

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Susan Kauffman will preach a sermon titled *Simplicity and Soil: a Connection Point* using Leviticus 25:1-7, Matthew 6:25-34.

How is soil formation related to ours? How does simplicity relate to our connection with the soil?

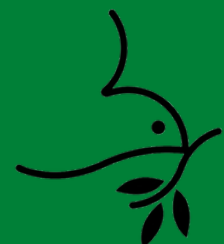
After Worship

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, August 21 until 10 am

The office/building will be closed in the morning tomorrow, but I will be back working in the building in the afternoon. Thank you for your understanding!

From Lydia in the Office

Next step in MCN's Congregational and Pastoral Review

August 31 during the CE hour

The Vision Team would like to thank everyone that submitted responses to the Congregational and Pastoral Review survey! Whether you participated in that first step of the process or not, you are strongly encouraged to add your voice to the next step: guided listening/storytelling group sessions. These will take place during the CE hour on August 31 (and another date yet to be determined).

Please note, these particular group sessions will be about church functioning as a whole as well as Kevin Chupp's ministry. Another group session, to be hosted later in the fall, will be about church functioning and Lauren Satchwell's ministry. 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. Our pastor team evaluation process this year is drawn from MC USA's document entitled: "[Pastoral/Congregational Review: The Appreciative Way.](#)" Please plan to take part in this important process of our church functioning. 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



Marion, IL MDS Project

Saturday, September 13th

The Illinois MDS unit is helping a family in southern Illinois who had their home damaged by a Tornado this past spring. They are in need of roof, siding and window repair. The roof is currently tarped and broken windows are temporarily held in place. The unit has scheduled the first work day on this project. Saturday, September 13th we will begin repairs. We are still needing volunteers. If you need more information or want to volunteer please contact Lamar Miller at ilmdsunit@gmail.com.

Shared by the IL Mennonite Disaster Service

Susan Kauffman



Susan Kauffman will preach the sermon this Sunday. She is a graduate of Bluffton College in Ohio and has served three terms in Cambodia with Mennonite Central Committee. After growing up attending MCN, Susie moved to Chicago in 1981 for a two-year term with Mennonite Voluntary Service, teaching Human Body and Math at an alternative high school. Now in addition to doing the bookkeeping for Living Water Community Church, she uses her M.S. in Soils to teach Introductory Soils classes at two community colleges, raise worms in her kitchen, and manage a multiple-family composting system.

Vision Team Chair



Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) is pleased to announce that when Shelly steps down at the end of her term as Vision Team Chair on December 31, 2025, Ben will step into this role until the end of his term – which is December 31, 2026. We thank Shelly for her service and dedication in this role and are grateful that Ben has agreed to step into the role of Chair for 2026.

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



Evaluation

The Vision Team and Commissions undergo annual evaluations. The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team invites and encourages you to fill out a brief evaluation form about the effectiveness of our Vision Team, which is open to all people within the congregation. Also, there is a Self-Evaluation section only for those serving on Commissions. Please know that your survey responses will be gathered by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team and applicable feedback will be shared with the Vision Team and Commissions. **Click on [this link](#) to fill out this evaluation form. This evaluation process will close on Friday, August 29.**

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Photos from Asheville

View photos from our MCN group currently volunteering with Mennonite Disaster Service in Asheville, NC [here](#)!

Oak Flat Update



Last Sunday I requested prayers for Meghan, my daughter, as she traveled to Oak Flat AZ to witness and protest the transfer of sacred Apache land to a mining company. While she was preparing to go, she learned that an emergency injunction had been granted. Additional information is available [here](#).

Shared by Lynn
p. 3

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This edition highlights some milestones of our member congregations, including the 50th anniversary of Paoli Mennonite Fellowship and Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship dedicating a new church building. Also inside is a story about a children's book that started as a liturgical banner along with the latest edition of Doug's Mug. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table in the coming weeks.

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

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](#).



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 ahead of time so that these can be shared by the worship leader during the Community Life portion of the service. When sharing, it's helpful if your requests are succinct.



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, August 20

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

Thursday, August 21

Morning Building/Office Closed

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 26

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 27

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week

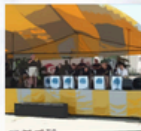


4th Annual **J** further jazz festival

AUGUST 23, 2025 4-9PM

CONNIE LINK AMPHITHEATRE
621 S. LINDEN NORMAL, IL

- 4:00 HEARTLAND JAZZ ORCHESTRA**
SPECIAL GUEST DR. REGINALD LEWIS
- 5:00 ADRIAN BARNETT LAKESIDE EFFECTS**
- 6:00 VINE STREET SYNCOPATORS**
- 7:00 CRAIG RUSSO LATIN-JAZZ PROJECT**
- 8:00 ART BLAKEY TRIBUTE BAND**



Illinois
ARTS
Council

J further jazz

TOWN OF NORMAL HARMON
ARTS GRANTS



Illinois Prairie
Community Foundation

THE
Music
SHOPPE

RESTORATION RETREAT

*Heavy and Light: A weekend of grief,
imagination, and climate resilience*

CAMP FRIEDENSWALD

OCTOBER 31-

NOVEMBER 2, 2025



Restore and Reconnect

- Activities connect you to the land, water, and others
- Conversation circles create intentional space for sharing
- Locally sourced and climate friendly menu will delight your taste buds
- Core sessions focus the weekend on topics of grief, imagination, climate resilience, and justice



