

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Do Your Thing* using Matthew 5:38-48.

With Jesus at the center of our understanding of faith, his instructions to “turn the other cheek” and to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” are not just abstract theological ideas but clear ethical instructions with real, high stakes guidance for how we might live our lives. How do we answer persecution with prayer and actually love our enemies? Anabaptists have been living out responses to this for generations. What do we say today?

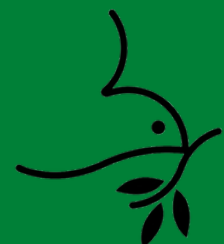
After Worship

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

Service of Anointing



This Sunday, June 29

There will be a service of anointing for healing in worship this Sunday. This is an ancient prayer practice of the church. Anointing is a means of giving an outward sign of the prayers of the Body of Christ for God's loving care to be present to a need – physical, emotional or spiritual. When you come for anointing, you may receive the sign of the cross with oil on your forehead or back of their hand. If you wish, you may share with the person doing the anointing something for which you are praying for healing – for yourself, for someone else or for the world.



Congregational Vote

This Sunday, June 29

There will be a congregational vote on June 29 regarding Mennonite Church of Normal's dual conference affiliation. **Online voting will open on Sunday afternoon and will be accessible [HERE](#). Online voting will remain open until 5pm Monday, June 30.** There will also be paper ballots available to fill out for those in attendance on Sunday. 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



This Sunday, June 29 after CE

There will be a potluck meal after the CE hour on Sunday, June 29, prior to the discussion and dual conference affiliation vote (see separate post for details on the 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.



Tim Erdel Sermon

If you were unable to join us on Sunday or would like to revisit the guest sermon from Tim Erdel, you can view his manuscript [here](#).

Finding a Faith Community



The Pantagraph has published an article on the local houses of worship who are offering a welcoming and inclusive environment for LGBTQIA+ people, including the Mennonite Church of Normal! **Read the article [here](#).**



MDS in West Asheville



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](#).



Sessions 5 – 11 will focus on Chapters 1 – 7 of our text “Strange Worship, Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism” by Drew Strait. Session 5, June 29, Chap 1: Breaking Silence. Two questions: 1. What is the role of lament? Why doesn’t/should the church teach lament? 2. Looking at history, successful nonviolent campaigns take decades if not longer. Are we up to that amount of time? What damage will occur during the lag time?



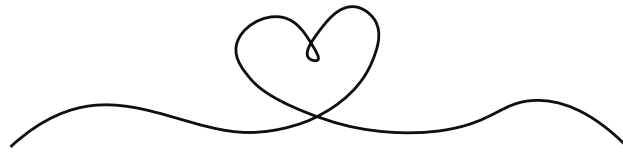
ANABAPTISM
at FIVE HUNDRED

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 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 25

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, June 26

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, June 29

12:00 pm Congregational Voting & Meal

Tuesday, July 1

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 2

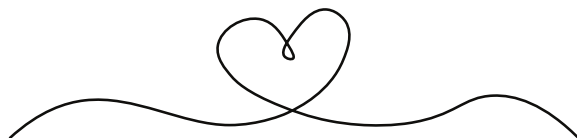
1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home

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



PPC Survey

Prairie Pride Coalition family and friends! We are celebrating Pride with a Community Needs Assessment and want to hear your feedback! The last time we reached out to our community in this capacity was 10 years ago, and we look forward to seeing how your needs have evolved throughout that time. Please note that we welcome participation from both our LGBTQIA+ community as well as our allies! **To start the survey click [here](#).** The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, July 10. After you submit your survey, there is an ending page with additional action items. The first one allows you to provide your information if you are interested in joining a focus group. The second survey allows you to sign up to be put in the drawing for gift cards to local LGBTQ+ friendly businesses in McLean County. The results of this survey will help us determine the scope of our work in the years to come. Please help us as we continue the work of making Bloomington/Normal and McLean County a more inclusive, safe, and socially just environment for our LGBTQIA+ community!

