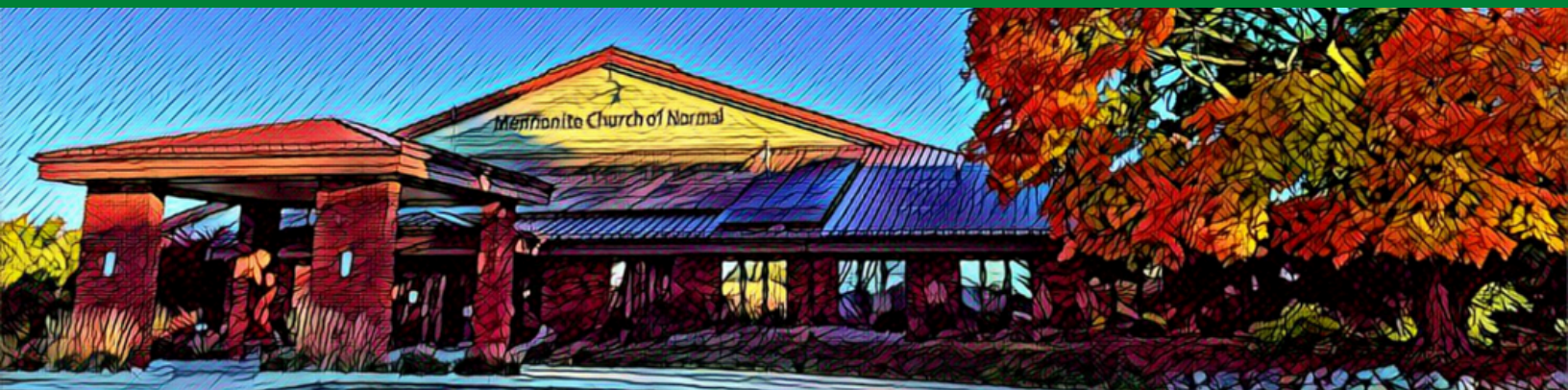


# ***THE MIDWEEK***



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

This Sunday, Lauren Satchwell will preach a sermon titled *"a likeness like..."* using Ezekiel 1:1-28.

Think about the prophet Ezekiel's encounters with God. They weren't quiet, intellectual exercises. They were powerful, sensory-overloading experiences of God's glory—flashing lights, loud sounds, and visions of overwhelming power. Or consider the Tabernacle worship God commanded for the Israelites, with its specific aromas of incense, rich visual symbolism, and ritualistic actions. God has always used the physical world to communicate spiritual truths. This Sunday, we're diving into the Sensate pathway, one of the nine spiritual dispositions identified by author Gary Thomas. This pathway teaches us that for some, the most direct path to God is through what they see, hear, taste, touch, and smell. For Sensates, worship is an entire body experience. And for the rest of us, it's an invitation to rediscover a more holistic, embodied faith.

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**

Rooms 5 & 7

### **Children & Youth CE**

Pre-K–1st Grads

2nd–5th Grades

Junior High

High School



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

# Ecology and Sustainability in India: a presentation offered by Emily

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**This Sunday, September 14 at 5:00 PM at the MRC Community Building.**

Emily writes: I will be sharing about the Goshen College SST course that I took this past May, Ecology and Sustainability in India. During our three weeks away, we traveled from Delhi up the Ganges River towards the Himalayan Mountains where we were hosted at Hanifl Center, an environmental center in the popular mountain town of Mussoorie. Our classwork was mostly about sustainability issues such as changing land use and population growth, water availability, and human and animal conflicts, but we also got the chance to visit several different houses of worship.

*Sponsored by the Community Life Commission*

## Mum Fundraiser



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**This Sunday, September 14th**

Funds for youth who attended convention were provided by a reserve fund that has grown over the years from various fundraisers by youth. Now it's our turn to build the reserve back up for future youth. **The mum sale will start Sunday, September 14th!** They will be available to take that day and continue until all the mums (48!) are sold. There are a variety of colors and they are 11 inches for \$20! Thanks!

