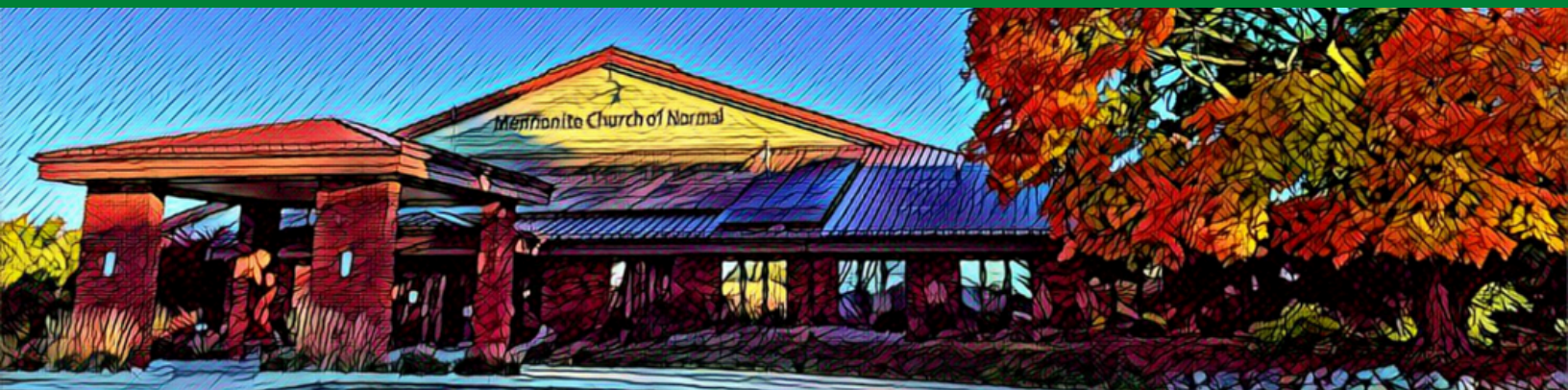


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Pillar Talk* using 1 Corinthians 9:19-27.

Ascetics tend to be drawn things like simplicity and solitude, but not for their own sake. Like Paul in 1 Corinthians, these efforts are part of a pursuit of God that can only be described as athletic. What are we inspired to release? How can we learn to notice and let go of things that hold us back?

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

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



Congregational and Pastoral Review

Sunday, October 5 during the CE hour

Please mark your calendars! The Vision Team will be hosting one more guided discussion and storytelling time during the Christian Education hour on Sunday, October 5. **Please plan to attend regardless of whether you did or did not attend on August 31.** The previous session, on August 31, centered around the ministry of Kevin Chupp. October 5th will center around the ministry of Lauren Satchwell. All are invited into this conversation! This is part of the Pastoral/Congregational Review process. During this time, you will be invited into small groups to share or simply listen as you feel led. If you have questions, you can reach out to a member of the Vision Team: Shelly, chair; Helen, Shannon, Ben

From the Vision 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

FreedUp Financial Planning Class



Oct 19 through Nov 23 during the Sunday School hour

The Community Life Commission has teamed up with Everence to offer the **FreedUp Program**, a six-week financial stewardship planning class during the Sunday School hour. The FreedUp program is a way to get your finances in order – and gain a deeper faith perspective on money.

When: Oct 19 through Nov 23 during the Sunday School hour

What to Expect:

Weekly Commitment: One hour each week using the FreedUp app (on your cell phone) and completing activities in a small workbook prior to Sunday morning.

- Sunday Mornings: Structured group discussions based on what you learned and worked on during the week.
- Personalized Approach: The program adapts to your current financial situation—whether you're struggling, stable, or secure.

Cost:

- The cost is \$19.
- Couples can participate together for one fee, but each person will receive their own workbook and have separate app access.

Interested in joining or learning more? Contact: Lotus by Oct 10

Information: Sunday Sept 28 & Oct 5 during Fellowship time.

From the Community Life Commission

MCN 50th



On September 26, 1976, First Mennonite Church (Normal) and Bloomington Mennonite Church met separately one final time and voted unanimously to merge to form Mennonite Church of Normal. After that came our building and many other accomplishments, moments of celebration and grief, and acts of service and outreach - among many other things. As we begin our 50th year as a church, we will celebrate this milestone with a Celebration Sunday on **September 27th, 2026**.

In preparation, we are looking to form a committee to plan and coordinate the 50th year celebration. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please let Ben or Pastor Kevin Chupp know **by October 15**, so planning can begin for events that could begin in January. If you have ideas for how we might celebrate next year, please consider joining the committee or share your ideas with us!

