

# ***THE MIDWEEK***



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

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Stand* using John 5:1-24.

When Jesus heals on the sabbath, he gets himself in trouble with the religious folks and says that he does so with authority. Further, he claims that anyone who believes in him “has passed from death into life.” Menno Simons quotes this passage in the same breath as his famous description of “true evangelical faith” which “clothes the naked, feeds the hungry, comforts the sorrowful,” etc. In other words, with Jesus, we set aside dead religiosity for the sake of life in solidarity. How did/do Anabaptists stand with those who are marginalized?

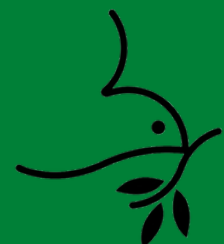
## **After Worship**

**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



## International Outreach Info Night

**Friday, July 25 from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

The ministry Ashley helps lead is putting on an International Outreach Info Night. It's for American families who might be interested in partnering with welcoming international students this coming school year. This is just an informational meeting to learn about ways families and individuals can be involved. Attendance does not mean you're committed! Opportunities this year include: 1-7 day homestay options for students arriving early before their housing is ready, being a part of supper club which is a monthly hospitality night where you host a small group of 2-4 students for dinner at your house, serving or providing food for large group dinners on the first Friday of the month, providing home goods to new student arrivals, driving students to food pantries, and more! Meeting is Friday July 25 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm at Apostolic Christian Church of Bloomington. Childcare and food are provided. **Learn more and register by July 23 at 11:50 PM [here](#).**

*Shared by Ashley*



**Saturday, July 26 from 4 pm to 10:30 pm**

It is time again for BN Pridefest! It's happening this Saturday, July 26th in downtown Bloomington from 4pm to 10:30pm. This is always a good time, with all kinds of entertainment including music from Leah Marlene, family karaoke, food vendors, and other events. If you go, Pastor Kevin will be a part of the the 3rd annual "Blessed at Pridefest" blessing booth, where he and other clergy from Christian and other traditions will be offering blessings to all who are open to receive them. **You can learn more about the event at the Facebook page [here](#).** If you'd like to be involved, we are still looking for greeters for the Blessed at Pridefest booth for the 6:00pm-7:00pm slot. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kevin.

*Shared by Pastor Kevin Chupp*

SMAP Meal



**Sunday, August 3 after Christian Education**

We will be gathering on August 3 for a light lunch after church to celebrate the Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP), get updates from the young people, and pledge for this coming school year. Please come one and all to learn about and/or support this program! If you have any questions please reach out to Darvis.

*Hosted by the SMAP Committee*



Youth Venture Trip Sharing

If you missed Wyatt's presentation about his recent Mennonite Mission Network Youth Venture trip to Zürich, Switzerland, you can watch a recording [here](#)!

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## Monday, August 4 at 6:00 pm

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is Monday, August 4 from 6-8pm. MFB wants us to sign up at least a week ahead of time to facilitate their project planning, so if you think you will go, **please sign up as early as possible using [this link](#)**. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

*From the Outreach Commission*



## Menno Haven Sunday

**Sunday, August 10th**

**Last day to register: Sunday, July 27**

MCN is gathering for a worship service at [Menno Haven](#) on August 10th at 10 am. **Register [here](#) by Sunday, July 27!**

*From the Community Life Commission*

**Thank You, Lynette!**



**Sunday, August 17**

Last Sunday it was announced that Lynette Miller will be stepping down from her interim role with the Pastoral Team on August 17th. Lynette was called to join a newly forming interim pastoral team in the fall of 2021. Through these years, Lynette has been an invaluable member of the Pastoral Team, consistently demonstrating her ability to listen to the Holy Spirit, work through the structural setup with the Discipling and Community Life Commissions, take copious notes for the Pastoral Team, and obviously so much more. Lynette plans to remain an active member of MCN, this change allowing her more time for endeavors by which she's been called. She plans to continue leading the Women's Bible Study as well as teach Sunday school this fall. We plan to honor her work during our worship service on August 17th. The Vision Team invites you to share your affirmations of Lynette's ministry, they can be sent to Shelly.