*Shared by the Discipling Commission*

## Vision Team Chair



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Ben has been called by The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team to serve as Chair of the Vision Team. SGDT asks for your feedback on this call. Please email any feedback you have to Janet **by September 15**. Thank you!

*From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team*

## Menonite Church Blood Drive

### Fellowship Area

805 S Cottage Ave.  
Normal, IL 61761

**Saturday, October 18, 2025  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) for more information.

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.

Come to give blood Sept. 22-Oct. 19 for a \$10  
Amazon.com Gift Card by email! See [rcblood.org/fall](https://rcblood.org/fall)



# Congregational and Pastoral Review

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**Wednesday, September 17 at 6:00 pm**

If you were unable to attend the August 24 guided listening and storytelling session, the Vision Team (VT) invites you to join the next opportunity which will be over Zoom, Wednesday, September 17, at 6:00 PM. Please sign up at the link below so we can know how many will be participating. Depending on the number, we may divide into more than one group to facilitate discussions. You will have the option to participate through speaking, typing in the chat, or simply listening if that is your preference. We witnessed the benefit of these worthwhile conversations on August 24 and hope that those who missed it will be able to join on the 17th. **Please sign up [here](#).** Any questions or comments can be directed to VT (Shelly, Ben, Helen, Shannon)

*From the Vision Team*



## Update from Outreach

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Following Outreach Commission's September meeting, we are glad to report contributions of \$500 to both Mennonite Action and the Mount Pisgah Baptist Church Food Pantry. We are also eager to invite your involvement in some upcoming opportunities.

First, we are welcoming the American Red Cross for a blood drive here at MCN on **October 18th from 8am-12pm**. You can make an appointment [here](#). Also, if you would like to lend some baked goods, we would invite those to be dropped off in the kitchen on October 17th or the morning of the drive on the 18th. If you'd like to leave some in the freezer, let Pastor Kevin know.

Also, Mennonite Action has a "training tour" that will be stopping at First Mennonite Church in Champaign-Urbana on **October 16th**. You can learn more [here](#).

Finally, our "Sacred Pathways" worship series will feature Activists on **October 12th**. If you consider yourself an activist—whether reluctantly or gleefully—send a note to Pastor Kevin ([kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org)) to learn more about how you might be able to participate in that service.

We have more projects in the works and will keep you posted on other ways to be involved in our community and beyond

*- Outreach Commission (Phil Dick, Elsa Raab, Pam & Mark Hodel, Kevin Chupp)*

## Small Group Bible Opportunity at MCN: Orienting with the Word

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We have the opportunity to partner with AMBS and their Faith Formation Collaborative in Orienting with the Word, a small group Bible study opportunity that utilizes Confessional Bible Study over a 5- month period. Pastor Kevin and one lay person will lead the group from **January 1 – May 17, 2026** in this process. In order to participate, we need to register a cohort of interested individuals by November 15. There is no cost. You can learn more [here](#) or by watching [this video](#). Please respond to Holly by email or in person if you're interested in participating!

*From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team*



# Emmanuel's Birthday Party



## Civil Rights Trip 2026



There is room for 10 more participants with Normal First United Methodist Church's 2026 Civil Rights Trip! **Learn more [here](#)**. Contact Pastor Kathy King-Nobles at [kanobles@normalfirst.org](mailto:kanobles@normalfirst.org) with any questions.

*Shared by Bess Desch*



## CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This month is a special issue of the Connector focused on immigrant justice and care. It features stories from three congregations about their important work in this area as well as an article about Matthew Yoder's trip with Mennonite Mission Network to Calais, France for a Just Peace Pilgrimage. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available on the Library Table in the coming weeks. If you want to learn more about immigrant justice and care, Central District Conference is hosting a Lunch and Learn Zoom session on **Tuesday, October 7 from 11am to noon CDT**. During this time we will hear briefly from several individuals and congregations who are working with immigrants in their community, including those featured in this issue, and then have an open question and answer session for all participants. Bring your concerns, your questions, and your hopes to share as we learn together how to be better neighbors. **Join the Zoom meeting [here](#)**.



