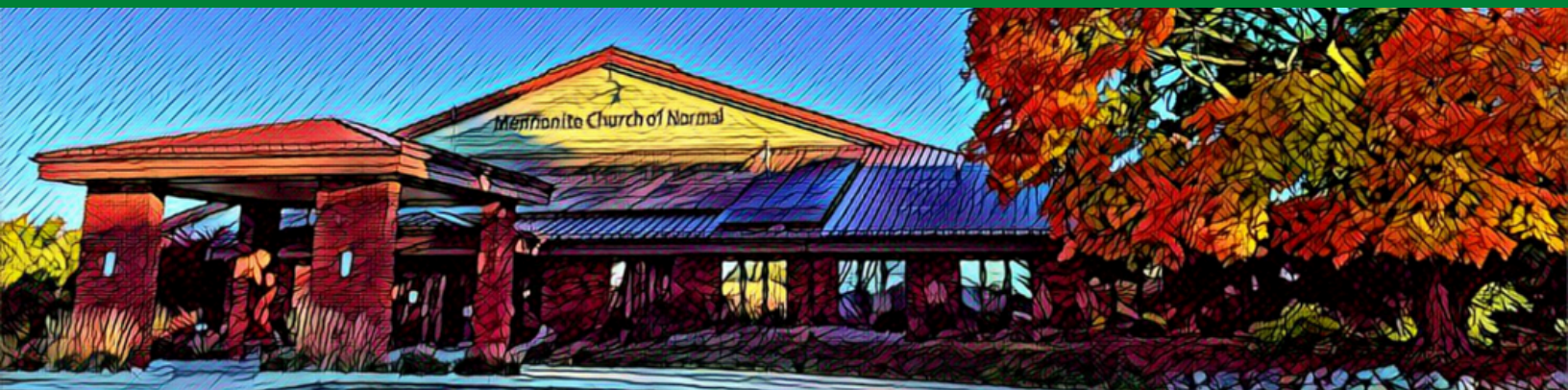


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *A Thing Worth Living In* using Leviticus 23:1-8.

Leviticus contains a meticulous set of practices and festivals that seem burdensome to us. But for the people it was also a gift of meaning and lasting memory--something more permanent in the context of impermanence. What gifts does tradition offer us today? How might we cultivate, rather than just repeat, our inherited faith?

After Worship

Adult CE

Rooms 5 & 7

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-1st Grads

2nd-5th Grades

Junior High

High School

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 Review

Today, September 17 at 6:00 pm

If you were unable to attend the August 24 guided listening and storytelling session, the Vision Team (VT) encourages you to join the next opportunity which will be over Zoom, tonight (Wednesday) at 6:00 PM. Please sign up at the link below so we can know how many will be participating. 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 today. **Please sign up [here](#)**. Those signed up will receive the zoom link through email by 5:00 PM. Any questions or comments can be directed to VT (Shelly, Ben, Helen, Shannon).

From the Vision Team

School Kit Pick Up



This Friday, September 19 at 1 pm

Our school kits will be picked up Friday at 1:00, and be on their way to MCC. We sure could use some help since some of the boxes are quite heavy. It should only take 1/2 hour. Let me know if you can help. Thanks. Louise.

Shared by Louise



Doris Shoemaker Memorial Service

This Saturday, September 20 at 10 am & 11 am

We express condolences to the family of Doris Shoemaker, who passed away Saturday night, September 13th. Doris was a long-time member of the Mennonite Church of Normal and was the mother of Lynette Miller. Read her obituary [here](#). Please remember Doris's family in your prayers as they grieve.

The Memorial Service will be held at the Mennonite Church of Normal at 11 am this Saturday, September 20th with a visitation at 10 am. The service will be livestreamed [here](#). A meal will follow.

Please contact Marge if you are willing to contribute to the meal. Needed: 10 salads (each to serve 10) and desserts.



Mum Fundraiser

Continuing this Sunday, September 21

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 started last Sunday, September 14th and will continue until all the mums are sold!** There are a variety of colors and they are 11 inches for \$20! Thanks!