*Shared by the Vision Team*

## MCC School Kits



We will begin collecting school supplies for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) this Sunday. There will be a table for drop off. **Please pay attention to the type of supplies required, MCC wants special items.**

The list is as follows:

- 4 Spiral notebooks. 8.5 X10.5. 70 sheets in each notebook
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 12 colored pencils in a box
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens, not with separate lids
- 1 ruler, flexible, with 30cm.

If you have a problem finding rulers or pencil sharpeners we can order online. We need people to sew bags. We are glad to provide the fabric. Contact Louise. If you do not want to shop and prefer to donate money, we can order for you. Lets get this project going, but we need your help!!!! Contact Louise with any questions.

*From Louise*

## From the Outreach Commission

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- **Mennonite Action Mass call** – There will be a Mennonite Action Mass call at 7:00 pm on July 24<sup>th</sup>. 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. Sign up for the July Mass Call [here](#).
- **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!
- **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) School Kits** – Louise is leading the MCC School Kits challenge again this year. These kits are needed more now than ever. Please plan to support this project.
- **Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Work Team** – MCN members are going as an MDS work team to Ashville, NC on August 17 to clean up a flood damaged church that will be used in the future to house MDS teams. This 11-person team is led by Gerry and Steve.
- **October 18<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive** – Please sign up for this drive at MCN [here](#).
- **Making Good Trouble** – Several MCN people were in Uptown Normal on July 12<sup>th</sup> making good trouble. See photo above.

*In Peace, Phil Dick, Chair of Outreach Commission*

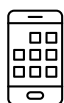
## A Note



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We would like to thank our church family for the concern, love and care they have shown us after I fell and broke my leg in May: your prayers, calls and visits, many many loving and encouraging beautiful cards and letters, and the gracious offer of Meal Train meals. Family members were with us for quite a while, so we did not sign up for Meal Train, but have very much appreciated your gifts of homemade bread and applesauce and even some wonderful spontaneous meals since. Heartfelt thanks to everyone!

*Shared by Meredith and Juergen*



## Anabaptist Community Bible App

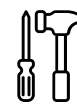
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The new Anabaptist Community Bible app is now live and available to download for both Apple and Android devices. The app is FREE for users. In the app, you will find the following features from the Anabaptist Community Bible:

- The full text of the Common English Bible
- A daily Bible reading with accompanying community reflection, biblical context, and early Anabaptist witness notes (pulled from our 365-day reading plan) designed for devotional reading
- Full introductions to each book of the Bible written by Anabaptist scholars
- The supplementary essays found at the back of the Anabaptist Community Bible

Plus, the exclusive "On this day in Anabaptist History" section features nuggets of Anabaptist life and history that you're only able to access via the app. Download the free app today!

# Help Renovate Ashley's House



Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help Ashley with her renovations last weekend. They were AMAZING! There are more opportunities to assist. Ashley's father-in-law is acting as project manager. [Here is a link](#) to the tasks that are planned. Thank you for considering helping Ashley provide a home for her boys.

*Shared by the Congregational Care Committee*

## CDC Connector



The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). The July issue of the Connector is full of photos and reflections from last month's Annual Meeting. It also celebrates recent graduates from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and from the Journey Program. **If you would like a paper copy, they are now available to take from the Library Table.**

## 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:

- 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](#).



## This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### Wednesday, July 23

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

**6:30 pm** Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

### Thursday, July 24

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

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

**7:30 pm** Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

### Saturday, July 26

**4:00 pm** Blessed at Pridefest

### Tuesday, July 29

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

### Wednesday, July 30

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



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## 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.



