

# ***THE MIDWEEK***



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

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled Atlantic Giant using Acts 2:1-4, Galatians 4:1-7 [5:16-26].

At Pentecost, we hear the story of the Spirit's conspicuous presence coming in with wind, fire, and language. There was no denying that something big was happening. As is often the case, our experience comes with fewer pyrotechnics, and we are left guessing about the Spirit's presence and action among us. Paul proposes a test: the fruit of the Spirit. How do we use this list?

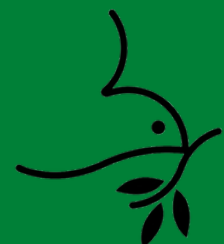
## **After Worship**

**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



## Blood Drive

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**This 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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## June 8 Adult SS class



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What was happening in the US and the western world in the century before 1776 is the topic the adult SS class for the June 8 session. Four questions to think about. 1. Why were people coming to America? 2. Was there any intellectual/religious ferment? Enlightenment? Great Awakening? 3. What was happening with religion in the colonies? 4. What is the history of countries that were strongly religious? (If you would like some background information to read, email David.)



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## Outside Work Day

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**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*

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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*



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## Meal Train

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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](#).

## Bluffton Gathering



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### 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.



## Updates from AC

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Administration Commission met on May 22. Discussions included April financials, overage allocations, several estate monies received, Picture Directory update, and Central District Conference delegates.

- We noted that giving is definitely down in the April financials. We hope that the May financials will show improvement.
- We are very appreciative of those individuals who shared suggestions for how to use the overage. We made some initial decisions, but will wait until we receive recommendations from the Safety and Accommodation Committee (SAAC) before we make final decisions. We will send donations of \$1250 apiece to our Mennonite schools – AMBS, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Goshen College, Bluffton University, Bethel College, Eastern Mennonite University, and Hesston College. These schools no longer receive funding through Mennonite Education Agency and therefore do not receive funds through our Unified Spending Plan.
- We received just money from Harvella Stutzman's estate. In conversation with her family we will use the monies to recover the sanctuary chairs. We will use an additional \$2500 from the overage. We will need to develop a plan to complete the work and choose the color as our current color is no longer available.
- We also received a check from Alice Swift's estate. We have not yet determined how those funds will be used.
- Updates on the Picture Directory have been in the Midweek.
- Delegates for the Central District Conference on June 22 through 24 at Bluffton University will be Lauren Satchwell and Mary Dyck.

*Shared by the Administration Commission*



## Dual Conference Affiliation

The Vision Team (VT) has now added some ongoing discussion to the living document regarding MCN's historical and future affiliation with Illinois Mennonite Conference and Central District Conference. These [Information and Discussion Notes](#) include background information, FAQs, and personal perspectives and feedback from congregants for your consideration. The Vision Team continues to welcome your questions, comments, and feedback: 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*

## 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 on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> in Herscher and on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Urbana.**





## Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



### This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

#### Wednesday, June 4

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

#### Thursday, June 5

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

#### Monday, June 9

**5:00 pm** Outreach Commission

#### Tuesday, June 10

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

**7:00 pm** Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

#### Wednesday, June 11

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

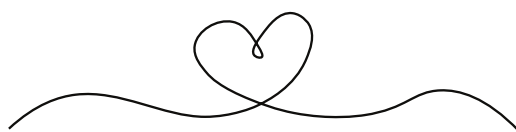


### Those Serving This Week



### 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.



## Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible

**Sept. 10 – Oct. 21**

Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible: Sept. 10 – Oct. 21. Join Drew Strait, PhD, and Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD, to study pertinent Scripture passages and reflect on how these texts contribute to a robust and biblically based practice of peace and justice today. This online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary lasts six weeks. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. **Register [here](#) by Aug. 20 to save \$50.**

*Shared by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary*

# Dismukes Gala

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**Saturday, August 16 at 6 p.m. in Welch, WV**

The third annual Dismukes Gala Fundraiser will spotlight the amazing story of Dr. Henry Dodford Dismukes, an African American physician in Kimball, West Virginia, in the early 1900s. Join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes on Saturday, August 16, at 6 p.m. at the Jack Caffery Arts & Cultural Center in Welch, West Virginia, for dinner and live music from The Company Band. Funds raised at the gala will go towards rehabilitating the building that previously was the Henrietta Dismukes Nurses Home and has fallen into disrepair after decades of vacancy. As proposed by our community steering committee, the Nurses Home will be repurposed as a community learning center with classes on technology and literacy education, canning, gardening, knitting and cooking, along with tutoring opportunities for students in the area. With the recent flooding that occurred in McDowell County, we are also dedicating a portion of funds raised towards flood clean-up through MCC's Appalachia Build program. **Purchase gala tickets or become a sponsor [here](#). Learn more about Dr. Dismukes and the project [here](#).**

