

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Preaching Pines* using Genesis 1:1-2:4a.

In the first creation narrative in Genesis, God creates people after everything is already "good" by God's standards. God has gifts for all of us in creation, especially the naturalists among us--the first of the nine "sacred pathways." How do we encounter God in creation?

After Worship

Adult CE
Rooms 5 & 7

Children & Youth CE
Pre-K-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

Ecology and Sustainability in India: a presentation offered by Emily

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



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



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 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

Congregational and Pastoral Team Review

Thank you to all who participated in this past Sunday's guided listening and storytelling session. We witnessed the benefit of these worthwhile conversations and are committed to making this an option to those who were unable to attend. Another opportunity will be scheduled, most likely on Zoom, in the very near future and the Vision Team (VT) will send out that date as soon as it is scheduled. Any questions or comments can be directed to VT (Shelly, Ben, Helen, Shannon)

From the Vision Team



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 7** – Naturalists – Genesis 1:1–2:4a (same as NL text). Initial results of congregation shared.
- **September 14** – Sensates – 2 Corinthians 2:12-17
- **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, SGDT call for further feedback on series and last call for inventories.
- **November 10** – Pastor Kevin will work at compiling/collating information not yet accounted for



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.



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 3

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

Thursday, September 4

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

7:30 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Monday, September 8

5:00 pm Outreach Commission

Tuesday, September 9

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 3

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)



Anabaptism at 500: A Community Project!

Read a letter from John D Roth, projector director, and Mollee Moua, Managing Editor, recapping the Anabaptism at 500 project [here](#).

Online Short Course: Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology

October 22 – December 9

Oct. 22 through Dec. 9, join Jamie Pitts, PhD, to explore the birth and development of the Anabaptist movements in the 16th century in this six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. You'll be challenged to draw connections between the 16th century and your own life or ministry. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by Oct. 1 to save \$50! **Learn more** [here](#).

Mass Call Recap

Thank you to everyone who joined last week's call! You can watch the recording [here](#), and find all our links [here](#). For those who missed the big reveal... **Mennonite Action is going on tour!!**

The ["To Build Our Courage" U.S. Tour](#) will have our team traveling across the west coast, mountains and plains, east coast, and midwest in four swings, meeting with Mennonite Action groups at every stop. We'll enjoy food and worship together, and dive into critical trainings like Grassroots Organizing 101, Nonviolent Action 101, faith based non-cooperation in the authoritarian moment, and preparing your church to meet the moment in front of us. We're probably coming to a city near you- so [register to join us!](#) [Note: they will be at First Mennonite Church of Urbana on Thursday, October 16.]

We're super excited about the tour as our biggest project this fall, but that's far from the only thing we're up to. On the call, we discussed [Courage School](#), the four week long training series happening throughout September on Zoom. It's a great opportunity for you to gather a group of friends and join the sessions together. And when you show up for the tour, we'll build upon the framework and contextualize to your area.

While we may be in the midst of building, that's not stopping us from also moving: we have a regional action happening in Washington D.C. in early September, taking nonviolent action on Capitol Hill. We're sending a clear message that we refuse to accept business as usual during a genocide. If you have the ability and means, [consider joining us](#) in D.C. in just a few weeks.

The call also gave us the opportunity to learn more about recent action in MA Canada. We heard about their ongoing efforts building coalitions in Canada as well as an [upcoming event on community powered decolonization](#) with Sarah Augustine and Mennonite Central Committee Canada.

To fund all of this work, we're engaging congregations and asking for their support- including the church YOU attend! Keep a look out to learn about how you can ask your congregation to support this work financially. But you can start by asking your church to [make a donation to Mennonite Action](#). Thank you for all your support, and for making every aspect of this work possible. We're so grateful you're a part of the movement.

In peace, Mennonite Action

MC USA announces 2025 Bring the Peace award recipients

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) has awarded the 2025 Bring the Peace award to Joe Roos and Ciela Acosta. Earlier this year, MC USA requested people from across the denomination to nominate individuals from their church communities to be considered for the award. A committee of previous Bring the Peace award winners, then, choose a Legacy Peacemaker and a Young Peacemaker. A Legacy Peacemaker is someone who has dedicated themselves to life-long peacemaking in their communities and across the world, and a Young Peacemaker is a young adult or teenager who has already demonstrated a clear devotion to peace and justice work. The award is designed to draw attention to the peace and justice work that people within MC USA are doing, to encourage and inspire more people across the country to engage in similar endeavors. The award is sponsored by MC USA's [Church Peace Tax Fund](#). **Read the rest of Jessica Griggs's article for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Detentions, deportations multiply immigrants' fear

Congregations work to support families torn apart as asylum requests are dismissed.
A growing number of people detained or deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement are members of Anabaptist churches in the United States. In recent weeks, *Anabaptist World* heard stories by phone and email from across the country of families separated and congregations mobilizing to increase support for households that have lived in fear for years as they pursue legal status and peaceful lives. Dianne Garcia, pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Roca de Refugio (Rock of Refuge Christian Church), a Mennonite congregation in San Antonio, Texas, said that in her experience, every asylum seeker has good reasons to need sanctuary. "Almost everyone has suffered trauma that we can't even imagine here — the death of a loved one by a gang, the death or serious illness of a loved one due to inadequate medical care, years of abuse or domestic violence, years of not having enough to eat or being able to take care of your children adequately," she said. "Everyone has a horror story... Immigration to the U.S. is the result of pure desperation and a deep love for their children. It's not just hoping for a better life." **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Prayer of Lament

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, denominational minister for Peace and Justice, responded with a prayer of lament to last week's mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, in which two children were killed, and 17 other people were injured during a Mass to mark the first week of school. Read her prayer [here](#). For further engagement, see "[Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence](#)."

Shared by Mennonite Church USA

Healthcare and the "perfect storm" on the horizon

Duncan Smith, director of The Corinthian Plan, looks at changing governmental priorities and their impact on health and health/medical insurance — and how we can respond. **Read Duncan Smith's article for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

50-year friendship grows from Pennsylvania hayfield

What began as a simple gesture in the 1970s has grown into a cross-country friendship spanning decades, generations and nearly 3,000 miles. Back then, Clark Yoder of Oregon was serving with Mennonite Central Committee in Pennsylvania when he met an Amish family volunteering at MCC headquarters in Akron. Curious about Amish cooking and hoping for a good meal, Yoder offered to help them harvest hay. That spontaneous offer sparked a lifelong connection. **Read the rest of Cynthia Hockman-Chupp'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

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Facility Use Agreement

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
