

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Chow Down* using Luke 22:14-27.

The Anabaptists, though they had exemplary leaders, emphasized the priesthood of all believers. They assumed that all had a part to play in the work of the church and in witness to the wider world. At the Last Supper, Jesus responds to the disciples' discussion about greatness by calling them to be like the youngest and to be servants. How do we all receive the call to serve as "priests" today? How does a "kingdom of priests" share the Lord's Supper?

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

After Worship

Adult CE
Room 8

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



Mennonite
Church
of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Communion This Sunday



This Sunday, August 3

We will celebrate Communion in worship this Sunday with Kevin Chupp leading. In preparation, we are all encouraged to engage in self-examination of both our relationships with God, and with others. We also receive specially designated gifts for our Mutual Aid Fund on Communion Sundays as a means of assisting others in need through being the Body of Christ. There will be a special basket in the back of the sanctuary for those funds. If you would like to take communion at home, please contact Kevin Chupp.



Youth (3-12th grade) SS Quilting this Sunday!

This Sunday, August 3

This Sunday, August 3, youth in grades 3-12 will continue knotting our quilt for The Bridge Shelter Village. Students in grades PK-2 will meet in their regular SS classroom.

From Discipling Commission

SMAP Meal



Sunday, August 3 after Christian Education

We will be gathering on Sunday, 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. You can read more about SMAP [here](#). Please come one and all to learn about and/or support this program! This year, the Student Mutual Aid Program will be supporting Frank, a senior at Bethel College, and Emma, a Sophomore at Goshen College. We will need to raise \$23,200 for this 2025-2026 school year. If you have questions, or are unable to be at the August 3rd event and would like to pledge, you can text or email Darvis. The SMAP committee thanks you for your continued support!

Hosted by the SMAP Committee

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

Monday, August 4 at 6:00 pm

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank is Monday, August 4 from 6-8pm. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

From the Outreach Commission

Menno Haven Sunday

Sunday, August 10th

MCN is gathering for a worship service at [Menno Haven](#) on August 10th at 10 am. There will be no worship at 805 S Cottage on August 10th.

From the Community Life Commission

Photo Directory



We are working on finalizing the picture directory we had photography for last Fall. One of the last steps is to send in an up-to-date roster to publish at the back of the picture directory, and we need everyone's help with that.

At the back of the sanctuary and here, you will find a copy of the most recent roster the office has. **Please take a couple of minutes to review your entry for accuracy.** If there are any corrections, please send them to church@normalmennonite.org or write the correction into the copy in the building. If you are reviewing the copy in the building, please place a check mark next to your listing if everything is correct.

Now is also the time to request your information remain out of the photo directory if you wish. Please email the office at church@normalmennonite.org if this is the case. Thank you all for your help making this a complete and accurate directory!

From the Church Office

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](#).



Congregational and Pastoral Team Review

Based on recommendations from Mennonite Church USA (MC USA), our annual evaluation of the pastor team will also include a congregational review. We will be drawing from MC USA's process outlined in the document entitled: "[Pastoral/Congregational Review: The Appreciative Way.](#)"

Our pastor team to be reviewed includes Kevin Chupp and Lauren Satchwell. As this will be Kevin Chupp's 3rd annual evaluation, this process will be followed by a recommendation and congregational vote on whether Kevin will be called to serve another term.

The first stage of the review will be the google form evaluation survey linked below. Information gleaned from this will help to inform the 2nd stage: guided listening/storytelling group sessions, which will take place during the CE hour on August 31 (and another date yet to be determined).

Please complete the evaluation survey linked [here](#) by Wednesday, August 13. There will also be paper versions of the evaluations available to complete in the church office.

Your voice matters! Thank you in advance for your participation in this crucial process to support the functioning of our church. If you have any questions, please reach out to a member of the Vision Team (Shelly, chair; Helen, Shannon, Ben).

