

# ***THE MIDWEEK***



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

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Made of Wood* using Matthew 18:21-35.

Matthew 18 gets a lot of airtime in Anabaptist theology in regard to correction, but much more of the chapter is dedicated to promoting a liberal use of forgiveness--a foundational part of the ecosystem of peace. How can we use forgiveness as a means to confront harm and injustice rather than excuse it?

## **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



## Office & Building Closed

**Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

The church building and office will be closed for the Fourth of July this Friday. There will be no Midweek on July 16. Thank you for your understanding!

*From Lydia in the Office*

## Help Ashley Remodel her Dream Home



Ashley has purchased her first home, and it is a wonderful blessing. BUT the house needs some work. Can you help, starting this weekend? Dry wall needs to be removed and carpet pulled up. Work will begin Saturday from 9am-noon, and then 1-4 pm. It will continue Sunday from 3-6pm. Please bring hammers for pulling down the ceiling and razor blades for pulling up carpet. Ashley will provide masks and goggles. Ashley will also provide drinks, lunch on Saturday and dinner on Sunday. Please call/text Ashley to let her know which shifts you can help with. If you can't help this weekend, there will be other opportunities before their anticipated move in date.

*Shared by Lynn for Congregational Care Committee*

## July 6 Adult SS class



Sessions 5 – 11 will focus on Chapters 1 – 7 of our text “Strange Worship, Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism” by Drew Strait. Step 1: To break silence. Step 2: To check our posture & harness our anger at injustice in lament. Session 6, July 6, Chap 2: What is White Christian Nationalism? Three questions: What is the founding myth? What is replacement theory? Why are they important? (For those of you with books, would you check to see if you have Lotus’ s copy.)



## Youth Venture Trip Sharing

**July 13 at 5 PM at the MRC Community building**

Wyatt will offer a presentation about his recent trip. Wyatt writes: I recently returned from a Mennonite Mission Network Youth Venture trip to Zürich, Switzerland at the end of May, coinciding with the Mennonite World Conference's “Anabaptism at 500 Celebration”. I will be sharing pictures and stories of the various Anabaptist historical sites we visited in Zürich and the surrounding area. I also plan to share some of the group's thoughts and reflections that were discussed over the course of the trip as they relate to the theme of “Looking Back to See the Future.”

*Sponsored by the Community Life Commission*



## Pantagraph Article

Read Pastor Kevin’s recent article “Finding the tune of acceptance, inclusion for LGBTQ+ community” published by the Pantagraph [here](#)! If you have a Pantagraph subscription, you can also read it [here](#).



## Dual Conference Affiliation Vote

The following are the results of this week's congregational vote on the two recommendations submitted by the Vision Team.

- The first recommendation, "...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," **passed with 88% of the vote** (67% was required to pass). The exact timing and process of withdrawing membership from IMC will be determined over the coming months to help ensure a fair, responsible, and respectful exit.
- The second recommendation, "...that MCN **add \$8,000 funding** to our 2025 budget to support IMC for the remainder of this year," **did not pass with 57% of the vote** (67% was required to pass).

The Vision Team appreciates the congregation's participation in this process. If you have questions or feedback, please email the Vision Team, or reach out to a member of the Vision Team (Shelly, Shannon, Ben, and Helen).

*Shared by the Vision Team*

## Joe's Bike Tour



After riding cycling Bike Ride Across Georgia during the first week of June, Joe & his friends Guy & James have started their longer bicycle tour from Bloomington to Albany, NY this past Monday. They will ride across Illinois & Indiana to Ohio, then along Lake Erie to Buffalo, NY, visit Niagara Falls, & follow the Empire State Trail along the Erie Canal to Albany. If you are interested in following along, Joe will be posting Instagram & Facebook entries as well as a daily journal with occasional spiritual reflections & photos [here](#).

*Shared by Joe Culpepper*

## MCC School Kit Challenge



Mennonite Central Committee's School Kit Challenge is back! The notebooks and pencils that devoted supporters like you lovingly pack into MCC school kits help kids write their own success stories, and rulers provide hope beyond measure. School kits provide these and other essential supplies that families navigating war, displacement or financial struggles would not be able to buy otherwise. Join the 2025 School Kit Challenge and help MCC provide 25,000 school kits for 25,000 kids this summer. **Click [here](#) to learn more about this challenge and to download a free activity guide.** Louise will be leading the challenge here at MCN.