Shared by the Discipling Commission

Emmanuel's Birthday Party



Saturday, September 20 from 6 pm to 9 pm

Everyone is invited to celebrate Emmanuel's Birthday on Saturday, September 20th from 6 pm to 9 pm at MCN. RSVP to Tanya. Dress Code: White.

Shared by Tanya

Vision Team Nominations



Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) asks you to prayerfully consider who God has prepared to help govern the congregation as a member of the Vision Team. We ask everyone to submit up to 5 names of members or associate members who they did not name in the recent nominations for Vision Team Chair-Elect. (Those individuals were not ready to serve on Vision Team at this time.)

You may make nominations [at this link](#) or one of the paper ballots placed on the table in the entryway of the church building. Please place those in Barry Weaver's mailbox. **Nominations will be open through September 26.** SGDT will then tally the nominations and discern who to contact. Please contact Barry (SGDT secretary) if you have questions.

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



Mennonite 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 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



Financial Report

Spending Plan Update



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)

From the Congregational Care Committee

Small Group Bible Opportunity at MCN: Orienting with the Word

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

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 are now available to take from the library table.** 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)

- **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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





Those Serving This Week



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 17

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

Thursday, September 18

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Saturday, September 20

10:00 am Visitation for Doris Shoemaker

11:00 am Memorial Service for Doris Shoemaker

6:00 pm Emmanuel's Birthday Party

Sunday, September 21

Wednesday, September 24

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

7:00 pm Vision Team & Administration Commission (Zoom)

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 (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.



Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop



You are invited to an Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop

Centering Prayer is a Christian method of meditation, based on scripture and Christian tradition. You'll learn the method of centering prayer, we'll practice two periods of prayer and discuss the benefits of the prayer in daily life.

When: Saturday, October 4, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: East Bay Camp, 24248 Ron Smith Memorial Highway, Hudson IL

Workshop Cost: \$20.00 or free will offering to cover costs. There will be follow up sessions to support you in your practice.



Making a noteworthy difference for students

Brand-new school supplies are bringing smiles to children all around the world. For kids in places like Burundi, pictured below, school supplies are more than an exciting back-to-school gift; they are a necessity. Some of the children are orphans and many others are too poor to buy their own school supplies. **Check out the impact made by Mennonite Central Committee School Kits [here](#).**

September Mass Call

Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm CDT

As we continue to witness genocide and mass starvation in Gaza and an authoritarian terror campaign against immigrant communities here at home, grief for the world around us sometimes feels too much to bear. Still, we know our faith anchors us. Faith in our community of fellow believers. Faith in our Anabaptist tradition's 500-year history of countering state violence. And faith in the action we take together, walking the path laid out for us by the radical teachings of Jesus. Mennonite Action invites you to gather your strength for the road ahead at our next mass call. **Register [here](#) to join on September 25 to pray, sing, learn, and strategize together.** The difficult political moment we're living through demands our persistence, our courage, and our commitment. The community we are building together through Mennonite Action is here to support you through this particular wilderness. Thank you for being here to build alongside us. Here's what you can expect to find at our next online gathering:

- Learn more about our upcoming tour. During the ["To Build Our Courage" U.S. Tour](#), our team will travel across the West Coast, Mountains and Plains regions, East Coast, and Midwest in four swings, meeting with Mennonite Action groups at every stop. We'll break bread together, hold worship services, and dive into critical training sessions to prepare your church to meet this moment. On our call, we'll provide reminders about where we'll be visiting and how you can register to join us.
- Hear stories from a powerful DC action. Earlier this month, about 100 Mennonite Action members from Lancaster, Philly, Baltimore, DMV, and Harrisonburg crowded into and around the office of Virginia Sen. Mark Warner — refusing to leave until the senator publicly called for an end to Israel's genocide and for an arms embargo on Israel. The police arrested 60 of us during this [peaceful act of civil disobedience](#). Join our mass call to hear directly from participants about the hard work that went into planning this day of action on Capitol Hill, and the strength that comes through taking action together.
- Get updates from this month's Courage School. Mennonite Action's [Courage School](#) is a four-week training series that aims to equip people of faith with the concrete skills required to organize for Palestine and all God's children in this political moment. These training sessions are running throughout the month of September. You'll hear from Courage School participants about the concrete tactics they've been learning and how they plan on applying these learnings in their own churches and communities.

