

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Grant Miller will preach a sermon on the topic of Anabaptism: Peace using Matthew 26:47-56.

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

Thursday, July 10th through Wednesday, July 16th

The church building and office will be closed Thursday, July 10 through Wednesday, July 16. **There will be no Midweek next week, July 16.** Thank you for your understanding!

From Lydia in the Office

Grant Miller



Grant Miller, Director of the Practical Leadership Training & Development Associate at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will be preaching the sermon this Sunday. Originally from Central Illinois, Grant lived in the Goshen/Elkhart, Indiana, area for a decade before moving to southern Michigan to serve as a pastor for five years. A 2013 graduate of Goshen College and 2019 AMBS alumnus, Grant previously worked for the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism in Goshen and for Mennonite Mission Network in Elkhart. Grant joined the Development Team in May 2024, working from Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he lives with his spouse, Lydia Miller. Excited to rejoin AMBS, Grant is passionate about the global Anabaptist fellowship — past, present and future. He also enjoys reading, biking and good food.



July 9 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. Step 3: Define it! Session 7, July 13, Chap 3: How Did We Get Here? A question: Why do you think evangelicals are so power hungry?



Youth Venture Trip Sharing

This Sunday, 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

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

Menno Haven Sunday

Sunday, August 10th

Save the Date! MCN is gathering at Menno Haven on August 10th. More details coming soon!

From the Community Life Commission



Mid-Year Financial Report

Administration Commission continues to be grateful for those who have been faithful in their financial support of the 2025 Spending Plan. We are concerned, however, about the deficit between income and expenses through the month of June that has now grown to \$54,000.

50% of 2025 has passed, but our financial support is only at the 35% level, while expenses are running at the 48% level.

Actual 2025 financial support is comparable to the 2024 level of support. However, please remember that the 2025 Spending Plan increased by \$35,000 over the 2024 Spending Plan.

Administration Commission encourages all to remain current in their financial support of the 2025 Spending Plan.

Shared by the Administration Commission



Spending Plan Update

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.



Central District Conference was held June 19 through 21 at Bluffton University. There were three worship sessions and four delegate sessions. The theme was Listen! Wisdom is calling.

Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora hosted the Thursday evening worship session using the theme Wisdom from our Anabaptist History. Perry Bush shared about several Anabaptist martyrs and wisdom that could be drawn from their experiences. An ice cream social followed the worship.

The second worship session used the theme, Wisdom from our Churches Today. Each person was to bring a symbolic object representing something the Spirit has been doing among their congregation during the past year and share around tables.

Melissa Florer-Bixler preached at the third worship session using the theme, Wisdom for the Future Church. It was a timely sermon given our current situation. It can be found [here](#), starting at 26:45.

The four delegate sessions had delegates assigned to tables to get acquainted with each other during discussion. The usual reports on the state of the conference, Camp Friedenswald, treasurer, and Missional Committee. There were several congregational stories presented from Assembly Mennonite Church, First Mennonite (Chicago), and Columbus Mennonite Church.

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) has just developed a new resource titled, *Prevention and Accountability Resource*, and works together with *A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership*, the polity manual. This Resource will be discussed this week at the national conference as MC USA will be encouraging all congregations to implement the resource and guidelines. The purpose of the new guideline is to provide resources to prevent abuse and respond to situations of abuse if they occur within MC USA congregations and conferences. Administration Commission plans to follow the guidelines in their employment processes. Recordings and records from the annual meeting can be found [here](#).

-Lauren and Mary

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 last week. 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



MDS in West Asheville

A team of 11 from MCN has agreed to go to Asheville to work renovating the Asheville Presbyterian church August 18-23. Thank you for volunteering to help with this important task as Mennonite Disaster Service prepares to do long range home rehabilitation work in North Carolina.

From Gerry



Those Serving This Week



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, July 9

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home

Thursday, July 10

All Day Office/Building Closed

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

7:30 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Friday, July 11

All Day Office/Building Closed

Monday, July 14

All Day Office/Building Closed

Tuesday, July 15

All Day Office/Building Closed

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 16

All Day Office/Building Closed

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home



Prayer Requests and Announcements

Prayer requests can be shared during the Sharing Joys and Concerns portion of our Worship Service. For other announcements, please send them to Lauren Satchwell ahead of time so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Reportbacks from Palestine: July Mass Call