*Shared by Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes*

## 3,500 gather in Zurich to celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism

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*Worshipers 'rejoice in a journey of reconciliation' with Reformed, Lutherans, Catholics.*

"Bells pealed from the towers of the Grossmünster as Anabaptists from around the world streamed out of the 800-year-old church. Lingered at the Zwingliplatz, they stood in the long shadow of history, having just celebrated the 500th anniversary of their faith tradition in the city where it began. The estimated 3,500 Anabaptists who gathered in Zurich, Switzerland, on May 29 did more than praise the Radical Reformation and the global church it birthed. Along with the leaders of churches that once tried to crush the Anabaptist movement, they affirmed that faith in Jesus Christ now unites the spiritual heirs of former enemies. Symbolizing reconciliation, Anabaptist and Reformed Church leaders — César García, the general secretary of Mennonite World Conference, and Setri Nyomi, interim general secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches — washed each other's feet." **Read the rest of Paul Schrag's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## MEA integration plan strengthens Anabaptist education in MC USA

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The Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) board of directors and the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Executive Board recently approved an integration plan to better address the needs of the denomination by bringing the ministry of MEA into the governance and operational structure of MC USA. The plan, initiated by MEA, will fully integrate MEA into the organizational life of MC USA, effective August 1. "The integration plan brings the ministries of MEA and the educational priorities of the denomination into one structure," said Michael Danner, MC USA associate executive director and MEA executive director. "By streamlining our governance and operations, we can better steward our resources and direct more funding toward educational programming." The current MEA board will transition to an educational resource team, supporting existing programs and new initiatives. **Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA's announcement [here](#).**

# Mennonite Action Mass Call Re-Cap

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Thank you so much for gathering with us on Zoom for our May mass call along with hundreds of Mennonites and friends, all joined in this movement together. This is a critical moment– for those starving and suffering in Gaza, and for the devolving political climate in the U.S. We talked about what it looks like to form solidarity coalitions organizing against authoritarianism in the U.S. (with support from those of us in Canada). Fortunately, our Anabaptist history lays a beautiful foundation to build upon today. Our hope, powered by Spirit, is one that moves — and for the next few months, Mennonite Action is offering you a lot of ways to be involved in this movement.

- To kick things off, co-founders Adam and Nick will connect to our 500 years of Anabaptist movement by joining **Mennonite World Conference for the May 29th gathering in Zurich, Switzerland**. They will also lead a workshop on public action for the Global Youth Summit, inspiring the next generation of leaders worldwide, and learning from our shared but diverse history.
- Mennonite Action leadership team representatives will go on a **solidarity delegation** to the West Bank this June. We will learn from those in Palestine, strengthen our relationships with partners, and bring reminders to our Palestinian siblings that we are with them. As we trace the steps of Jesus, we will recommit ourselves to Sumud, or steadfastness.
- **From June 29th to July 1st, we will return to D.C.** with Interfaith Action for Palestine alongside our Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Indigenous friends. It's an excellent opportunity to offer a voice of collective liberation, and you can learn more about joining us [here](#).
- We're excited to hold a **national organizing training in North Carolina just before Mennonite Convention**. We'll open with a worship service Sunday night, July 6th, and then host an all-day training on Monday, July 7th. We're investigating: how can we prepare churches to rise to the occasion of this political moment? How can we create in ourselves the courage to respond? The free training is open to all, and you can [register here](#). Following the training, we'll also be attending the Mennonite Convention! Find us in the exhibit hall and via workshops. If you're planning to attend, we encourage you to wear a Mennonite Action t-shirt to help represent our movement.

To support these summer mobilizations, we need to raise \$50,000. If you're in a position to give, [we would be so grateful for any donation](#). If you have the opportunity to ask your congregation to support our work, please feel free to reach out for resources or for us to make a formal ask. The number is daunting, but we know it's achievable when we all come together. **Finally, you can watch the recording of the May mass call [here](#) and all of the links we shared [here](#).** Thank you so much for being a part of this community. This movement is only sustained by your faithfulness to show up and boldness to take action– so thank you.

*In solidarity, the Mennonite Action Team*

## Sharing hope and sacred space at Hope for the Future

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Alicia Maldonado-Zahra shares four key takeaways from the 2025 Hope for the Future. This year, the traditionally BIPOC-only event was open to white allies. **Read Alicia Maldonado-Zahra's blog post for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**



## A Methodist Mennonite

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"My Wesleyan Methodist family was loving and supportive, even as I rejected the church as a teenager. I had a profound religious experience the summer before college. While at college, I discovered one could have a strong faith and pursue serious intellectual questions. I was challenged to read the Sermon on the Mount in a new way. In 1969 I became a draft resister. A friend and spiritual mentor suggested I attend a gathering of evangelical writers and leaders at Buck Hill Falls, Pa. There I met several young Mennonite leaders, including Art Smoker, Walt Hackman and Roy Yoder. We quickly bonded. I was delighted to learn about Anabaptism as a faith tradition. As I struggled with my draft board and prepared for the consequences of refusing military induction, I received support from my new Mennonite friends and several church agencies, including Mennonite Central Committee Peace Section and Mennonite Board of Missions. After two hearings and a court ruling, I was granted conscientious objector status." **Read the rest of Peter Knapp's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## A Young Adult Zine, Submissions for Fall 2025

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**A Dangerous Faith: Inspiration for the Journey**, is an online and printed zine for youth and young adults with content written by them and for them. How does your search for justice impact your faith? How does your faith inform your activism? Join us as we seek inspiration for the journey ahead.

