

# ***THE MIDWEEK***



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

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Volutus* using Philippians 4:10-13.

A commitment to simplicity carries the opportunity to take control of our lives. If we can be like Paul and learn to be content regardless of whether we have little or plenty, we can redirect our focus and energy toward things that matter more. How can we be formed to find contentment apart from the fragile comfort of excess? What are we willing to give up for the sake of deeper stability and dependence on God?

## **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



## Congregational and Pastoral Team Review

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**Deadline: Today, Wednesday, August 13**

Evaluation survey deadline today! Please participate in Mennonite Church of Normal's Congregational and Pastoral Review, a crucial process to support the functioning of our church. The first step is 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 the end of today, Wednesday, August 13.**

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. Thank you in advance for your participation! If you have any questions, you can reach out to a member of the Vision Team (Shelly, chair; Helen, Shannon, Ben).

*Shared by the Vision Team*

*Thank You, Lynette!*



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**Sunday, August 17**

Recently 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*



*Office/Building Closed*

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**Monday, August 18 until until 1:30 pm**

**Thursday, August 21 until 10 am**

The office/building will be closed in the morning two days next week, but I will be back working in the building in the afternoon each day. Thank you for your understanding!

*From Lydia in the Office*



# Backpack Blessing & Ice Cream Social

## This Sunday, August 17

On August 17 during the Children's time, Holly will present a blessing of the backpacks. Anyone returning to school or work is invited to bring their backpack, but we especially hope that children will. This is for all students whether they attend homeschool or public school. We will also distribute backpack tags with a loving message so that our students will know their church family supports them!

Also during the CE hour on August 17, the entire congregation is invited to join in an Ice Cream Social celebrating our "back to school / back to CE / back to routine" season. (Ice cream for lunch anyone?)

*From the Discipling Commission*

## MCC School Kits



If you meant to give but forgot **there is one more week before we order more supplies**. Make a check to church & label school kits. Our numbers are really down. WE NEED YOUR \$\$\$

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*

## Summer Sermon Series

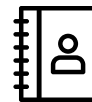


In light of the celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism, we will spend this Summer together in worship reflecting on some of the central convictions that have guided Anabaptists through the centuries with an eye toward how we have changed and what might be next. Here is the outline of where we are going:

- August 10-24: Simplicity
- August 31: Hope

If you would like more information, you can find a more detailed outline [here](#).

# Photo Directory



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**Last chance! This will be the final Sunday the directory is available to proof at the back of the sanctuary.**

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, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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*

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## Sharing Our Gifts



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The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to the church office at [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org). We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

*From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team*



## Sharing of Joys and Concerns



# Prayer Requests and Announcements

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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.

## This Week at MCN



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A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### **Wednesday, August 13**

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

**6:00 pm** Administration Commission

### **Thursday, August 14**

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

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

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

### **Sunday, August 10**

**Fellowship Time** Back-to-School Ice Cream Social

### **Monday, August 18**

**Until 1:30 pm** Office/Building Closed

### **Tuesday, August 19**

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

### **Wednesday, August 13**

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

**6:00 pm** Administration Commission



## Those Serving This Week







## Coffee + Conversation

**Tuesday, August 26 at 11 am CT**

Don't miss Mennonite Women'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. RSVP for the link to meet via Zoom on Tuesday, August 26 at 11 am CT. **Click [here](#) to RSVP and learn more.**

## Mennonite Action & Courage School

**Tuesdays in September**

If you weren't able to attend Mennonite Action's National Training in Raleigh this past July, you have the opportunity to engage with the same content through Courage School, a four week online course throughout September. Personally, I came to the training with no experience in community organizing or really in any sort of activism. I had been reading the news and feeling more and more sadness... and just felt stuck. I understood my faith calls me to action and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, but I felt lost on what that looks like effectively and practically. I signed up for the Mennonite Action training spontaneously after church the Sunday it came to Raleigh, and am so glad I did. It equipped me with tangible, practical steps for how I individually, and as a member of a church community, can rise to the occasion of our current political and social crises. In my understanding of how to respond to the genocide in Gaza or ICE detainments happening in my own community, I shifted from overwhelm to feeling empowered, which was so surreal after feeling stuck for so long. I now have actionable steps to take and connections to people who care as deeply about these issues as I do. I have both community and knowledge on how to organize that community for crisis response. I'm so thankful for this training as a way to educate, uplift and empower those of us who want to help, but are unsure how we can be useful. **Learn more and register for Courage School [here](#).** The four sessions will convene at 7 pm CT on Tuesdays, and you're encouraged to form a small group from your church or local community to take the course alongside. If you're looking for a good first step to get involved– to advocate for Palestine abroad and against authoritarianism here at home– this is it.

