

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Tim Erdel will preach a sermon titled *The Happiest Day of My Life!* Colossians 1:15-23.

After Worship

Adult CE
Room 8

Children & Youth CE
Pre-K-4th Grades
5th-12th Grades

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

Tomorrow, Thursday, June 19 all day

The church office and building will be closed all day tomorrow, June 19th in observation of Juneteenth.

From the church office



Tim Erdel

This Sunday, Tim Erdel will preach a sermon titled “The Happiest Day of My Life!” Tim Erdel, known by many as “Brother Tim” was a long-time professor of Religion & Philosophy at Bethel University in Mishawaka, IN, where he remains after his retirement serving as Archivist for the Archives & Historical Collections of the Missionary Church—originally named the Mennonite Brethren in Christ. In that role, and as a thinker in his own right, he has contributed to and embodied the Anabaptist awareness of that denomination. Brother Tim is no stranger to Central Illinois. After receiving graduate degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and The University of Chicago, he completed a masters and Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Illinois, where his spouse Sally (from Morton) also attended.

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.

Last Call: Picture Directory



Now is your **last chance** to get your photo taken for our new Photo Directory! Sittings are available next week on June 23rd and 24th in Urbana. **You can schedule your appointment by contacting the church office (309-452-6622 or church@normalmennonite.org).** If you are unable to sit for a session, you have the option to submit a photograph until Monday, June 30th.

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.

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!



June 22 Adult SS class

Session 4, June 22 there will be a video recording of Drew Strait, author of the “Strange Worship” text we are using this summer doing a presentation for a group earlier this spring in Elkhart. Title: What is Christian Nationalism?



Congregational Vote

Sunday, June 29

There will be a congregational vote on June 29 regarding Mennonite Church of Normal's dual conference affiliation. A potluck meal will follow the CE hour that day (see separate post for more details), and then a time for discussion before the voting opens. The recommendations to be voted on can be found [here](#). The Vision Team continues to welcome your questions, comments, and feedback: you can speak to a Vision Team member directly or send a message 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.



Financial Update



Mennonite Disaster Service is asking for help as they begin work in North Carolina following damage from Hurricane Helene last year. They are asking for help with rebuilding and restoring a church to use as a central site for when work begins with home rebuilding and bridge building. We are hoping to send a team of ten. The dates are August 18-23. Skills needed are painting, flooring, cabinetry. Let Gerry know if interested or if you have questions.

West Asheville, NC: This summer MDS will be renovating West Asheville Presbyterian Church to serve as a volunteer base for upcoming projects, including bridge building and home repair/rebuilds. The bridge project is part of "Bridging Together," a partnership with Lutheran Disaster Response to build bridges in western North Carolina. *Volunteers will need to bring their own cook. We are looking for some of the group to be skilled in cabinetry, steel framing, plumbing, painting, flooring. View the Weekly Volunteer Calendar [here](#).

West Asheville, NC/2024 Hurricane Helene

10 volunteers; July 6-11
10 volunteers; July 20-26
10 volunteers; Aug 10-16
10 volunteers; Aug 17-23
10 volunteers; Aug 24-30
10 volunteers; Aug 31-Sep 6
10 volunteers; Sep 7-13
10 volunteers; Sep 14-20
8 volunteers; Sep 21-27
8 volunteers; Sep 28-Oct 4

Shared by the Mennonite Disaster Service. View the full Volunteer Update [here](#).

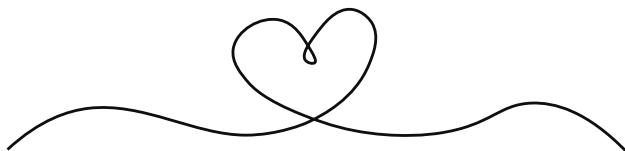


Summer Sermon Series

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](#).





Those Serving This Week



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, June 18

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home

Thursday, June 19

All Day Office/Building Closed for Juneteenth

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, June 22

12:00 pm Bluffton Gathering in the MRC Community Room

Tuesday, June 24

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 25

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

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 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



True Eyes!

"When Jesus said, 'The eye is the lamp of the body,' in his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:22), he meant the physical eye. Of course, I would never argue with Jesus on that score. Actually, I would affirm him. The eye in all ways is the lamp of the body. But for me, it's the eye of the spirit, the eye that allows me to see beyond what the world sees in many aspects. Jesus goes on to talk about the whole body being filled with either light or darkness, depending on how wide open your eyes are." **Read the rest of Pastor Brandon R. Grady's blog post published by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

Pastoral Letter from Jon Carlson

Mennonite Church USA Moderator Jon Carlson provides an update on *Mennonite Church USA et al. v. Department of Homeland Security et al.* and shares some pastoral reflections about the challenges and opportunities we face together. **Read his pastoral letter to the Church [here](#).**

Prairie Pride Coalition June Events

Transgender Resource Fair Friday, June 27 from 4 - 7 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal

Are you looking for resources or ways to support the transgender/nonbinary populations? Our annual event - cosponsored with UUBN - is a one stop shop for information for transgender/nonbinary people and their allies. New features this year include workshops and a pop-up clothing shop!