Shared by the Vision Team



Responding to Critique - Pastor Kevin

On June 27th, The Pantagraph printed an article I wrote that they titled, "Finding the Tune of Acceptance, Inclusion for LGBTQ+ Community." If you missed it, you can access a PDF of that article [here](#).

Editor Kelsey Watznauer, at the suggestion of Prairie Pride Coalition president Dave Bentlin, asked me to write a guest column for the paper with no prompt except that it was to relate to Pride Month. After it was published, I was glad to receive many comments from the congregation and the wider community. One delayed response came my way in the form of a letter to the editor that was published on Sunday (July 27th) in the Pantagraph. Because of the public nature of that letter, I feel I owe it to you all at MCN to offer a public response. In lieu of a letter to the Pantagraph, I offer that letter and my response [here](#).

From Pastor Kevin Chupp

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.**

[Prairie Pride Coalition](#) (PPC) is celebrating 30 years in Bloomington-Normal this year! They continue to make BN a more just and inclusive community, and provide resources, opportunities, and events for LGBTQIA+ people and allies. We at MCN are connected to Prairie Pride Coalition as a supportive spiritual community and are listed in their Business & Resource Directory. They are a volunteer run organization with no paid staff and no physical facilities, and they are for the first time asking for donation to help provide for the future of the organization. In honor of their 30 year anniversary, they are asking for donations of \$30. If you give you have the option to share about what motivated you to give. When I sent my donation, I was eager to share about how the organization benefits our ministry at MCN and blesses our community. I would be so glad to overwhelm Prairie Pride Coalition with notes from Mennonite Church of Normal! You can join me by giving [here](#).

From Pastor Kevin Chupp

MCC School Kits



We continue to collect school supplies for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) this Sunday. There is 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



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.



Those Serving This Week





A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, July 30

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

Thursday, July 31

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, August 3

12:00 pm SMAP Meal

Monday, August 4

6:00 pm Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

Tuesday, August 5

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 6

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries



All In: Immersive Worship for Everybody

Mennonite Health Service Association and Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) recently received a grant of \$1.2 million from Lilly Endowment's Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative. The national initiative aims to support faith-based organizations as they help children grow in faith and deepen their relationships with God. As a result, ADN is launching an exciting new opportunity for Anabaptist congregations through a five-year project, All In: Immersive Worship for Everybody. This collaborative project invites congregations to join us on a journey of creating accessible, intergenerational worship through a five-year collaborative project. All In will emphasize the importance of congregational worship in children's faith formation. Church leaders will have the opportunity to:

- In-person and virtual training and coaching from experts on childhood development, faith formation, intergenerational worship, disability inclusion, and facilitating congregational change.
- In-person retreats, virtual group coaching sessions, an online forum, and a chance to build relationships with other congregation leaders.
- \$2,000 annually for supplies and to expand your ministries.
- Site visits, individualized support, consultation, and resources for the duration of the project and beyond.
- Intergenerational worship that reflects the full diversity of the Body of Christ, inclusive of all ages, abilities, and experiences.

If you think this opportunity might be the right fit for your congregation head to [our website](#) to learn more and apply! Applications are now open through October. For more information, email All In Project Director, Keli Boyer at KeliB@anabaptistdisabilities.net.

Mennonite Action Mas Call Re-Cap

Thank you to all who were able to join last week's mass call! As our host Katie Corbit laid out for us, we heard stories "thousands of miles apart, but deeply connected." Members of our delegation to Palestine reported back on their experience while U.S. based community members shared the stories of friends detained by ICE, and the community response. **For those who were unable to join, the [recording here](#). And find all links shared on our call [here](#).**

Speakers on the call who participated in our solidarity delegation generously relayed stories from the people they met in the West Bank. We heard stories passed on from Gaza of a father who "desperately tries to remember the sound of his children's laughter," children who lost their lives in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza. And we also heard the stories of Palestinians who continue to endure despite the fact that genocide "erases the margins of hope" in Gaza. We are grounded by the fact that this steadfastness is a practice contingent not on a feeling of hope, but rather nurtured by a deep commitment to community. For more content from our delegation, listen to Tyler Goss' interview on our [latest episode of Front Light](#), available now.