**Call for submissions:** We want contributions from you! Young people of faith who are passionate about justice and advocacy. We are interested in reflections, poems, songs, and visual art pieces. Our theme for the Fall 2025 issue: Responding in Faith, drawing inspiration from [Matthew 4:18-22](#) (Jesus Calls the first disciples). Saying 'yes' is an act of faith – especially as we step into the unknown. Maybe there is something in us calling to respond, or maybe we are the only ones available to answer the call. Saying 'yes' can lead us on a journey of transformation. The first Anabaptists took a risk when they said 'yes', and responded in faith to their convictions. As we celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism by reflecting on the past and the roots of Anabaptist beginnings, we also reckon with where we are today and how we live into tomorrow.

- When have you said 'yes' in faith? What have you learned along the journey? What gifts/passions have you discovered along the way?
- What do the faith led responses of the first Anabaptists call us into?
- Can you name an Anabaptist who has been inspiring to you? Why is this person inspiring?
- Where do you want to see Anabaptism grow in the next 500 years?

**Submission deadline:** August 30th, 2025. **To share your submission fill out [this short google form](#).**

*Shared by the Anabaptist World*

## Trial Monitoring

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Trial monitoring is a powerful human rights tool that helps ensure fairness in legal proceedings. By observing court trials, we assess whether key fair trial standards—such as access to a lawyer, proper interpretation, and due process—are being upheld. **Read more in Community Peacemaker Teams' Instagram post [here](#).**

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

## Are you comfortable in church? Some aren't.

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"As I enjoyed a way-too-expensive latte at a local coffee shop, a friend and I got to talking about church demographics. Who is showing up to church — and why? My friend mentioned how awkward he felt attending church because he doesn't have a college degree. This made me think about the churches I have been a part of. Many of them were privileged in many ways. They've had decent budgets — at least enough to hire a full-time pastor. They've typically been predominantly White. The majority of people had a stable income and at least some higher education. These are not bad things. I've benefited from them. I'm able to be a full-time pastor because people are giving financially and because I was able to go to seminary. Growing up in the church (not Mennonite), I became accustomed to the idea that we help the less fortunate. We have resources, and we are called to use them to help others. I have preached this very message. But I'm asking: Are the oppressed part of the church, or are they only helped by the church? Are those who do not fit the profile of a typical church member welcome? Who defines what is typical?" **Read the rest of Jerrell Williams's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Heirloom nurtures legacy of healing

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*Sale of 'Ausbund' hymnal supports nursing scholarships in Nazareth, Israel.*

"An old book from an old box in Pennsylvania is breathing new life into a Christian hospital in Israel by sitting on a shelf in Ohio. Robert and Nancy Martin went to Israel in 1965 to serve Nazareth Hospital and the surrounding predominantly Arab community. Through Mennonite Board of Missions (now Mennonite Mission Network), they served 18 years across three terms through 1995 at the hospital and Nazareth Academic School of Nursing, as detailed in the 2020 book *Together in Galilee* (Masthof Press). Robert Martin was going through a box of family heirlooms last year when he discovered an old hymnal — an Ausbund — that had been passed down in his family. The Ausbund is the oldest Anabaptist hymnal, still in use by Amish today. He knew his copy was old, and he knew it was rare. But he did not know how old or how rare." **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article for *The Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Anabaptist Climate Collaborative May Newsletter

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**Read the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative's May Newsletter [here](#).** It contains updates on leading ecological lament at Duke University, Anabaptist World on climate advocacy, upcoming ACC events in Durham, Kitchener, and Greensboro, reflecting on Climate Jazz in Ontario, call for papers for Rooted and Grounded Conference at AMBS, Mennonite Church USA Netzero grants, and a thank you for Earth Month Donations.

## Grief and hope

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"Grief is woven into the fabric of my life. Sometimes I think grief wants me to be its best friend. I grew up in Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. When I was in primary school, my little brother died at 9 years old. While I was away in Kikwit for secondary school, my younger sister died at 14. At the time, I thought it was enough that God took away my siblings at such young ages. Now I am convinced the journey of grief will continue until I join my family in heaven." **Read the rest of Pakisa K. Tshimika's article published by *The Anabaptist World* [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

## Our Members in Care Facilities

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



## Past Midweeks

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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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