Shared by the Board of Directors of the Prairie Pride Coalition

Wild Church for All People

"My vision for starting a Wild Church in my hometown came in the middle of COVID isolation, and intersected with a desire to be more active in climate advocacy and a desire to include people who will likely never step foot inside a traditional church. Even though the group that currently practices Wild Church is mostly made up of those in traditional churches, it still scratches an itch not satisfied in indoor worship. Once upon a time in my life, I interviewed people interested in international ministry. One of the predictable answers I would get to the question, "What helps you connect with God?" was spending time in nature. I believe we are created to recognize God in Creation. Nature does not exist for humans to extract resources to fuel our consumeristic lives. Following indigenous wisdom, nature and humanity were meant to live in mutuality and respect. One of the things I love about Wild Church is that it is widely inclusive. For those who have issues sitting quietly for extended periods of time, Wild Church invites movement through hiking. Or body prayer. Or making snow angels. It is very participatory and active. We have a sharing time at the end and anyone can add to the wisdom of the moment." **Read the rest of Sharon Brugger Norton's blog post for the Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

Peruvian rainforest clearing could lead to many trials

"Conflicting stories regarding the clearing of Peruvian rainforests for agricultural usage have resulted in criminal charges against nearly four dozen Low German Mennonite men and allegations of attacks and arson by local Indigenous groups. [Agence France-Presse reported](#) Peruvian prosecutors charged 44 men from Masisea Colony with destroying 2,209 acres of forest and requested sentences of eight to 10 years each. Their lawyer, Carlos Sifuentes, said the land was already cleared when the colonists bought it. AFP says if the cases proceed it would be the first trial of Mennonite colonists for environmental crimes in Latin America." **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

A Farmer's Vision: The Schowalter Foundation

From his cluttered rolltop desk in his Newton, Kansas, home, Jacob A. Schowalter often wrote out letters to nonprofits, churches and Christian institutions, bestowing sizeable monetary gifts to the organizations. He'd use new parchment for these letters – a rare indulgence for Jacob, who was a frugal man. When he wrote out speeches, poems, and Sunday school lessons, he often used the backs of used envelopes or scrap paper. Throughout his life, Jacob spent little on his own comforts, and instead, often prioritized charitable giving over much else. By the time he died in 1953 at the age of 73, Jacob had amassed an estate of over \$1 million – most of which would be used to establish the Schowalter Foundation. Over the past 70 years, this foundation has provided more than \$27 million in charitable distributions to Anabaptist-affiliated organizations and local ministries. **Read the article and watch the video shared by Everence [here](#).**

MC Canada meeting to return discernment to delegates

Mennonite Church Canada's 2025 Gathering will meet July 2-5 at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in Kitchener, Ont. Gathering 2025 will enact recent decisions by the Joint Council to adjust how regional churches and the nationwide church conduct business together. The event will return the nationwide agenda to regional and congregational delegates. A denominational restructure in 2017 sought to shift nationwide discernment to annual gatherings of regional churches, but this goal did not pan out as hoped. Delegates will be appointed by congregations and regional churches to discuss vision and priorities. Delegate input will then guide the Joint Council in its decision-making. Assistant moderator Bruce Baergen acknowledged last year that "it has been too difficult to expand the Regional Church Annual General Meetings or truncate the Regional Church agenda to make space for congregational discernment on nationwide agenda." He noted some changes have worked, including improved communication between regional churches and making a common website platform. **Read the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

Climate Justice Corner

All congregations and people of faith are invited to join [One Home One Future](#), a multi-faith campaign to strengthen connections across generations for creation care in faith communities nationwide. Their resource hub holds 100+ resources to help you, your congregation, and your community to care for creation. Hear Naomi Edelson talk about their Sacred Grounds Program: Planting Native Plants in a recorded [Lunch & Learn on YouTube](#) and visit the [resource link on native species](#).

Shared by Mennonite Church USA Climate Justice Corner

Out of Egypt: refugee voices from Cairo

In a blog post for Mennonite Central Committee, three staff members from an MCC partner in Cairo reflect on their work with refugees and their own journeys to Egypt. **Read Leslie Mina's article for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

The people who raised me

"On Jan. 20, President Trump put an immediate 90-day freeze on all USAID money. Though it only accounts for 1.2% of all U.S. federal spending, USAID is 75% of U.S. nonmilitary charitable giving around the world. It's never a great feeling to know that your country, one of the wealthiest in the world, is withholding help to hungry and sick people, but I became even more troubled by the response from my home community. The good people who raised me taught me to love God, believe the Bible and live out Jesus' teachings. So imagine my astonishment to hear these same people proclaim 'Trump is doing amazing things' after cutting almost all U.S. nonmilitary foreign aid. When asked, 'But what about the hungry children?' they reply: 'Other countries need to figure it out. We can't solve the world's problems.' The Jesus I was introduced to in the 1980s taught: Do unto others. Love your neighbor as yourself. Sheep versus goats. Minister to the least of these. Apparently, in 2025, my role models follow a Jesus who tells the hungry, thirsty and naked to figure it out for themselves. The people who taught me my basic concepts of right and wrong have gone back on their teachings. I feel betrayed." **Read the rest of Sarah Kehrberg's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Ten Thousand Villages closes 13 stores, pivots to online, wholesale strategy