The call also brought the opportunity to hear several recorded messages from Palestinian friends, including a [prayer by Pastor Sally Azar](#), the first Palestinian woman to be ordained in Palestine. Mennonite chaplain Adam Allen shared the [story of Ayman Soliman](#), a chaplain in Ohio who was detained by ICE on July 9th after living in the U.S. for eleven years with asylum status. His situation is dire as fears mount he'll face execution if deported to Egypt. Police have responded violently to peaceful protests demanding his release, and Adam Allen was himself fired from his job for speaking out. You can donate to Ayman's legal fund [here](#), and learn more [here](#).

Lastly, we took time to remember all the ways we've come together in community this summer – at [Interfaith Action for Palestine](#), at National Training and [MennoCon](#), and at MA Canada's [Hope in Action retreat](#). We are honored to build and nurture this movement alongside you. We leave you with the same exhortation made on last night's call: let us "baptize ourselves in solidarity and recommit ourselves to action."

In peace, the Mennonite Action Team

'Climate Resilience' seminar inspires hope and action

Josh Richardson, pastor of [St. Louis \(Missouri\) Mennonite Fellowship](#) and CEO of [Brugmansia Ministries](#), and world renewable energy expert Meghan Reha, from [Mennonite Church of Normal](#) (Illinois), presented the seminar "Climate Resilience: The Future of Local Ministry," on day 2 of Mennonite Church USA's Follow Jesus '25 national convention, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Richardson began the seminar by identifying the impact that climate change has on local communities and ministries, such as the need for more cooling stations, stress placed on healthcare system, increases in prices, supply chain disruptions, job losses and the need for clean water. He encouraged participants to begin looking at how they could make changes in their communities and ministries now, rather than waiting until disaster strikes in their area. **Read the rest of Jessica Griggs' article for Mennonite Church USA's [here](#).**

As mass starvation stalks Gaza, aid groups plead for access

As the Israeli government's siege starves the people of Gaza, aid workers are now joining the same food lines, risking being shot just to feed their families. With supplies now totally depleted, humanitarian organizations are witnessing their own colleagues and partners waste away before their eyes. Exactly two months since the Israeli government-controlled scheme, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, began operating, more than 100 organizations are sounding the alarm, urging governments to act: open all land crossings; restore the full flow of food, clean water, medical supplies, shelter items and fuel through a principled, United Nations-led mechanism; end the siege and agree to a ceasefire now. "Each morning, the same question echoes across Gaza: will I eat today?" said one agency representative. **Read the rest of the Mennonite Central Committee article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Kenyan Christians adapt as churches are destroyed by climate-impacted flooding

Every Sunday morning, Pastor Pascal Ogutu walks barefoot across the cracked mud of what was once the foundation of his church. He passes submerged gravestones and the sagging roof of the altar, now half-buried in water and overgrown reeds. "This used to be holy ground," he said softly, gazing across the shimmering expanse where Lake Victoria has swallowed not only farmland and homes but faith sanctuaries, like his Free Pentecostal Fellowship in Kenya. In the flood-prone plains of Budalang'i in western Kenya, dozens of churches — some more than 50 years old — have been submerged or structurally weakened due to rising water levels and unpredictable rainfall. Scientists attribute the changes to climate shifts that are intensifying across the Lake Victoria basin, one of Africa's most populous and ecologically fragile regions. "The water does not just take land," said Ogutu, of the Free Pentecostal Fellowship in Kenya, whose tin-roofed sanctuary collapsed last November after months of flooding. "It takes our memory. It takes our worship. It takes the place we felt closest to God." Budalang'i, a rural constituency in Busia County near the Uganda border, sits along a natural floodplain where the lake's waters spill out during seasonal rains. But residents say the floods have become more frequent, intense and destructive. In the past five years, the lake's water levels have risen by more than 2 meters, or just over 2 yards, according to Kenya's Water Resources Authority. This backflow, combined with erratic rainfall and clogged drainage from nearby rivers, has displaced thousands of families and inundated schools, churches and cemeteries. Scientists say the region's flooding crisis is a visible symptom of broader climate disruptions, some of which are caused by global warming. **Read the rest of Tonny Onyulo's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Faith-Fueled Advocacy