Thursday, July 24th at 7 pm CT

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ramallah, Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac urged Mennonite Action's delegation to continue our work. He told us we must continue our organizing, and we must keep pushing other Christians to join the movement for a free Palestine. At the Tent of Nations, on a hill top southwest of Bethlehem next to the village of Nahalin, our delegation heard from the Nasser family, who have been farming the hillside land since 1916. We heard about their own work of Sumud, or steadfastness, as they continue to work their farm in the face of encroaching settlements. These are just two of the stories from Mennonite Action's solidarity delegation to Palestine over our two-week trip in June. Join our July mass call on Thursday, July 24th at 7 pm CT to hear more stories and lessons from the participants of our recent solidarity delegation. We are setting a goal of gathering 500 people on this month's mass call. Will you forward this invitation to your church or friends and family and help us meet our goal? **Click [here](#) to sign up for our July Mass Call.**

In peace and solidarity, Mennonite Action

Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, August 26 at 11 am CT

Don't miss Mennonite Women USA's next Coffee and Conversation with historian Kimberly Schmidt. You'll hear fascinating, not-often-told stories about early Anabaptist women to talk about how gender and class shaped the emerging Anabaptist movement. **Learn more and RSVP for the Zoom link [here](#).**

Queer, wild congregation welcomed

Washington church, meeting outdoors and online, joins Pacific Northwest Conference. Community of Hope Mennonite Church, which defines itself as queer and wild, is the newest member of Mennonite Church USA's Pacific Northwest Conference. Delegates voted to welcome the church plant during their June 19-22 annual meeting at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp near Kalispell, Mont. "Wild," which means outdoors, is a method of worship used by a growing number of Anabaptist faith groups in the U.S. and Canada. Lacking a building of its own, [Community of Hope](#) gathers once a month outdoors in parks and forests in and around Bellingham, Wash. Bible studies take place in cafes and pubs. It began as an online community during the Covid pandemic in 2020. Pastor Rachael Weasley said she began praying and speaking with conference leaders in 2017 about planting a church to serve LGBTQ+ people and allies by looking for where God is operating on the margins. **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

From cult to cult

I should have been prepared when the Trump cult came calling. "I grew up in sort of a cult: a Mennonite community in Lancaster, Pa., where bishops kept members in line with doctrine and cultural traditions. It was the 1960s, and most of us young people knew we were under the bishop's rule once we were baptized. Every part of our lives could be subject to his scrutiny, his will, his powerful personality. So I should have been prepared when the Trump cult came calling. The country I love is now in the hands of a wannabe dictator. Thanks to the onslaught of Executive Orders, DOGE and the narrowing of judicial options in lower courts, Americans are realizing that democracy may not be as unassailable as we thought — in things large and small. But when I honestly ask myself, why am I so uncomfortable? — in the middle of the obvious, unsettling series of national crises at home and the mounting realities of war around the world — I realize that my dis-ease has a familiar quality. Because along with the niggling in my brain when I hear the personal stories of government workers who have lost their jobs, I am experiencing the same discomfort I lived with in my childhood and teen years." **Read the rest of Patricia Lehman's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Everence ToolKit

Read Everence's Summer 2025 edition of their ToolKit [here](#). (Also available [En Español](#).)

Pilgrims take first steps to walk alongside the Yakama People

Sarah Augustine, co-founder and executive director of The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, led a Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples Pilgrimage on the lands of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. **Follow along in the photo essay [here](#).**

Shared by Mennonite Mission Network

Creation care's collective 'yes'

A sustainable future means affirming new things.

"I have been a climate advocate ever since I first learned about our slow-moving global crisis as a child. I've learned climate change is real. Polar ice sheets and glaciers are melting. Spring is coming earlier. Plants and animals are changing their patterns. Last year was the hottest in modern history. The 10 hottest years on record? The entire decade of 2015-2024. We know why it's happening. In 1856, the scientist Eunice Foote demonstrated that an atmosphere with higher concentrations of carbon dioxide will trap more heat. Burning fossil fuels has increased the carbon in our atmosphere to levels not seen for millions of years. But climate change presents a collective-action problem." **Read the rest of Samuel Voth Schrag's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

"We shouldn't have to choose between church and our culture"

"I was born in Seattle, Washington, while my mother was in rehab. When I was three months old, we moved to the Yakama reservation. Two months after the move, my older sister and I were taken from my mother and my father and placed into a very loving foster-care family. I have multiple brothers and sisters through the foster-care system. To this day, I have a good relationship with my foster mother. My foster dad journeyed on [to the next world] in 2013. When I was about seven years old, we were at the long house, a traditional place of worship for the Yakama people. I joined others dancing on the dirt part of the floor. The dirt floor in the middle of the longhouse is a sacred place that connects us, as Native People, to the land. When we walk and pray on the earth, we are told by our elders that we are shaking hands with the Creator. While I was dancing and singing, giving all the glory to the Creator, a Yakama elder approached my grandmother and said, 'He can't be out there, because he is from the church.'" **Read the rest of Dewy Bill's blog post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Continuing the journey set forth by our mothers