Speaker Meghan Reha

- Corporate renewable energy consultant
- Activist with Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery
- TEDx speaker on community resilience through sustainability



Speaker Josh Richardson

- Pastor of St. Louis Mennonite Church
- Founder and director of Bruggmansia Ministries: focused on helping religious communities prepare to help individuals in need during times of climate change and climate migration

**REGISTRATION
OPENS AUGUST
FIRST**



Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, MI



269-476-9744



friedenswald.org/retreats/



ADN Conversations: Creating a Sensory Space in Worship

Monday, Sept 8 at 3 pm CT via Zoom

A sensory space is a designated space that has fidgets, weighted blankets/lap pads, rocking chairs, wobble cushions, noise-reducing headphones, coloring, and other aids that help increase calm and focus for people who have sensory processing disorders, ADHD, anxiety or are autistic. Do you have a sensory space in your worship space (or do you want to have one)? Where is it located in the worship space? How did you create it? What did you put in it? Who uses it? What has been helpful? What has been challenging? What benefits have you seen? Join the Anabaptist Disabilities Network for an informal conversation with people from other congregations about creating a sensory space in worship, hosted by Jeanne Davies, on Monday, Sept 8 at 3 pm CT. **Click [here](#) to join the Zoom Meeting.**

Context Matters

Erica offers a creative reflection on MennoCon25 where she served as delegate for Mennonite Women USA. There she was heartened to gather as one made up of many. Here she encourages you to show up as you are: both unique and interwoven with others. **Read Erica Lea-Simka's blog post for Mennonite Women USA [here](#).**

Check out the 2025 MC USA Convention photo album!

Relive the inspiration and exciting moments of the 2025 Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Convention by visiting their online photo library on Flickr [here](#). There are albums for every day of the Convention. All photos are the property of MC USA and are available for personal use only.

Was I Anabaptist all along?

My journey from Catholic lay minister to Mennonite pastor.

"In 2011, I declared during a stroll with a friend, 'If I am going to call myself a disciple of Jesus, I want it to mean something!' I was expressing a concern dear to the early Anabaptists: Rather than merely worshiping Jesus or declaring Christian faith with words, can I try, imperfectly, to emulate Jesus' life in the way I live? Can we? My journey to Anabaptism has been circuitous. I'm told I was baptized Lutheran as an infant (I don't remember it!). What I do recall, for as long as I can remember, is a strong sense of God's presence." **Read the rest of Kate André's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Finding God in the city: A spiritual director's journey

When Rebeka Moeljono moved from a small midwestern town to the big city, she experienced a deep shift in how she approached her spiritual life, as well as her spiritual direction. **Read Rebeka Moeljono's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

The short life and death of Aline Al-Mahalawi

"I have known Aline's family for almost 20 years. I first met her uncle, Amgad, when he was on the staff of [Al-Najd Developmental Forum](#), and I was the director of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) United Nations Office. On almost-annual visits, Amgad would escort the MCC staff traveling from Jerusalem, Washington, Ottawa and the UN to meet the Palestinian families who were [raising rabbits](#) or planting gardens with help from Al-Najd and MCC. It has personally been quite difficult to learn the painful details of the struggle of one family and to feel so powerless to end this genocide. I have been candid with Amgad; I have not been able to stop this war, but I have shared the pain and suffering of his family with my family and friends who have promised to pray for his family and do what they can to end this genocide." **Read the rest of Doug Hostetter's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Partnership permits churches in Africa and North America to share gifts

[Benin Bible Institute](#) (BBI), a Mennonite Mission Network partner, and [Waterford Mennonite Church](#) (WMC) have been part of one another's ministries for 22 years. A highlight of this partnership is the annual visit between the faculty and staff of the Bible school, in Cotonou, Benin, and members of the congregation, in Goshen, Indiana. One year, a Beninese delegation travels to the United States — and to another partner congregation, [St. Jacobs Mennonite Church in Ontario, Canada](#) — and the following year, Waterford representatives travel to Benin. Cindy Voth, WMC's lead pastor, said that the BBI-WMC partnership reminds the congregation that it is part of Christ's global body. "It helps keep us in a posture of curiosity and learning. ... It gives us a fuller understanding of who God is and what it means to faithfully follow Jesus," she said. **Read the rest of Lynda Hollinger-Janzen's article for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Two new worship guides from MCC: Peace Sunday and World Food Day

Every year on **September 21**, we celebrate the International Day of Peace. The theme for this year's celebration, "Actions for peace: Our ambition for the #Global Goals," reminds us of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a commitment undertaken in 2015 by various governments toward attaining global wellbeing with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a benchmark. Download the free worship guide [here](#).

The theme for World Food Day, on **October 16**, is "Hand in hand for better food and a better future." This theme highlights the importance of global collaboration to ensure that everyone has consistent access to nutritious, diverse, and abundant food. Download the free worship guide [here](#).

Shared by Mennonite Central Committee



Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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 Community Life Commission, Outreach Commission, Worship Commission, Congregational Care Committee, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, & Visitation Team kevin@normalmennonite.org
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Pastor for Administration Commission, Discipling Commission, & Vision Team

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Facility Use Agreement

Past Midweeks

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!

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