In a blog post for Mennonite Woman USA, Pastor Krista writes about Climate Advocacy Day with the prayerful hope that the Spirit can transform our power systems, even as She transforms us. **Read Krista Showalter Ehst's blog post [here](#).**

Hold Congress Accountable

Congress continues to gut spending for humanitarian needs domestically and globally. Though less than 1% of the U.S. federal budget, U.S. foreign assistance had made up [38% of global humanitarian spending](#) and the cuts are devastating. At the same time, funding for immigration enforcement has been increased by a staggering [\\$170 billion](#). Many of you have been emailing and calling Congress about these policies—keep it up! Take some time in August, while your members are home on recess, to hold policymakers accountable. Remind them you take Jesus' words in Matthew 25 seriously: to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, the prisoner. Explain how taking money from maternal and infant care, from efforts to address famine, and from human needs programs in the U.S., while at the same time dramatically increasing funding for detention centers, border walls and military equipment, is un-Christian, immoral and bad economic policy.

Suggested actions and resources:

- Meet with your members of Congress: [Be an advocate](#)
- Support your neighbors: [Hospitality and solidarity webinar recording](#) and mcc.org/immigrant-neighbors
- Engage in constructive dialogue: [Peaceful Practices](#) and [conversation](#) guides
- Participate in creative, nonviolent protest: [God's love knows no borders](#)
- Continue to learn, reflect and pray: [Thirsting for justice: U.S. immigration policy](#)
- Worship: [Peace Sunday](#) (Sep 21) | World Food Day (Oct 20) (coming soon)

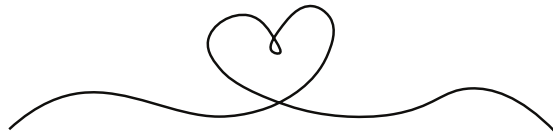
Shared in the Mennonite Central Committee US National Peace & Justice Ministries [July E-Memo](#)

Foundation created to honor peace worker in DRC

Colleagues of Michael Sharp in the Democratic Republic of Congo have established a nonprofit organization focused on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The Michael Jesse Sharp Foundation received government authorization to operate July 2 and is based in Bukavu in South Kivu Province. The foundation will monitor cases of human rights violations, create opportunities for dialogue and support nonviolence and human rights activists. While working for the United Nations in 2017 to verify human rights violations, Sharp, 34, and his colleague Zaida Catalán were executed by unidentified assailants. Sharp was a former Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Mission Network worker whose service experience inspired his work digging into atrocities. "The primary founder was a colleague and friend of MJ, Moise Bitumbushi," said John Sharp, his father, "they called each other brother. They worked together during his MCC assignment and when MJ went to the UN, MJ hired him as an investigator paying him with his own money. MJ was a frequent guest at Moise and Yvette's table. They named their third son Michael Jesse Sharp Bitumbushi." **Read Tim Huber's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Mending Wings helps Yakama People fly again

Mending Wings empowers Yakama youth to know their culture, language, spirituality and traditional ways of life, and to know a life of freedom that comes from following Creator. **Read Dewy Bill's blog post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

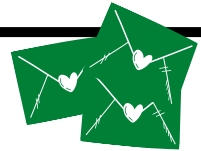


Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

- Building Open: **Standard Hours:**
Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM & 1:30PM-3PM
- Lydia Hedberg: Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org; 309-452-6622
- Rita Munkakusi: Custodian
- Kevin Chupp: Pastor for Outreach Commission, Worship Commission,
Congregational Care Committee, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team,
and Visitation Team; kevin@normalmennonite.org
- Lynette Miller: Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions
- Lauren Satchwell: 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!



Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Facility Use Agreement

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!

Past Midweeks

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