Fair-trade retail organization Ten Thousand Villages closed its 13 company-owned stores earlier this year as it shifts its priorities to online sales and wholesale supply. Stores closed by the end of March in locations along the East Coast and in Texas. A network of 21 independent stores operated by local boards remains open in the U.S. "While closing stores and saying goodbye to talented staff is a difficult decision, it positions us to thrive in a modern marketplace and deepen our impact," said CEO Dan Alonso in a news release. Ten Thousand Villages is widely credited with starting the global fair-trade movement. It traces its roots to 1946, when Edna Ruth Byler wanted to sell crafts made by artisans she met in other countries. She sold items out of the trunk of her car and her Akron, Pa., basement. The business grew into Mennonite Central Committee's SELFHELP Crafts of the World, renamed Ten Thousand Villages in 1996. The first store opened in Altona, Man., in 1972, followed by the first U.S. store two years later in Bluffton, Ohio. **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Earthquake another layer of suffering

In Myanmar, torn by political violence, MCC partners risk arrest for delivering aid. In Myanmar, torn by political violence, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) partners risk arrest for delivering aid. "People from around Myanmar have been chased out of their homes through violence, and they moved to these areas that have now been hit by the earthquake, so the traumas are compounding," said Crystal Conklin, an MCC representative for Cambodia and Myanmar with her husband, Charles Conklin. **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* and Mennonite Central Committee article [here](#).**

MC USA Justice Fund seeks 2025 applicants, recognizes 2024 awardees

In 2020, amid COVID-19 shutdowns, the killing of George Floyd by a police officer ignited a wave of protests across the U.S. — and around the world — to draw attention to systemic racism. This moment provided individuals, organizations and churches an opportunity to renew efforts to dismantle racism, address police brutality, reimagine policing and combat poverty. During this critical time, Mennonite Church USA's Peace and Justice Ministry founded the Justice Fund, which provides seed money to MC USA congregations that are engaged in this peace and justice work. These grants, which range from \$500-\$2,500, can be used as start-up funds or to continue an existing ministry. Since 2020, this denominational ministry has awarded grants to more than 30 different congregations, many of which have also received additional grant funds in a subsequent year. Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, MC USA's denominational minister for Peace and Justice, said, "The justice fund is a way for the denomination to assist churches that are actively engaged in their community and partnering with another church or organization that is working on significant justice issues within their communities." **Learn how to apply and read about the 2024 Justice Fund awardees [here](#).**

Practical Leadership Training Modules

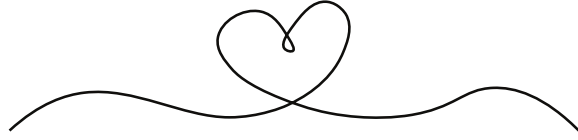
Expand your leadership capacity through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Practical Leadership Training modules! Four-session online workshops beginning in September include Leadership Practices for Spiritual Vitality; Cultivating Vital and Faithful Congregations; and Strengthening the Pastor-Congregation Relationship. **Check out the full list of modules [here](#).**

Accessibility services for Follow Jesus '25

For the fourth consecutive convention, Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Follow Jesus '25 convention planners are working with Anabaptist Disabilities Network to create a welcoming and accessible convention for those with disabilities. Follow Jesus '25 will take place in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12. The following accommodations are available, upon request, for the MC USA Women's Summit, the Follow Jesus '25 convention and the Delegate Assembly: convention-provided wheelchairs or scooters, assisted listening devices, accessible slide content for screen readers/tablets and guided walk-throughs of the convention center for those who have low vision or are blind, American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, sound-reducing ear plugs, and a quiet/sensory room. Other needs may also be accommodated, if registrants indicate those needs on their registration form with enough advanced notice. It is imperative, though, that anyone who plans to take advantage of these offerings should register as early as possible and indicate the services they need on their registration form, to ensure that all their needs are fully met. During the worship services and delegate session, Spanish interpretation will be made available. At lunch, which is included with convention registration, gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian options will be provided, and for the duration of convention, there will be a private room for lactating mothers to nurse or pump. **Read the full Mennonite Church USA announcement [here](#).**

Lessons from the moon: Honoring our wounds

In a blog post for Mennonite Church USA's ongoing [Learn, Pray, Join: Undoing Patriarchy series](#), Daniela Lázaro-Manalo reflects on the myth of moon goddess, Coyolxauhqui, how this myth relates to her own story and the invitation to divine love that she sees through it. **Read Daniela Lázaro-Manalo's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

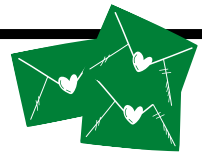


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

<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!



Past Midweeks

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Facility Use Agreement

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