## Fall Worship: Sacred Pathways

In our worship together this Fall, we will give special attention to the ways in which we relate to God and find ourselves spiritually energized and fulfilled. Gary Thomas' book [Sacred Pathways](#) offers a sort of spiritual typology that imagines nine "pathways" we might find ourselves drawn to in our lives of faith. You can see a video introduction to the topic [here](#). We also hope you will take [the inventory](#) and share the results with the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (you can share results with Pastor Kevin in person or email to [kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org))

- **September 14** – Sensates – Ezekiel 1:1-28
- **September 21** – Traditionalists – Leviticus 23:1-8
- **September 28** – Ascetics – 1 Corinthians 9:19-27
- **October 5** – Activists – James 1:19-27
- **October 12** – Caregivers – Galatians 6:1-10
- **October 19** – Contemplatives – Psalm 63
- **October 26** – Enthusiasts – Ephesians 5:15-21
- **November 2** – Intellectuals – Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33
- **November 9** – Return to Narrative Lectionary



## Meal Train

Deb Spacek is not able to be with us in-person at MCN very often, but we are glad for any opportunity to remain connected to her! Deb's dietary needs make the meals provided by her residential community more complicated and less satisfying. We hope we can share some delicious meals that Deb will enjoy! We are hoping to offer a meal on Saturday evenings September 20th-Nov 8th. If you would like to participate, please sign up [here](#). If you have any questions, you can be in touch with Pastor Kevin ([kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org))

*From the Congregational Care Committee*

## Sharing Our Gifts



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*



## This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### **Wednesday, September 10**

**9:30 am** Wednesday Morning Book Group

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

**7:00 pm** Community Life Commission (Zoom)

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

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

### **Thursday, September 11**

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

**9:30 am** Women's Bible Study

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

### **Friday, September 12**

**Until Noon** Office/Building Closed

### **Sunday, September 14**

**5:00 pm** Ecology and Sustainability in India: a presentation offered by Emily Hershberger

### **Tuesday, September 16**

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

### **Wednesday, September 17**

**9:30 am** Wednesday Morning Book Group

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



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## 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 ([lauren@normalmennonite.org](mailto:lauren@normalmennonite.org)) 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





## Education under threat

*Goshen College fights for the safety of its immigrant students.*

At Goshen College, we are fighting to create spaces of safety in which our immigrant students and their families can learn while healing from the trauma of immigration. At this moment, federal and state governments are ramping up efforts to detain and deport immigrants. As a college, there are many external circumstances and forces that we do not control. But we also recognize our calling as Mennonite leaders and educators to:

- craft conversations that do not increase animosity;
- complexify the dominant narratives with human stories; and
- create as much safety as possible for the immigrants who enrich our campus, our city and our regional workforce.

**Read the rest of Rebecca Stoltzfus and Gilberto Pérez Jr.'s article for the *Anabaptist World* and Goshen College [here](#).**

## New sculpture in Kidron, Ohio, shows beauty of connections

A new globe-shaped metal sculpture was recently unveiled at Mennonite Central Committee Connections (MCC) Thrift Shop and MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron, Ohio. Artist Emma Zuercher created the sculpture to acknowledge the partnership between the two entities who are working to support MCC's relief, development and peace work in the name of Christ. **Read the artist's statement [here](#).**



