

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *"Does Your Work Give You Joy?"* using Galatians 6:1-10.

Paul clearly thinks that our actions toward others are related not only to our faithfulness, but also our well-being. We can be drawn into service and caregiving out of necessity, but these acts are meant to bring us meaning and even joy.

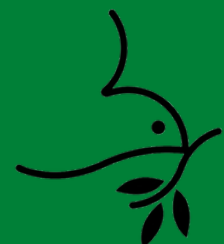
After Worship

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

Sunday, October 5 during the CE hour

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

MCN will be collecting donations for this project at the back of the sanctuary beginning this Sunday. View suggested products to donate [here](#). Learn about the national organization [here](#).

Shared by the Outreach Commission



Anabaptism Goes Global

Saturday, October 18 from 10 am to 12:30 pm

at the Mennonite Heritage Center, 675 State Highway 116 Metamora, IL

The Illinois Mennonite Historical Society welcomes historian Elizabeth Miller as our guest speaker for the IMHGS fall meeting. She is the Assistant Professor of History at Goshen College and head of the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism. She is from Central Illinois and has connections to several local Mennonite congregations. There will be a brief business meeting for members, followed by Elizabeth Miller's presentation, Anabaptism Goes Global. A light lunch and time for fellowship will follow. Open to the public. Free admission. Donations accepted. **Learn more** [here](#).



MDS Trip Sharing

October 19 at 5 pm

The Mennonite Disaster Service group who spent a week in West Asheville will be sharing some of their experiences and pictures on Sunday evening October 19 at the MRC Community Building at 5:00. Come and find out more about MDS.



MDS Annual Meeting

October 24 and 25

The Mennonite Disaster Service Region 2 Annual Meeting will be on October 24 and 25, 2025 at Penn Station in Arthur, Illinois. Contact Gerry for more information.

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

IL Relief Sale Sausage Sale



Once again, if you have been missing Mennonite Relief Sale Sausage it is available right in time for the holidays! Preorder sales for 1lb bulk and 1lb link packages of fresh sausage at the cost of \$6.00 per pound start **now through November 1** via the sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or [our sale website](#). You will also find Relief Sale Coffee for sale on the website.

Pick up time will be Saturday, November 22, from 7:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. at First Mennonite Church of Morton. Payment will be due at the time of pick up if not paid when pre-ordered by cash, cards, or checks. Ben has offered to pick up MCN orders in Morton and bring them to MCN for local pickup Sunday morning.

Prayers for our 68th Illinois Relief Sale, scheduled for March 20 and 21, 2026, as well as the procuring of auction items will be deeply appreciated. God bless you for your faithfulness!

"The end of suicide prevention month is never really the end of suicide prevention month"

Read a blog post from author Scott Erickson titled "The end of suicide prevention month is never really the end of suicide prevention month: some art, poems, prayers and thoughts about wanting to not be around anymore" [here](#). **Content warning:** suicidal ideation.

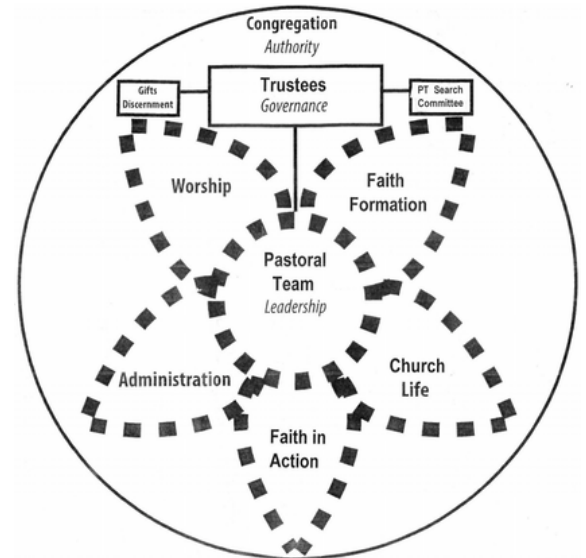
Shared by the Congregational Care Committee





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!



MCN 50th Factoids

Bite-sized pieces of our shared history leading up to our 50th anniversary celebration (September 27, 2026).

One of the biggest changes in recent years at MCN is our structure, which was changed in part to empower lay leadership in a non-hierarchical way. This still feels new to many of us, but has deep roots. Back in 1986, Central District Conference Minister Mark Weidner described pastor James Waltner's approach as "leading others into ministry rather than doing it all himself." Rachel Waltner Goosen described his role as a "diplomat" who worked at encouraging, drawing people together, while interpreting and communicating new ideas that came from within the community. (Meetingplace: A History of Mennonite Church of Normal, p. 114) It is heartening to know that this vision for shared ministry continues today!



Safe Harbor

Would you be willing to donate 2-3 hours per week to help at Salvation Army Safe Harbor homeless shelter? If, so call and ask for Kiowna Towns, Residential Services Director. If you have questions about what a volunteer does, you can ask Joe who volunteers there.

Shared by Joe
p. 5



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)

- **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



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.

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 1

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Thursday, October 2

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

7:00 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, October 5

11:00 am Congregational & Pastoral Review Session

Wednesday, October 8

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

1:00 pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

1:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)



The Gaza Sumud Flotilla Is in Serious Danger

Participants in the Global Sumud Flotilla trying to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza in defiance of Israel's blockade knew they were in danger of Israeli attacks — and that was before yesterday's drone attack. We spoke to one participant from the ship. **Read Branko Marcetic's article for Jacobin [here](#).**

Shared by Community Peacemaker Teams

Webinar: How to Organize a Movement

October 2 at 7:30 pm Central Time

The Binational Mennonite Climate Network (BACN) will host a webinar "How to Organize a Movement: A discussion with Sheri Hostetler" on October 2nd at 7:30 p.m. CT on Zoom. **Sign up [here](#)** for the Oct 2 event and/or to join the BACN mailing list. The will be looking at questions such as:

- What's the sweet spot for churches in creating a durable climate movement?
- How do you sustain a movement when other things are more pressing?
- How do we continue to build this movement in the midst of shifting public focus?
- Sheri Hostetler is cofounder of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and co-author (along with Sarah Augustine) of "So We and our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis."