*In peace, Emily Hobus  
For Mennonite Action*

# Camp Friedenswald Women's Retreat

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**September 19-21, 2025**

Mark your calendars for the annual Camp Friedenswald Women's Retreat! Registration is now open for the September 19-21, 2025 women's gathering in the peaceful woods. And YOU (and your friends and family members!) are invited to join for a weekend of rest, reprieve, and rejuvenation. In addition to being together, making music, enjoying planned activities, and taking time for ourselves, we also look forward to the input from the Rev Dr Rosalind Young who will be leading us in exploring our theme, "Rooted and grounded in love: When Trees Talk". So gather your friends and family members and get yourself registered for Women's Retreat 2025 at Camp Friedenswald! **Learn more and register [here](#).**

*Shared by Central District Conference and Camp Friedenswald*

## Bluffton names J. Alexander Sider as next president

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Bluffton University's Board of Trustees has named the 11th president in Bluffton's 125-year history. J. Alexander Sider has accepted the call to serve as Bluffton's next president, effective Aug. 1. Sider stepped into the interim role in February following the resignation of Jane Wood, who stepped down in February after completing seven years as president. **Read the rest of Bluffton University and the *Anabaptist World's* article [here](#).**

## Seeking Shalom Peace Camp

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**When:** November 1-8, 2025

**Where:** Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, MI and Grand Rapids, MI

**Who:** Young adults aged 18-30

**How:** Register [here](#) by October 5

**Registration Fee:** \$250.00 (includes CCDA registration fee) guarantees your spot at the camp

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) invites all young adults to be a part of their [Seeking Shalom Peace Camp](#), November 1-8! Come explore the meaning of shalom as a wholistic sense of peace that is not just the absence of violence, but the presence of life-giving relationships and dignity for all people. Jeremiah's call for "peace and prosperity of the city" is a call of shalom for everyone, understanding that the wellbeing of any one of us is dependent on the wellbeing of all of us. Jesus amplifies this call to love our "enemies," knowing that shalom requires us to work together as God's people. This camp will begin at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Michigan, November 1-4, diving deep into God's word, and into practical tools of peacebuilding, as we dream possibilities of shalom for our communities and gain tools for engaging conflict effectively. For November 5-8, we will transition to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and participate in the [Christian Community Development Association's \(CCDA\) annual conference](#). This is a rich opportunity to hear from leaders across the country, connect with community development organizations, experience worship and attend workshops. **View a flyer [here](#). Learn more and register [here](#).**

## Do police belong on campus?

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Last Fall, the Bethel College administration invited more on-campus foot patrols by the North Newton, Kan., Police Department in response to incidents of vandalism. A range of community members voiced concern and opposition. Does having city police patrolling a college campus run counter to restorative justice? Is police enforcement conducive to racial justice? These questions make police patrols on a Mennonite campus particularly relevant to Indigenous justice. There is evidence that police disproportionately target and harass people of color, including students of color at colleges and universities across the nation. In her essay, "Mass Incarceration and Restorative justice," posted on the Mennonite Church USA blog in September 2022, Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz challenges us to acknowledge that our justice systems are experienced differently by those from the dominant culture than by people of color — and, further, that racial discrimination is baked into our government policies. **Read the rest of Sarah Augustine's article for the *Anabaptist World's* [here](#).**

## Black experiences in the Mennonite Church

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What is mission today? What should be the approach of North American mission today? Senior Executive of Advancement Wil LaVeist posed these questions to the audience during his "Afrocentric Anabaptists: Black Experiences in the Mennonite Church" seminar at Follow Jesus 25. LaVeist is producing a Mission Network documentary series in connection with the Mennonite World Conference's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Anabaptism: [Anabaptism at 500](#). Set for release in 2026, the documentary series explores the impact of mission outreach on the growth of Anabaptism among Africans, African Americans, and Afro-Latinos. Wil LaVeist has interviewed and filmed over 30 diverse Anabaptist leaders, representing African, African American, and Afro-Latino communities across various ages, genders, denominations, and organizations. The series centers on people of African descent sharing their stories in their own voices. **Read the rest of Jane Morrow's article for Mennonite Mission Network and watch a recording of the seminar [here](#).**

## Spiritual worship includes finances

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In a blog post for Mennonite Church USA, Beryl Jantzi shares three tips on how people can enhance their act of giving deeper. **Read Beryl Jantzi's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