## 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



## 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





A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

## Wednesday, July 2

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

## Thursday, July 3

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

**6:30 pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

**7:30 pm** Vision Team (Zoom)

## Friday, July 4

**All Day** Building/Office Closed for the Fourth of July

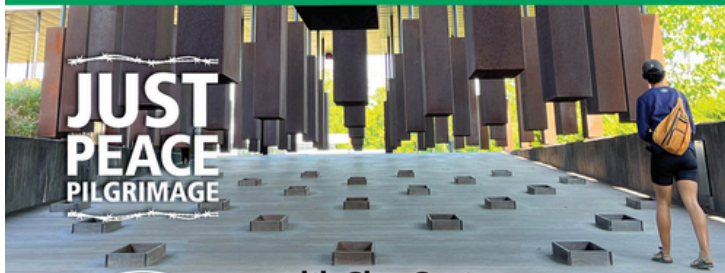
## Wednesday, July 9

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



### JOURNEY TO THE ROOT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

### SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PILGRIMAGE



**JUST  
PEACE  
PILGRIMAGE**

**with Glen Guyton**

Mennonite Church USA Executive Director

This pilgrimage through the South unites **young adults (ages 18–30)** from diverse backgrounds for a week of powerful storytelling, shared learning and eye-opening conversations about race and justice in our world today. **Don't miss this chance to grow, reflect and make a difference — sign up now!**  
Cost: \$800.

**JUST  
PEACE  
PILGRIMAGE**  
October 7-11

Coalition to  
dismantle the  
Doctrine  
of Discovery



**Led by Sarah Augustine**

*Executive Director for the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery*

**and Joe Hubbard**

*Episcopal priest and convener of the Episcopal Indigenous Justice Roundtable*

Travel with us to Navajoland near Bluff, Utah, to engage with contemporary Indigenous realities, explore the histories of Indigenous Peoples, and examine the complexities of Indigenous-settler relations.

**Cost: \$1,050**, plus travel to and from Durango, Colorado



Oct. 28-Nov. 2 • [MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace](https://MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace)



Mennonite Mission Network



Mennonite Mission Network

### Proposed update to the Churchwide Statement on Immigration

In this prerecorded webinar, MC USA's Iris de León-Hartshorn and Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz discuss the proposed update to the Churchwide Statement on Immigration (Adopted in 2003, Updated in 2014) which will be presented to the 2025 Delegate Assembly on Friday, July 11.



**DELEGATE  
ASSEMBLY  
2025**



# Rooted and Grounded

---

## September 18–20

Rooted and Grounded Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship: Sept. 18–20 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. Theme: “Kinship with All Creation: Pursuing Relationship, Justice and Community.” Keynote speakers: Wendsler Nosie, Sr., PhD, of the Apache Stronghold and the American University of Sovereign Nations; T. Wilson Dickinson, PhD, of Lexington Theological Seminary; and Douglas Day Kaufman, ThM, of the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative. Selected portions of the conference will be livestreamed. Registration is now open! Learn more and register [here](#).

*Shared by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary*

## Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible

---

### September 10 – October 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 by Aug. 20 to save \$50. Learn more and register [here](#).

*Shared by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary*

## MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries: Policy Updates

---

- **Travel Ban 2.0:** on June 4, the Trump administration announced travel restrictions for nationals of 19 countries (so far) in a move reminiscent of the “Muslim Ban” enacted during the first Trump administration. [The Interfaith Immigration Coalition denounced the restrictions](#) in a press release that included a quote from MCC U.S. Executive Director Ann Graber Hershberger lamenting reduced opportunities for collaboration and learning across cultures.
- **Foreign assistance cuts:** on May 30, the White House [requested additional funding cuts](#) to the international affairs budget, especially for lifesaving humanitarian assistance, including food, medical and humanitarian aid.
- **Rescissions package:** on June 4, the White House sent a [Rescissions Package](#) to Congress, requesting a clawback of over \$9 billion in appropriated funding for lifesaving humanitarian assistance including food, peacebuilding, and poverty-focused development assistance. It passed the House on June 12 by a vote of 214–212. The Senate is expected to take up the bill in July.
- **Judge delays transfer of Oak Flat to Resolution Copper:** on June 6, a federal judge ruled that the transfer of the [Apache sacred land](#) of Oak Flat to Resolution Copper will not happen immediately upon the [release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement \(FEIS\)](#). The public will have until August 19 to review the FEIS and bring forward legal cases. Watch the [Save Oak Flat Webinar recording](#) to learn more.