Alternative Gifts Fair



The Alternative Gift Fair is just around the corner. We have asked for catalogs to be sent, but if you're an early bird, the new Alternative Gift International catalog is available online [here](#). The MCC catalog will be available online beginning October 1st. We will make paper copies of each available when we receive them. Enjoy a peruse through each catalog and be thinking about which project you would like to highlight with a booth!

From the Outreach Commission



A Note from AC

On September 7 Mary shared a Ministry Moment from the Administration Commission about the development of the 2026 Spending Plan. AC is taking a new approach. Previously, Commissions sent their input to AC. Now, AC may make adjustments to ensure we can cover all upcoming expenses because our current plan is in the red by \$49,000. The changes in the process include:

- 5% cut in Spending Plan per Commission,
- No substantive changes once the 2026 Spending Plan is presented in November, and
- All Commission spending plans must be received by October 5. If the Commission, doesn't have a meeting scheduled before October 5, they are strongly encouraged to add a meeting as the Spending Plan will be finalized soon after that date.

If Commissions haven't spent all of their funds to date, they are strongly encouraged not to spend quickly before the end of the year. Information was sent to all Commission chairs on September 14.

We have some good news as we received a number of bequests from previous members of the congregation. We plan to use money from Harvella to recover the sanctuary chairs.

From the Administration Commission



School Kits

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to complete our 235 school kits. They were sent on their way to Indiana last Friday. MCC has collected over 29,000 kits this year to be distributed all over the world. Below is a thank you note from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). You can also read more [here](#). *From Louise*

Thank you for taking part in this year's MCC School Kit Challenge! Thanks to the work of people like you throughout the U.S. and Canada, we went well above our goal of 25,000 school kits for the 2025 challenge. Working together, you, your community and other devoted supporters packed 29,639 school kits! Each of the 29,639 school kits you shared will be a gift and treasure for a student dreaming of a bright future — and for the loved ones, teachers and community members dreaming alongside them. Thank you for being part of this year's School Kit Challenge. We hope you'll join us again next year! *From Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes*



Meal Train

Deb 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

Sharing Our Gifts Photos



Thank You

Thank you to all of you who offered condolences, sent cards, and expressed your love and concern for our family during the time of Mom's transition from this earthly life. It was much appreciated.

From Lynette



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 28** – Ascetics – 1 Corinthians 9:19-27
- **October 5** – Caregivers – Galatians 6:1-10
- **October 12** – Activists – James 1:19-27
- **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



Those Serving This Week





Sharing of Joys and Concerns



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



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.



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 25

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)

Thursday, September 25

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

3:00 pm Worship Commission (Zoom)

6:30 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, September 28

Wednesday, September 30

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 1

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries



Menno Haven's Fall Work Days

October 22 & 23 Wednesday
Thursday
November 8 Saturday



Meet at 8:00 am at Lakeview Lodge
Work projects end at 4:00 pm
Free continental breakfast & lunch are included!

*Let's come together to make a difference
for the Menno Haven Ministry*



Lodging is
available
upon request

RSVP

www.mennohaven.com/work-day
sheena@mennohaven.com
815-255-4649



CDC Lunch and Learn Immigrant Justice and Care

Tuesday, October 7 from 11 to 12 pm CDT

Are you or your congregation wondering how to engage with and support your immigrant neighbors? Are you already doing this work and looking for advice and resources? If so, Central District Conference invites you to attend an upcoming Lunch and Learn Zoom session sponsored by Central District on Tuesday, October 7th from 11 to 12 pm CDT. During this time we will hear briefly from several individuals and congregations who are working with immigrants in their community 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. Email Communications Coordinator Sarah Werner at sarah@mcusacdc.org with any questions. Join the Zoom Meeting [here](#).

MCC Webinar: Detained and imprisoned

September 30, from 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm CDT

On September 30, from 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm CDT, Mennonite Central Committee will host a [webinar](#) to discuss the overlapping systems of immigrant detention and mass incarceration. Through guided panel conversation, speakers will consider the shared historical underpinnings, current manifestations, and spiritual ramifications of our approach to enforcement in the U.S. Join us to learn why solidarity with affected communities is important and how you can get involved to interrupt systems of harm! **Register [here](#).**

Restoration Retreat

October 31 - November 2

How do we imagine rest and restoration for these times? What happens when we invite grief into the conversation? And what does any of this have to do with climate resilience? Join a weekend of wondering and wandering together with climate educators Meghan Reha and Josh Richardson in the peaceful woods of Camp Friedenswald. **For more information, schedule, and registration details click [here](#).**

Nostalgia's siren song

There's much to cherish in the past, but I want to look forward.