Shared by Mennonite Church USA

POWER BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL 501 501

Voices of Reason
An indivisible group in McLean County

PRAIRIE PRIDE COALITION
PPC-IL.ORG

UUBN Social Justice Team

ACLU Illinois

NO KINGS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

12 NOON - 1PM

BCPA LAWN
600 N. EAST STREET
BLOOMINGTON

Peaceful non-violent protest rally

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

#NOWAR2025 CONFERENCE

WORLD BEYOND WAR.org

CPT

EXPLORING ABOLITION MOVEMENTS

OCTOBER 24-26 ON ZOOM

TRAINING: WE KEEP US SAFE



RACHELLE FRIESEN
COMMUNITY PEACEMAKER TEAMS

Launch of Through Their Lens exhibition!

CPT Palestine proudly opened "Through Their Lens", a 2-day exhibition In Hebron's Old City. The team gave extensive trainings to 8 students on how to reflect what they saw and turn it into photography. These photos were not professionally taken, but were raw, honest, and full of feelings. Alongside each students' photos are captions telling their stories. **See [Community Peacemaker Teams - Palestine's Instagram post here](#).**

Mennonite Action Mass Call Recap

Thank you to all who joined our September Mass Call last week! There were so many powerful stories shared about the work happening across North America, and looking ahead to what's to come. You can watch the recording of the call [here](#), for those who missed it. On the call, we had the chance to hear more about:

- [“To Build Our Courage” U.S. Tour](#), which begins in just over a week! If you haven't yet registered, we'd love to have you find your nearest stop and be a part of it. We'll break bread together, hold worship services, and dive into critical training sessions to prepare your church to meet this moment– so [register](#) today!
- **DC Arrest Action**– earlier this month, MA members refused to leave Sen. Mark Warner's office until the senator publicly called for an end to Israel's genocide, the latest coordinated effort in our civil disobedience. Hearing about their experience anchors us in our resolve to reject complicity, even as it requires our courage. You can read more about this [peaceful act of civil disobedience](#).
- Other updates from across the organization, from this month's online Courage School and how participants in Asheville leveraged the curriculum, to updates on community members detained by ICE .

As a community, we are seeking to testify of a God whose love transcends borders, who dismantles the systems of genocide and rejects the disenfranchisement of our neighbors. As Christian Nationalism seems to be on the rise around us, our time together anchors us in our Mennonite faith and nonviolent resistance. Thank you for your faithful witness in this work.

Shared by Mennonite Action

Virginia church encourages voting to love

Yard sign and magnet project a gentle reminder of how actions impact neighbors.

As the U.S. presidential election divided neighbors and families last fall, Dorothy Shank felt the conviction of Jesus' teaching in Luke 10 that the most important commandments are to love God and love neighbors. Dismayed by the fraught political and social climate, she wondered how she could offer a different perspective. The phrase that came to her was, “Vote to Love Your Neighbor.” Shank brought this idea to Ridgeway Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Va., and her congregation embraced it, ordering the first batch of yard signs and car magnets bearing those words on Sept. 16, 2024. The message invites people to pause and consider how everyday votes can be a witness of faith. Beyond elections, individuals and groups “vote” in daily actions and decisions — from which products to buy at which grocery store to simply getting to know the people living in the neighborhood. **Read the rest of Erin Conway's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Hope in a time of peril (webinar recording)

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition hosted a webinar on Sept. 10 to provide an overview of recent federal government actions, share stories of how immigrants are navigating incredibly difficult circumstances, and explain how people of faith are mobilizing boldly to stand for welcome. **Check out the recording [here](#)!**

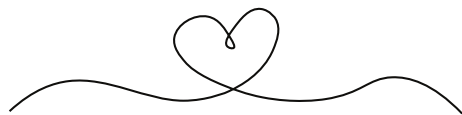
Shared by Mennonite Central Committee US National Peace & Justice Ministries

Opening Doors at Immanuel Mennonite Church

In 2023, eleven members of Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, VA, gathered several times to conduct an accessibility audit of our church. This audit led to several straightforward yet impactful changes to make our church spaces more accessible, such as replacing round doorknobs with lever handles to facilitate easier opening. Our largest project was undertaken the following year. It focused on improving the accessibility of our church entrance for people who may have trouble entering the building without assistance. We already had a gently sloped concrete walkway that leads from street parking spaces and connects to a curb cut. At the building end of this walkway, however, there was a short, narrow, metal ramp over the entrance threshold and a fairly heavy front door, both of which posed accessibility challenges. To address these, we applied for and were awarded an Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) Barrier Free Grant, which allowed us to help make two significant improvements. **Read the rest of Chris Moore's blog post for Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

SADRA's Women in Peacebuilding works to dismantle violence in South Africa

In August, [Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency \(SADRA\)](#), a Mennonite Mission Network partner, celebrated women's month by reflecting on the work done by SADRA's Women in Peacebuilding, with focus on the impactful work of conflict mediators trained between 2024-2025. The Women in Peacebuilding initiative follows in the footsteps of the Women's March on Aug. 9, 1956, when more than 20,000 women marched to the seat of governmental power in Pretoria, South Africa in a historic embodiment of unity, resilience, and strength to protest the systemic oppression of apartheid. **Read the rest of Sibonokuhle Ncube and Oscar Siwali's article for Mennonite Mission Network [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

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

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!

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
