update with you about the ongoing conversation between Mosaic Mennonite Conference and the MC USA Executive Board. Over the past several years, Executive Board leaders and staff have spent significant time engaging with Mosaic leaders, in honor of our longstanding relationships and our appreciation of the many gifts that Mosaic congregations bring to the broader MC USA community. We have tried to listen deeply to Mosaic's concerns and frustrations, recognizing that 'If one member suffers, all suffer together with it' (1 Cor. 12:26)." **Read the rest of Moderator Jon Carlson's letter [here](#).**

Mosaic, MC USA decline each other's proposals

Conference board turns down denominational board's offer of a mediated conversation. After declining each other's proposals about affiliation and process, leaders of Mennonite Church USA and Mosaic Mennonite Conference offered explanations and expressed regrets. Mosaic, which is reassessing its affiliation with the denomination, had proposed to become a program-entity partner rather than a member conference. [On May 8, the MC USA Executive Board responded](#) that this was "not viable within our structure" and offered a mediated conversation. The Mosaic board declined the offer "at this time." **Read the rest of Paul Schrag's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

New Bible Study Curriculum for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) has published *The Story of God's First People: Bible Stories from the Old Testament*, a Bible study curriculum for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities. Drawing from key stories of the Old Testament with an Anabaptist perspective, the curriculum includes captivating illustrations and activity-based learning appropriate for adults. The Story of God's First People is available for purchase at [BrethrenPress.com](#). Originally released as a part of the *Believing and Belonging* accessible Anabaptist membership curriculum, these Bible studies are dedicated to Peter Graber in recognition of his many years of service to the ADN board. **Learn more [here](#).**

Western District apologizes to former pastor

"John Linscheid accepted an apology from Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA on May 11 at Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, Kan., 41 years after the conference rescinded his ministerial credential because he is gay. The service of repentance and restoration marked the second time an MC USA conference has restored the ministerial credentials of an LGBTQ+ minister. In 2023, Central District Conference reinstated the credential of Keith Schrag, who had relinquished it in 1987 while pastor of Ames Mennonite Church in Iowa." **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

ADN offers workshops, exhibits, accessibility services at 2025 MC USA Convention and Annual Conference

From mobility scooters to sensory rooms, from dinners on disability ministry to seminars on intersectionality, from dementia to healing, the Anabaptist Disabilities Network is educating, serving, and celebrating at our denominational conferences this year. Read more to find out where we will be and what we're doing! **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist Disabilities Network* article [here](#).**

Memorials and local guides remind Harrisonburg couple to listen and learn

"Mennonites, in particular, have this notion that they have to be useful," said Art Stoltzfus. Stoltzfus said that while discussing a [Just Peace Pilgrimage](#) that he and his wife, Meribeth Kraybill attended. "We have to be able to fix something, to know the answers, to know what we can do," he continued. "[These pilgrimages] help you realize you have to set that impulse aside." **Read the rest of Zachary Headings post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Becoming planetary homemakers

In a blog post for Mennonite Church USA's ongoing [Learn, Pray, Join: Undoing Patriarchy series](#), Sheri Hostetler shares how a dream about her deceased mother reminded her about our need to care for Earth, just as her mother took care of the household. **Read Sheri Hostetler's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Women bearing fruit: Devotionals of faith, freedom and gratitude

Discover the power of faith, redemption, and gratitude in "*Devocionales 2024-2025: Mujeres Dando Frutos*" (2024-2025 Devotionals: Women Bearing Fruit). These heartfelt devotionals by Doris Espinoza, Silvia María Flores, and Melba Ruth López inspire us to trust God beyond what we see, live as redeemed people, and honor Christ's boundless love. Read their stories and let your faith bear fruit! **Available in English and Spanish [here](#).**

Shared by Mennonite Mission Network

Mennonite Action June Mass Call

Dear Friends,

While today, many Pride month celebrations are [sponsored by weapons manufacturers](#), Pride has its origins in an uprising against state violence. Our queer elders and trans-cesters who refused to go quietly into police wagons outside the Stonewall Inn, in the early hours of June 28, 1969, understood their [protest as inseparable from protests](#) against racist policing at home and US militarism abroad. And, like Jesus throughout the Gospels, they knew that protest and witness can also be beautiful and spectacular. Pride month reminds us that God's house has many, many rooms. God holds all of who we are: Our beauty, our spectacle, our grief, and our protest. Or, as [Al Qaws for Sexual & Gender Diversity in Palestinian Society](#) puts it, "That there will be a place for all of us at the rendezvous of victory."