## Learning to Listen

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As a co-director of Mennonite Men, it feels important to get to know Mennonite males from around the country and reflect on unique and shared experiences. Turns out that traveling to the far reaches of the US is not so affordable. And while phone and Zoom calls aren't quite the same as meeting in-person, they are great ways to listen to, share with, and learn from other men working at being followers of Jesus for God's shalom. I recently had a virtual conversation with a fellow Mennonite male in Idaho, Rob Hanson, thanks to an introduction from contacts in Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Rather quickly I discovered Rob and I share several passions including conservation, agriculture, soil, and forests. God's creation clearly means a lot to Rob. But I also sensed Rob's care for relationships and the well-being of people as well as concerns about violence and poverty in the world. Rob is part of a bagel breakfast men's group with other men in the congregation where he attends in Boise, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship. I was grateful to connect about shared experiences and have much to learn from Rob. **Read Jon Zirkle's blog post for Mennonite Men [here](#).**

## Answering God's Call to Peace

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Twenty-seven years ago, a friend asked me to do something. I can't remember the request, but I remember my response. "Just let me get through Easter." I clearly should have been more specific—like, "which Easter." Easter 2035, perhaps? We live in a society that operates at a frantic pace. One that rewards productivity above almost anything else. It's easy to see why phrases like "burning the candle at both ends" and "burned out" have become commonplace. Friends, this is not the life God has called us to. This is not the life that God models. This is not the rhythm that God created...in the beginning. Part of God's created order is a rhythm of rest—of Sabbath. **Read the rest of Rev. Angela Finet's blog post for Mennonite Women USA [here](#).**

## When Taking Out the Trash Could Cost Your Life

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*If you don't obey, then leave...*

A Palestinian family lives in Wadi al-Hussein on Kiryat Arba Street, near a settlement, in the heart of Hebron (Al-Khalil). The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have forbidden the family from crossing the street as punishment for using the family's yard as a shortcut to avoid a checkpoint. Recently, Israeli Soldiers erected a fence around the house, effectively imprisoning the entire family. **Read the rest of Community Peacemaker Team Palestine's Instagram post [here](#).**



## CPE that Supports People with Disabilities

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In this latest installment of Anabaptist Disabilities Network's Opening Doors Blog, Kathy Dickson reflects on her experience thus far in a community Clinical Pastoral Education program offering pastoral care to people with disabilities. **Read the rest of Kathy Dickson's blog post for the Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

## Oregon church cleaning up after arson

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Zion Mennonite Church in Hubbard, Ore., was back to holding worship services in its sanctuary Aug. 10 after someone broke into the church the evening of Aug. 2 and started a fire inside. Malachi Samuel Kercher, 20, was arrested at the church that evening and faces arson, criminal mischief and burglary charges. Zion Pastor Steve Bomar said worship was canceled Aug. 3 for police and fire investigations, but the congregation was back to meeting for its regularly scheduled service a week later, without adult Sunday school and other meetings. "The damage is minimal and can be repaired without too much trouble," he said. **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

## Peacemaking can be such a hassle

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*Trainings are 'war games' for nonviolent direct action.*

The text thread started buzzing around 8 a.m.: "ICE agents are inside the courthouse." The group chat, several hundred people strong, rippled with concern. After confirming that the anonymous person reporting this was at the courthouse, I messaged the leaders of the New Sanctuary Movement so they could pass on the warning to their immigrant members. I had a couple of hours before my first meeting, so I drove over to the courthouse. **Read the rest of Jay Bergen's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Tragedy follows nearly \$8 million loss

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For a year and a half, Abundance Canada — formerly known as Mennonite Foundation of Canada — has been dealing with the aftermath of financial misconduct by Rick Braun-Janzen, a senior staff member. **Read the rest of John Longhurst's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



Past Midweeks

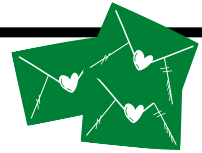
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Facility Use Agreement

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# 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>	<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 Community Life Commission, Outreach Commission, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, & Worship Commission; <a href="mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org">kevin@normalmennonite.org</a>
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Pastoral Team Lead & Pastor for Administration Commission, Discipling Commission, & Vision Team; <a href="mailto:lauren@normalmennonite.org">lauren@normalmennonite.org</a>

## Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

### 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

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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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