Peaceful Protest - Stop the Assault on LGBTQ+ Rights Saturday, June 28 from noon - 1:30 p.m.

Bloomington Center for Performing Arts Lawn

Our history, rights, and visibility are being threatened. This is an opportunity for you to join us and make your voice heard! This is a peaceful protest and the Bloomington Police Department will be on hand to de-escalate any tense situations.

Allyship - Training and a Meal Monday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m. (meal to follow) Hope Church, Bloomington

What better way to celebrate pride than to join us for this brush-up course in being a strong ally for LGBTQIA+ people. A boxed lunch meal will be available after. To RSVP, e-mail info@ppc-il.org.

For information on additional events, visit the Prairie Pride Coalition [website calendar](#)! Continue to enjoy pride month and join us at any or all of these events!

Shared by the Prairie Pride Coalition

Save humanitarian funding from rescissions

Background: This week, Congress is expected to debate a [“rescissions” package](#) that would rescind over \$9 billion of funding already appropriated for lifesaving humanitarian assistance, global stability, and peacebuilding. These cuts are in addition to the previously released [fiscal year 2026 budget request](#), which includes a 13% increase in military spending and elimination of funding for several life-saving foreign assistance and peacebuilding programs, including Food for Peace. Cuts to U.S. foreign assistance exacerbate the [growing number of people internally displaced](#) globally and will lead to increases in trauma, famine, food insecurity and, likely, millions of deaths. Urge your members of Congress to recognize our moral responsibility to unconditionally prioritize assistance for vulnerable populations.

Faith reflection: God’s love is generous and not calculating. 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, be compassionate and share generously, the way God loves us.

Take action: Click [here](#) to urge Congress to save humanitarian funding from rescissions.

Shared by the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries

MDS responds to deadly Kentucky tornado

"Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers from Ohio removed damaged trees and debris in London and Somerset, Ky., after a mile-wide tornado tore through the area May 16. The National Weather Service confirmed a powerful EF-4 tornado passed through the area, reaching peak winds of 170 miles per hour and devastating multiple communities in its approximately 56-mile path. Damage spans Russell, Pulaski and Laurel counties, and at least 19 people were killed. The Somerset-London tornado was only the sixth EF-4 or EF-5 tornado in Kentucky in the past 50 years. The tornado was part of a deadly weather outbreak that spawned tornadoes in 22 states May 15-21. Among the hardest-hit states were Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin." **Read the *Anabaptist World* and Mennonite Disaster Service article [here](#).**

MCC Peace Camp

When: September 21-27, 2025

Where: Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, Divide, Colorado

Who: Young adults ages 18-30

How: Register [here](#) by August 31

Registration Fee: \$250.00 guarantees your spot at the camp

How can we live out God's call for justice and reconciliation through nonviolence in a world that is built on the myth of redemptive violence? If you are a young adult (18-30) concerned about the state of our world and energized to reimagine society built on God's vision of love and justice for all, come join us for a week of experiential learning rooted in theological reflection, peacebuilding practices, and real-world application. This Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Peace Camp will work on building a deeper understanding of trauma healing, restorative justice, identity and power, among other topics that impact our communities. We will explore these ideas from a Jesus-centered lens and consider how they can be applied in our world to build God's Kingdom here on Earth. All learning will be collective and participatory, building off the experiences and insight that each participant brings to the camp.

View and download the flyer [here](#). MCC Peace Camps are one way to encourage and support the next generation of the Church to live out an active faith as peacemakers. Young adults, ages 18-30, are invited to apply. MCC covers all costs of travel, lodging and meals beyond the \$250 registration fee. We encourage churches, schools, families and friends to support participants in the registration fee where possible. This is an opportunity not to be missed, so tap someone on the shoulder or come join yourself!