In a blog post for Mennonite Church USA in preparation for the 2025 Mennonite Church USA convention ([Follow Jesus '25](#)) and the [Women's Summit](#) that precedes convention, Cyneatha Millsaps looks forward to the 2025 Mennonite Church USA Women's Summit by pondering how women can better stand up for themselves and their sisters. **Read Cyneatha Millsaps' Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries: Staff Updates

- **Sustainable Peace Networks conference:** Charles Kwuelum participated in the [Sustainable Peace Networks conference](#) in Maryland, May 21-22, organized by the Focolare Forum for Dialogue and Culture. He facilitated a PodCafe roundtable conversation on MCC's work on inclusive and participatory peacebuilding processes in communities, especially relating to emancipatory elicitive religious peacebuilding.
- **Oak Flat prayer walk:** In June, Kirstin De Mello led an ecumenical group on a prayer walk around Washington, D.C., to pray for Apache Stronghold and the sacred lands of Oak Flat. The group walked 1.8 miles, the equivalent distance of the crater the proposed copper mine would create on the land. [Watch a short video](#) to learn more.
- **MCC Burkina Faso in D.C.:** In June, Charles Kwuelum hosted and arranged meetings for the MCC Burkina Faso country representative, Cyprien Nkoma, in D.C., to meet with staff of congressional offices and committees. Nkoma highlighted emerging dynamics in the country, MCC's work, and policy recommendations for the U.S. government, especially the need to protect lifesaving humanitarian assistance in the FY2026 federal budget.
- **Global Anabaptist Peace Network (GAPN):** In May, Nathan attended GAPN meetings in Germany, representing NPJM's peace education work. It was an opportunity to learn about and connect with other Anabaptist supported organizations and initiatives around the world. While global contexts are quite diverse, similar patterns of violence emerge. Sharing resources and showing solidarity is an important component of peacebuilding efforts.
- **Pentecost Witness for a Moral Budget:** Claire Hurst and Galen Fitzkee attended a vigil held on the Senate steps in Washington, D.C., to protest budget cuts to government-funded programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid. The event was organized by interfaith groups around the city and advocated for a moral budget that would support low-income families.
- **Summer Service Leadership Conference:** During the week of June 2-5, Daniela Lazaro-Manalo, alongside Abby Endashaw and Mahlet Mamo, facilitated sessions at the Summer Service Leadership conference for 27 participants. Participants learned transformative leadership skills rooted in contemplative practices, relationship-building across divides, and restorative justice principles, enabling them to integrate peacebuilding into community service.
- **Korea Peace Advocacy Week:** Constituents across the U.S. participated in the annual Korea Peace Advocacy Week June 9-13. MCC is a co-sponsor of the event and helped to organize meetings for participants. A total of 151 individuals met with 133 congressional offices to advocate for H.R. 1841, the [Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act](#).
- **DC staff hosted MCC international program leaders:** On June 23, NPJM staff hosted 14 MCC international program leaders in Washington, D.C., including area directors who had traveled from regions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The group visited several congressional offices and the U.S. Department of State to advocate on foreign assistance, climate change, gun trafficking and more.

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

Memo

p. 9

Journeying Towards Belonging

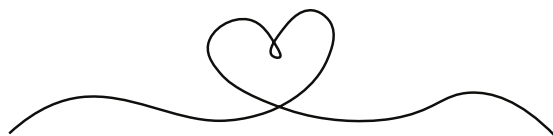
In January, Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) Communications Director Emily Hunsbaker presented "Journeying Towards Belonging." Incorporating the gifts of people with disabilities in our congregations, Emily welcomes viewers to begin the journey of becoming a place where people with disabilities share in the ministry of the congregation. **The webinar recording is now available for free on ADN's website [here](#).**

Make us instruments of your peace

In response to the escalation of violence involving Israel, Iran and the United States, Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz offers this litany that reminds us of God's call to peace. **Read Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

For the Beauty of the Earth

About 70 women and girls gathered on April 28 in central Kansas to attend the annual potluck salad supper hosted by the [Western District Women in Mission \(WDWM\)](#). This year's theme was "For the Beauty of the Earth." Tammy Duvanel Unruh, WDWM executive committee member, explored God's attitude toward nature and beauty and encouraged the group to take joy in our surroundings and each other. The remainder of the time was spent creating small floral bouquets. Each participant brought a small vessel from their home and flowers from their gardens to share if they wished. Most of the flowers were provided by local flower grower, Firebranch Farm. Rebecca Schrag, floral designer and executive committee member of WDWM, led the group through the basic principles of Ikebana. Ikebana, known simply as "the way of flowers," is a practice studied by the Japanese and historically used in altars and sacred dwellings. **Read the rest of Wendy Schrag's blog post for Mennonite Women USA [here](#).**



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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

Facility Use Agreement

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