In this season of life (I'm 74), freeing myself from nostalgia is one of the biggest battles I face. It is a daily struggle — mental, emotional and spiritual. My wistful affection is not for the past as originally lived but as I reconstruct it now, often in rosier hues. My nostalgia doesn't take Sundays off. My wishful Mennonite mind can easily conjure a not-so-distant past of church pews filled, institutions thriving, marriages never ending in divorce. Now, there is nothing wrong with an occasional mental excursion into the past. Why would I teach history — an investigation into how the past has shaped the present — if it were not an instructive and enjoyable exercise? But nostalgia involves more than an outing to the past. It is an attempt to return and reside there, in what, I so quickly assume, had to be a simpler, better time than the messy present and uncertain future. How comforting, but how illusory. **Read the rest of J Robert Charles's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Is there a place in Mosaic for me?

Nearly 10 years ago, I approached a conference minister in what was then Franconia Mennonite Conference about becoming a pastor. During those conversations I disclosed my queer/bisexual identity. I was met with sympathy and understanding, but I could tell my identity would be a big barrier in the ordination process. The conference minister said, in effect, "I wish I could change things, but I can't. I wish our conference was more inclusive, but it isn't." I left that meeting frustrated: If this leader can't do anything, who can? Who can I turn to? Is there a place for me in Mennonite Church USA? Yes, there was a place for me: in an affirming congregation in a different conference, halfway across the country. I grew and learned there for several years, through pandemic challenges and pastoral transitions. My co-pastor and I were the first out queer clergy ordained in Western District Conference. And, yet, that conversation haunts me. I am now employed by a church in Mosaic Mennonite Conference in an interim capacity. The uncertainty generated by that conversation remains, as it does for many queer and affirming clergy and laity in Mosaic. Is there a place for me, for all of me? For us? I write today on behalf of Inclusive Mosaic Pastors to tell you: Yes... and no. **Read the rest of Christina Manero's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Mosaic Conference board recommends leaving Mennonite Church USA

Delegates to vote on proposal at Nov. 1 assembly.

The board of Mosaic Mennonite Conference is recommending the conference end its membership in Mennonite Church USA. Delegates will vote on the proposal Nov. 1. With about 7,500 members in 60 congregations, Mosaic is one of MC USA's largest conferences. Based in Lansdale, Pa., it has members from coast to coast. If Mosaic withdraws, it would be the sixth conference to do so — after Lancaster, Franklin, Southeast, North Central and South Central — since the denomination was formed in 2002 in a merger of two predecessors. The Mosaic board made the recommendation at its Sept. 15 meeting and announced it Sept. 18. A Mosaic release said the conference and MC USA "have been unable to reconcile significant differences around polity and intercultural practices." "Mosaic has been growing quickly, organically and in relational ways in Colombia, Mexico and beyond," Mosaic board member Haroldo Nunes said. "When we share these realities with MC USA, including the challenges that our non-English speaking pastors have, they are not readily responsive to our needs. By staying within this limiting structure and continuing to wait, our vision and mission is being impacted." **Read the rest of Paul Schrag's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

The targeting of journalists must cease

Journalist Hemn Mamanand was shot on a crowded public street in Sulaymaniyah by two perpetrators on a motorcycle. He sustained severe injuries to his elbow, and bullet fragments entered his abdomen. CPT-IK strongly condemns this attack and the ongoing escalation of force and violence against journalists and activists. **Read Community Peacemaker Teams - Iraqi Kurdistan's Facebook post [here](#).**

207 minutes of song

Five music ensembles from Mennonite World Conferences' five continental regions presented a concert in Zurich for the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. You can watch recordings of their indoor performances: from the spirited and catchy rhythms of EFC Choir from Kenya; to the tight acapella harmonies of the EMU Chamber Singers from USA; to the dramatic presentation and eastern melodies of TIARA from Indonesia; to the eclectic contemporary original compositions of Songs of Peace from Switzerland; to rock and roll with Latin flair from Agape Band from Paraguay. **Watch the performances [here](#).**

What songs are you still singing from worship at MC USA's Convention?

In a blog post for Mennonite Church USA, band leader Randall Koehler writes about how the Voices Together hymnal inspired him and his musical choices at MC USA's Follow Jesus '25 Convention. **Read Randall Koehler's blog post for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**



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!

Our Members in Care Facilities

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