On **Thursday, June 26**, our [monthly mass call](#) will sit at the intersection of Queer and Palestinian liberation, featuring a panel of LGBTQ organizers that includes queer Palestinians. Together, we will reflect on the power of memory and imagination, because queer organizing has always combined grieving the dead with imagining a new and freer Kin-dom of God. If you are hungry for space to grieve and radically imagine a world free from Christian nationalism and Christian Zionism, you don't want to miss it!

Queer and trans Palestinians understand that their freedom as queer people is inseparable from freedom for their land and people (and sometimes, [they get tired of reminding the rest of us](#)). They have repeatedly called out how Israel's claim to be a haven for queer people functions to hide anti-Palestinian violence (a practice called "[pinkwashing](#)"). And they have been joined by LGBTQ+ people around the world who have built and led Palestine solidarity organizations. This includes Mennonite Action, where queer people were featured on our very first mass call and have continued to be involved at every level since. Our opposition to Christian Nationalism is in the name of Palestinians, migrants, and queer and trans people. Our collective liberation is all tied together, and we refuse to be pinned against one another. As we continue to mourn the dead in Gaza and organize for peace and justice for all God's people, let us not surrender the truly radical vision that springs from our faith:

*they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid.*

Queerly yours,

Jonny Rashid and Jay Bergen, Mennonite Action Pastoral Team

Anabaptist Short Course Bundle

Deepen your understanding of Anabaptist history, thought, witness and practice through discussion-based online short courses from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Take four noncredit online courses in 2025–26 for only \$995 USD total and save more than \$400. (The regular price is \$350/course.) Each course lasts six weeks. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

Measles outbreak claims life in Mexico

"A Mennonite man in Mexico died April 3 from complications related to measles as documented cases in Mexico climbed over 920. Health officials believe the actual count is far higher. The Associated Press reported health officials traced the Mexico outbreak to an 8-year-old unvaccinated Mennonite boy who visited relatives in Seminole, Texas, and then returned to Mexico in March. The man who died was a 31-year-old from Camello Colony near Cuauhtemoc. The AP did not report his vaccination status, but he had diabetes and high blood pressure, which can complicate the body's ability to respond to the virus. *Die Mennonitische Post* carried a death notice." **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

Soul Listening

Chialis Thuan of Indonesia, shared her experience, and the vision she holds for her work going forward. Chialis is an International Women's Fund scholar studying at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She writes about a pastoral ministry full of potential for great impact: "The unique aspect of the Soul Listening ministry that is catching my attention, is that it is accessible to every follower of Christ and does not restrict itself to those in church leadership roles." **Read Chialis's full post published by Mennonite Women USA [here](#).**

Urge Congress to protect lifesaving humanitarian assistance

Background: On May 30, the White House sent [a detailed document](#) to Congress, requesting additional funding cuts to lifesaving humanitarian assistance. The document fleshes out the previously released [FY2026 budget request](#) which includes a 13% increase in military spending and the elimination of vital programs such as Food for Peace. These cuts will result in catastrophic outcomes, including otherwise preventable deaths, as well as increased global poverty, instability and violence. For decades, a bipartisan majority in Congress recognized that foreign assistance brings more peaceful and prosperous communities globally—and in the U.S. [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, leading to millions of deaths. This week, the Senate begins deliberations on the FY26 budget bill passed by the House. Urge your Senators to recognize our moral responsibility and to unconditionally 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). God invites us to courageously love others and share generously, in the same way God loves us.

Take action: Click [here](#) to urge Congress to protect lifesaving humanitarian assistance
Shared by Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries

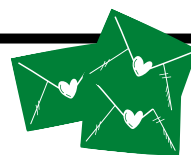


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<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!



Past Midweeks

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

Item Check-Out Request Form

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!

Facility Use Agreement

Structure Documents