*Shared in the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries June E-Memo*

## Landback: an Indigenous Jubilee

---

"Landback is the process of returning land to Indigenous peoples. Returning land is important because Indigenous peoples are systematically excluded from land ownership — the primary vehicle for accumulating security and wealth in the United States. Indigenous peoples feel accountable as the land's first caretakers. Landback, or rematriation, honors our unique role as land and water protectors. The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery launched a landback fund in November. It began when one of our members, Meghan, purchased a house. She asked how she could - acknowledge that buying land is a privilege and that the home she purchased is on land unjustly taken from Indigenous peoples. She suggested that she could voluntarily impose a tax on the purchase and that we could encourage others who want to acknowledge the impact of settler colonialism to do the same. Most of the time, only people with property or significant wealth participate in landback. Meghan invited us to a vision where small donations from many people would be pooled and given to Indigenous partners who could then buy land." **Read the rest of Sarah Augustine's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind

---

*An MDS volunteer sees the impact of more frequent natural disasters.*

"I have come to realize God had a plan for me. He just had to get me ready for it. I had a great and fulfilling career as a mechanical engineer, but in time I realized corporate life was always about the bottom line. I knew about Mennonite Disaster Service pretty well my whole life, but I had never taken the time to volunteer. We were studying *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren through our church. It talks about the purpose of life. It's really all about God. I thought, I have an opportunity to do something different. So, why not do it?" **Read the rest of Nick Hamm and Rebecca Rogerson's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Faithful stewardship nurtures sustainable haven in Hokkaido

---

It's lambing season at [Menno Village](#), a farm in Hokkaido, Japan. The flock of sheep, which will soon swell to 100 head, has been rebuilding soil fertility in the degraded and compacted rice fields through an adaptive grazing system. This year the sheep have another job: to produce wool that will be used as insulation in a new retreat building — *Hitsuji* House. *Hitsuji*, the word for sheep in the Japanese language, symbolizes not just an educational space about sheep but also a spiritual journey with the Good Shepherd, explains Raymond Epp, who, alongside his wife Akiko Aratani, has nurtured this land for 30 years, is their vision for the next phase of their lives. **Read the rest of Jane Morrow's article for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

## Why I began meeting with a spiritual director

---

After her uncle died, Linda Lehman Thomas sought out a spiritual director as a way to heal childhood trauma, but it affected her life even more deeply than she expected. **Read Linda Lehman Thomas' Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

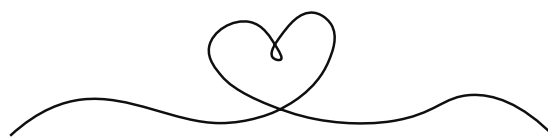
# Mennonite Action June Mass Call Re-Cap

As grief for the violent world around us weighs heavy on our hearts, it was powerful to gather with hundreds of you on our June Mass Call to center queer wisdom and joy. To mark Pride Month together, we heard from speakers who shared the power of queerness in the Mennonite Church, and discussed the role that memory and radical queer imagination can play in shaping our world into a Kin-dom of God. **If you missed the call, you can watch a recording [here](#). And you can find all the links shared on our call [here](#).** We wanted to draw your attention to a few particularly important updates we discussed together:

- **Interfaith Action For Palestine:** This year, Mennonite Action will once again join the Interfaith Action Coalition for Palestine from June 29 - July 1 in the D.C. area. In person registration has closed, but you can join for online programming throughout the mobilization by signing up [here](#).
- **North Carolina Training Ahead of MennoCon:** Mennonite Action is [holding a national organizing training in Raleigh, NC](#) preceding Mennonite Convention. The training will open with a worship service and gathering in the evening of Sunday, July 6th, and will continue with an all-day training on public action and grassroots organizing on Monday, July 7th.
- **Kitchener-Waterloo Peace Retreat:** From July 11-13, [Mennonite Action Kitchener-Waterloo is hosting a three-day peacebuilding retreat](#) with Palestinian and Israeli peace activists Aziz Abu Sarah and Maoz Inon. Participants will learn stories from Maoz and Aziz and learn skills to help with on-going organizing in North America.
- **Apache Stronghold:** [All are invited to the final, all-hands-on-deck ceremonial gathering at Oak Flat on July 19-20.](#) This is 30 days before the land transfer to Resolution Copper, and we ask folks to join in prayer together at this time.
- **Financial Support to make this summer possible:** Mennonite Action is \$30,000 away from our \$50,000 summer fundraising goal. We are asking individuals and churches to help contribute to help us reach this collective goal, which will fund all of the solidarity, training, and action work that Mennonite Action has planned for the coming months. Can you make a donation today? We know this is possible when we do this together. Click [here](#) for more information on how to donate to Mennonite Action.

As our hearts are pulled in many urgent directions, and as we continue to balance the joy and the pain that surround us, we are energized by all of the work our movement is carrying together. We are grateful to continue along this path together. Thank you for being an important part of our movement for liberation. Thank you for your willingness to be transformed together through collective action.

*Shared by Mennonite Action*



## 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!

# Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

---

<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

---

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

---

Structure Documents

---