Shared by Mennonite Action

Shame is not a part of self-care

This summer was wild. A number of big events preoccupied me and sent me into a sort of mental paralysis. Locally, ICE raids began to indiscriminately disappear brown folks, and armed forces were turned on civilians. Nationally, public institutions were gutted in ways that will take over a decade to rebuild. Internationally, Israel is using force to keep food and aid out of Gaza, and President Trump flirted with nuclear war with Iran. The mental paralysis led to me writing [Just Sustain Yourself](#). Living in that space is temporary, and in recent weeks I've been fighting to get out of that space and rebuild my routines and habits. As I'm trying to be myself again, I am fighting to restart my habits around food, activity and faith. **Read the rest of AJ Delgadillo's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

61 arrested calling on senator to stop starving Gaza

Sixty-one Mennonites from the mid-Atlantic region were arrested Sept. 9 outside Virginia Sen. Mark Warner's congressional office in Washington, D.C., for their peaceful refusal to stop singing. They gathered to invite Warner and his staff to commit to end the Israeli military siege of Gaza. Their singing served as a moral witness to "disrupt the collective conscience of members of Congress" over U.S. support of the carnage in Palestine. The action was organized by members of Mennonite Action hailing from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Warner's office was selected because some view him as persuadable on the issue and a majority of the group was from Virginia, including students from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg. "Hymn-singing is a deeply rooted practice for Mennonites," said Cynthia Lapp, one of the event's organizers and pastor of Hyattsville Mennonite Church in Maryland. "To do so in such a political civic space is a reminder that our faith is not constrained to our pews but also calls us to engage in public acts of peaceful witness."

Read the rest of Mennonite Action and Anabaptist World's article [here](#).

The last pastor in blockaded Sudan city holds out for remaining Christians

In the besieged Sudanese city of El-Fasher, Daramali Abudigin is staying on, even as random bombs, stray bullets and hunger kill members of his flock. The 44-year-old priest has kept St. Mathew, of the Anglican Church of Sudan, open to all Christians, after increased fighting has forced other pastors and priests to flee. Here, people live one day at a time, and if stray bombs and bullets do not kill them, hunger does not spare them, especially children. In May, the priest lost five church members who were living with him after the armed men randomly shot at the church compound. The deaths nearly moved him to abandon the city. "I didn't leave the church. In a while, I considered leaving, but I changed my mind. I am still staying with my flock. Whenever we lose a person, it makes me very sad," said Abudigin, who lives in the city with his wife and three sons. **Read the rest of Fredrick Nzwili's article for Religious News Service and published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**

Small-town seed planter

I've learned that my conduct is the most important part of the fight.

As a nonviolent Christian, I believe it's vital to define our terms clearly. Yes, we are committed to peace. But peace doesn't mean passivity. Paul reminds us we are engaged in a struggle — not against flesh and blood but the spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12). So, we do fight. The difference is that our weapons are not physical. Our enemy is not our neighbor. Our warfare is spiritual. Our weapons are truth, love, gentleness, prayer and faithful presence. This distinction is crucial, especially in an age of division. I fight for my community. I live in a small town in Kansas, where I've witnessed the rising influence of Christian nationalism. It creeps into church conversations, seeps into community values and warps the gospel into something that looks more like Caesar than Christ. My approach isn't confrontation but quiet resistance. I offer a different perspective. I nudge gently. I speak when it's wise. I listen when that's needed more. I try to embody a way of being that's neither defensive nor combative but unmistakably rooted in the kingdom of God. **Read the rest of Dennis Goossen's article for the Anabaptist World [here](#).**



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, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, & Worship Commission; kevin@normalmennonite.org
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Pastoral Team Lead & Pastor for Administration Commission, Discipling Commission, & Vision Team; lauren@normalmennonite.org

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!

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Facility Use Agreement

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