## Connections from Bolivia to Ohio and back

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For Angela Zuercher, saying "yes" to serving as an International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) host was one of the best choices her family has made. Misael Barron Kipfer, from Bolivia, become an important part of their lives, and it led to the Zuercher family making a trip from their home in Apple Creek, Ohio, to Bolivia for the 50th anniversary of the Bolivian Mennonite Church. **Read Angela Zuercher's story for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**



## Intentionality drives belonging at MC USA's most ethnically diverse convention

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Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA's) [2025 convention](#) in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8–12, set records for attendance and racial diversity. Of the 1,640 registrants — the highest turnout in three conventions — a record 17.2 percent (282 attendees) identified as Black, Indigenous or people of color. More importantly, BIPOC voices filled prominent leadership roles at the national convention. "Something shifted. This convention felt different," said Sue Park-Hur, MC USA's director of racial/ethnic engagement. "Our intention to become more diverse became embodied in everything we did." **Read the rest of Cami Dager's article for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

## On serving and seeing God everywhere

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Lilibeth Guzmán Macea, a participant in Mennonite Central Committee's Seed program for young adults, shares how working with K'ekchi' Maya youth in Guatemala has shaped her faith. Through her time with the church, Lilibeth has seen God at work in the lives of the young people she serves. She's also been deeply moved by the local culture and traditions, which have helped her grow closer to a God who, in her words, "sits at the table and goes with me along paths full of mud." **Read Sienna Malik's story for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

## 'We do more than just rebuilding houses. We fix banjos too'

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You don't really picture what Princeton's like until you get down into the town and actually look around. The town sits low, and there's these dikes where the two rivers come together, the Similkameen and the Tulameen. One of these dikes gave way. That water came in with force. The flood actually blew out the sliding patio doors in this one place where the rivers converged. You couldn't tell what was in what room. Furniture was upside down in deep, wet mud. Things were thrown around, high up on the cupboards and stuff. Climate change is changing what's happening across our country. MDS used to have small projects in Canada. We got national projects going every summer here now. It seems these things are occurring more and more. Things are melting. We canoe a lot and we hike. We go up to the glaciers, the water coming off of those is tremendous. The force and the volume coming down there in summer is unbelievable. You start to think, are we going to have a flood? We've gone back to Princeton, we've sandbagged in Grand Forks two times after we rebuilt it. It's never broken the dike again but two times we've gone in there to sandbag. Houses that we actually rebuilt, we sandbag them. **Read the rest of Mike Davis, Sheila Davis, Amber Fill, and Rachel Willins' article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## What is the opportunity here? Retuning from panic to possibilities

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Nekeisha Alayna Alexis shares her hope, in addition to providing an opportunity for others to be share that hope amid a world that seems to be full of despair. This is an updated version of a blog post originally shared by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Reprinted with permission. **Read the rest of Nekeisha Alayna Alexis' Menno Snapshot published by Mennonite Church USA's [here](#).**

## River of prayer

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In a blog post for Mennonite Church USA, Sally Weaver Glick and some of her spiritual directees find it difficult to pray during these troubled times, but she finds hope in the idea of the river of prayer. **Read Sally Weaver Glick's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

## MCC partner ministers to those affected by church bombing in Syria

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The June 22 shooting and bombing that occurred inside the Greek Orthodox Saint Elias church in Damascus, Syria, have traumatized people in the Dweil'a suburb, where Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) supports an emergency food project and a children's program. **Click [here](#)** to find out how MCC supporters like you are bringing real, tangible support for families and individuals affected by this attack. Also, find out how you can be praying for the work of MCC in the region moving forward.

## Ancient Ways

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Photos of my ancestors line the walls of my home, greeting those who step inside. I long for their presence here, for their lives to live on, and to inform mine. There are my grandparents who traveled the globe via freight boats and a VW bus. My great-grandmother who, alongside her husband, swung the doors of both heart and home wide as she championed women's rights and education in Japan. Her sister, who penned poems through her pain. And their father who, as a widower, took his young daughters on world tours, ensuring they learned the language wherever they roamed. And then there's my 10th-great-grandfather, Paul Gerhardt, a pastor in the 1600's who is known to this day as Germany's most beloved hymn writer. A man who encountered deep suffering with an even deeper faith. **Read the rest of Jenny Gehman's reflection for Mennonite Women USA [here](#).**



## Our Members in Care Facilities

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



# 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

## Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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## Facility Use Agreement

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## Past Midweeks

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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!

## 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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## Structure Documents

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