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## Those Serving This Week





## July Queer Theology Sunday School

**Sunday, July 27th at 5:30pm Central Time on Zoom**

Everyone is invited to Community of Hope Church's summer session of Queer Theology Sunday School! To maintain a safe Zoom space, **please register for the event [here](#)**. It's a free and open event, so feel free to invite others! Please note that due to technical issues, there is a new Zoom link. So even if you registered for prior QTSS events earlier this year, you will need a fresh registration to attend July's event. Rev. Davi Weasley (they/them) will be the guest teacher. Their topic is "Three Queer Things- or Is It One Queer Thing?- About the Trinity"! (Learn more [here](#).) As always, the session will start with an introduction to queer theology, about 25 minutes of a teaching presentation from Davi, followed by Q&A and discussion! Feel free to invite your friends, colleagues, congregations, and families. Queer folks are the main audience, but allies are more than welcome. If we have a large group, we will do breakout rooms for the discussion portion (one room is always queer-only). **Learn more about the Queer Theology Sunday School series [here](#)**.

## Antioch and Addis Ababa examined as case studies for church growth

Henok Mekonin and Joe Sawatzky, both employees of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) and Mennonite Mission Network, presented a workshop, "[From Antioch to Addis: Strategies for church growth](#)" during the AMBS Pastors & Leaders 2025 | Anabaptism at 500: Looking Back, Living Forward at the end of February. In their presentation, Mekonin and Sawatzky explored two case studies of church growth: the biblical account of the church in Antioch and the Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) in Ethiopia — the largest member church in Mennonite World Conference. By comparing these two examples of the church in mission, Mekonin and Sawatzky hoped to discern potential strategies for the growth of Anabaptist-Mennonite communities today. **Read the rest of Lynda Hollinger-Janzen's article for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#)**.

## Delegates look to the future, pass resolutions

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A spirit of hope and shared purpose marked the opening of Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA) biennial Delegate Assembly on July 11, 2025, as more than 350 delegates gathered in Greensboro, North Carolina, to reimagine the denomination's future and approve four key measures to strengthen and equip the church. Introducing MC USA's two-year Reimagination Project, Guyton invited delegates and their congregations to study the [project charter](#) and contribute ideas for reshaping the denomination's national structures, bylaws and relationships. Associate Executive Director Iris de León-Hartshorn then led a table group exercise asking delegates to envision what MC USA might look like if it was started from scratch — no buildings, budgets or agencies — only a commitment to follow Jesus in a fractured world. Moving from discussion to action, delegates effected immediate change by approving three forward-looking organizational resolutions. The resolutions implement consistent practices for addressing sexual abuse, draw Mennonite educational institutions and programs closer to the denomination, and ensure alignment between agency leadership and the broader mission and values of MC USA. Delegates also reaffirmed MC USA's decades-long commitment to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. **Read the rest of Cami Dager's article published by Mennonite Church USA's [here](#).**

## MC USA Delegate Assembly installs Marty Lehman as moderator; Affirms new board members

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The Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly installed [Marty Lehman](#) as the moderator for the new biennium and provided unanimous affirmation for a slate of new Executive Board members and other nominees, including incoming Moderator-elect [Todd Lehman](#) (no relation). **Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA's article [here](#).**

## A life-sized board game that simulates mass incarceration

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Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) "You Got Booked" seminar at Mennonite Church USA's 2025 Convention led 39 participants through a life-sized board game based on mass incarceration in the United States. Seven teams took turns rolling a giant blow-up die and moving around a Monopoly-style board, but instead of property spaces, railroads or chance cards, the spaces were labeled private prisons, pipeline, court, redlining, police encounter, processing, go to prison and traffic stop. Each team was assigned a character with different identities and resources. As players had run-ins with the justice system, their outcomes changed depending on their skin color, citizenship status, incarceration history and financial restraints. To win, you had to make it all the way around the board, but in the 90-minute seminar on Thursday, nobody was able to cross the finish line. If a character was incarcerated three times, they were eliminated from the game. This rule is based on the real three-strikes law, which increases the severity of the sentence for repeat violent offenders and generally results in a life sentence after the third offense. **Read the rest of Greta Lapp Klassen's article for Mennonite Church USA's [here](#).**