A pastoral letter from Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference calling for love, discipleship and nonconformity

Stanley W. Green, in consultation with the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference Board, addresses the immigration raids and protests in Los Angeles and around the country. **Read the letter published by Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Former MC USA Executive Director Ervin R. Stutzman dies at 72

Ervin R. Stutzman, 72, who served as Mennonite Church USA's second executive director, died on June 3, 2025. Stutzman was known as a talented leader, teacher and preacher, who was deeply committed to Christ and the church. He served as MC USA's first moderator (2001-2003) and second executive director (2010-2018). He played an instrumental role in the formation of the denomination as part of the executive board, led it through a difficult season of deep divisions and polarization during his tenure as executive director, and helped set a fresh vision and strategy as part of the team that developed the Purposeful Plan, in addition to convening the Future Church Summit before his retirement. **Read more from Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Conscientious objection, then and now

In the third installment of Mennonite Mission Network's [Here With Purpose webinar series](#), moderator Travis Duerksen, writer / multimedia producer, joins panelists Arlin and Maretta Buller, Joanna Lawrence Shenk, Regina Shands Stoltzfus, and Executive Director Marisa Smucker to share stories and discuss the future of conscientious objection to military service, through the lens of Anabaptism. **Watch the recording from Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

ICE detains mother after legal entry

Members of a Mennonite church in San Antonio, Texas, face increased fear and uncertainty after a member — a mother of four who entered the United States legally — was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in late May. Iglesia Cristiana Roca de Refugio (Rock of Refuge Christian Church) is an immigrant-led congregation dedicated to assisting newcomers. Pastor Dianne Garcia said Maria (not her real name) has been an active member since arriving in September and signing the church's membership covenant. She led worship on a weekly basis. She is using a pseudonym because the Trump administration has sought retribution against immigrants who speak out against the president's policies. **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Closed gates, denied prayers

In Hebron/Al-Khalil, closing the main entrances of the Ibrahimi mosque to the compound and leaving worshippers waiting at the gates has become an almost daily occurrence, often happening multiple times a day. **Learn more in CPT Palestine and CPT Team's Instagram post [here](#).**

Shared by Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT)

The rise of youth programming in the (Old) Mennonite Church

A look at how the (Old) Mennonite Church addressed the crisis of decreasing youth involvement with innovative solutions and an emphasis on the value that young ideas offered. **Read Olivia Krall's article for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

A prayer for softening hard hearts

"A little over a year ago, I met Tela Troge, a woman from the Shinnecock Nation of Long Island who has since become my friend. She told me a story that seemed impossible to believe at first. Shinnecock Bay, the source of food for the Shinnecock Nation for thousands of years, can no longer support marine life because of nitrogen pollution caused by human sewage." **Read the rest of Sarah Augustine's article for *The Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Stung by cruelty, a pastor considers moving to Canada

It's not only American university professors, scientists, researchers, doctors and nurses who are contemplating moving to Canada [because of the political situation in the United States](#). Clergy are, too. U.S. pastors are asking Canadian denominations about job openings. Over 50 clergy have reached out to progressive denominations like the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada. Some Mennonite pastors are also considering moving, with at least two reaching out to Mennonite Church Canada. They include James (not his real name), who pastors a Mennonite church in the eastern U.S. James, his wife and their two children are not thinking about leaving because of their church; that is a positive experience. For James, it's because of his youngest child, who is trans." **Read the rest of John Longhurt's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Israeli Occupation escalates efforts to erase Palestinian identity

In a continued attempt to erase Palestinian identity in Hebron's Old City, particularly around the Ibrahimi Mosque, Israeli Border Police have intensified their crackdown on shop owners selling Palestinian-themed items to tourists and visitors. **Read more in CPT Palestine and CPT Team's Facebook post [here](#).**

Shared by Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT)

Climate Justice Corner

If you aren't sure about next steps in your climate justice journey, join Anabaptist Climate Collaborative, www.anabaptistclimate.org, as they seek to live out their mission to equip and activate individuals, congregations, and organizations to seek climate justice through Anabaptist values, community, and faith.

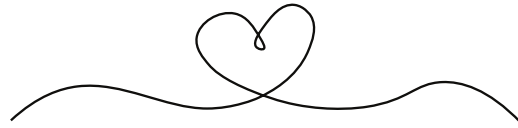
Shared by Mennonite Church USA

Continuing the journey set forth by our mothers

In a blog post for Mennonite Church USA in preparation for the 2025 Mennonite Church USA convention ([Follow Jesus '25](#)) and the [Women's Summit](#) that precedes convention, Mindy Nolt reflects on how difficult it can be to find time and space to rest and regain her energy, especially as a Christian woman who has experienced the pressures that the Christian patriarchy has placed on her. **Read Mindy Nolt's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Radio show, podcast share archive tales

A new weekly radio program and podcast produced by the Mennonite Heritage Archives in Winnipeg, Man., is bringing history to life through storytelling. A team of four people creates each 15-minute episode of Tales from the Mennonite Heritage Archives using archival diaries, documents, photographs and interviews. "The program offers an eclectic mix of stories, music and interviews that are worth sharing and remembering," said archivist and team leader Conrad Stoesz. "I believe there's something for everyone in the stories held at the MHA." **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [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

Past Midweeks

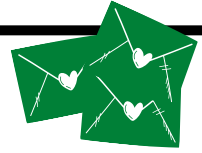
Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Facility Use Agreement

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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!

Structure Documents