## Hispanic Mennonite Church cancels 2025 in-person biennial assembly

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In 2025, the Hispanic communities that make up the Mennonite Church in the United States are facing a deeply challenging reality due to the tightening of immigration policies under the current administration, which have created an environment of fear and vulnerability that directly affects congregations. This tense climate has not only led to a decline in church attendance but has also had a devastating emotional, spiritual and economic impact, especially on families with children. Churches face an ethical and pastoral dilemma: how can they continue to be spaces of welcome and refuge without exposing their people? Some congregations have migrated their services to a virtual format, sacrificing the human warmth they so value, in order to protect their members. However, they have learned that necessity stimulates creativity: new forms of care, solidarity and accompaniment are emerging. The crisis has awakened in them a stronger collaborative spirit, crossing denominational and cultural boundaries and reinforcing their conviction that caring for immigrants is a central calling of the Gospel. **Read the rest of Adriana Celis's article republished by Mennonite Church USA from MenoTicias [here](#). [En español](#).**

## How I received my calling to be a pastor

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Anita J. Castle never dreamed of being a pastor, in fact, she had rarely even heard of a woman being a pastor before. But after one fateful conference, she knew she was being called. **Read Anita J. Castle's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

## Grown in faith

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*On an Iowa farm, planting trees is a spiritual practice.*

"As a young person, I wanted to be part of the climate solution, so I became a farmer. Digging into relationship with and reliance on the Earth itself is a way to accomplish something tangible in the service of climate stewardship, even when governments and corporations fail to act on the scale that we need. It is to a farm's own benefit to enhance soil life and soil fertility. This is best accomplished by increasing organic matter in the soil, which sequesters carbon. (Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, removing it from circulation and preventing it from contributing to climate change.) Good farming is good for the climate and for culture." **Read the rest of Hannah Breckbill's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Lessons from the moon: Honoring our wounds

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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](#).**

## Climate Justice Corner

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Climate change impacts us all, but it disproportionately impacts marginalized communities – especially low-income, Indigenous and communities of color who often live in areas more vulnerable to flooding, pollution, extreme heat and who have fewer resources to recover. These communities may face displacement, health risks and economic hardship, deepening existing social and environmental injustices. [This resource](#) put together by One Home One Future, a coalition effort of US faith denominations and organizations, supported by ecoAmerica's Blessed Tomorrow program as the organizer, is a helpful introduction to the impacts of climate justice within our communities.

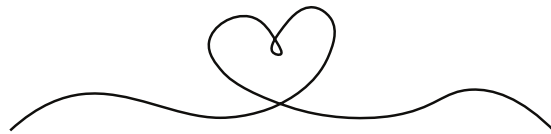
*Shared by Mennonite Church USA*

## Jesus still takes a side. Will we?

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*I engage in politics and speak up not because I'm comfortable doing so but because Jesus doesn't give me a choice.*

"I am called to love my neighbor, and that means taking a side with them. If my theological convictions keep me from loving my neighbors in the most basic and practical ways, then my beliefs are nothing more than a resounding gong. My beliefs must be matched by love, and I think love means political action. During Sunday morning worship, one of our attenders encouraged us to vote in a local election and pay particular attention to the questions on our ballot. I asked how she wanted us to answer those questions. Politically engaged as I am, I hadn't researched the ballot questions and sought advice to translate the legaleze. She declined to offer a specific answer, perhaps because she felt uncomfortable being so politically explicit in church. I shared at our meeting that I, too, had hesitations about political engagement. I am uncomfortable voting, let alone endorsing a candidate or a position. I fancy myself a faithful Anabaptist, and our tradition of nonresistance convicts me — even as I vote every year. I see it as a practical necessity but one that is far from holy and distant from the God-given convictions I have about the world. But I engage in politics and speak up not because I'm comfortable doing so but because Jesus doesn't give me a choice. I am called to love my neighbor, and that means taking a side with them." **Read the rest of Jonny Rashid's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



## 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!

## Past Midweeks

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# 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!



## Commission, Team, & Committee Members

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## Commission Meeting Minutes

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# Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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## Facility Use Agreement

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## Item Check-Out Request Form

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## Commissions and Teams Contact List

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## Structure Documents

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