

# ***THE MIDWEEK***



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

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *The Right Kind of Fool* using Ephesians 5:15-2.

Paul's encourages the Jesus followers in Ephesus to replace one intoxication with another—overindulgence in wine for being filled with the Spirit—with a brief note on what that might look like. With our Sacred Pathways in mind, maybe it is not our job to rewire enthusiasts, but to offer a worthy source for enthusiasm. Are we enthusiastic? Does it matter?

## **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

## Voting Results



The Vision Team is happy to share the results of the congregational vote regarding extending to Kevin Chupp a renewed three year call as full time pastor at Mennonite Church of Normal. 102 participants submitted responses, including members, associate members, and non-members. Among members and associate members, 92% voted to extend the renewed call (67% was required to pass). Adding in the feedback from non-members, 93% of all participants affirmed the renewed call to Kevin. Shelly spoke with Kevin last evening and he has accepted this call! Thank you to all who participated in this process!

*From the Vision Team*



## 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 **Saturdays, October 25, November 1, and November 8**. If you would like to participate, please sign up [here](#). If you have any questions, you can be in touch with Pastor Kevin at [kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org).

*From the Congregational Care Committee*

## 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 is available **now through November 1** via the sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or [the 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.

## Midwest Food Bank Volunteering



**Thursday, November 6 at 6:00 pm**

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is November 6 from 6-8pm. MFB wants us to sign up at least a week ahead of time to facilitate their project planning, so if you think you might go, **please sign up as early as possible using [this link](#)**. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

*From the Outreach Commission*

## The Art of Dining



**November 6 through 9**

Janet Wilson invites everyone to attend an upcoming play at Illinois State University titled *The Art of Dining*. It is the last play she will be directing at ISU before her retirement this summer. Learn more and buy tickets [here](#).



# Community Peacemaker Team Delegation

**Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm**

Plans have come together for Quinn to be sent on a Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) to go on a delegation to Palestine. Outreach Commission is able to support him using special funds that were set aside for that specific purpose, and we have been waiting for the opportunity to arise—which has been delayed due to the uncertainty of the situation there. Quinn is planning to join us at MCN on November 12th at 7:00pm to share about his trip. We invite you to pencil that in and we hope you'll join us!

*From the Outreach Commission*

## SAVE THE DATE!



**Sunday, November 16 after CE**

The 2026 Spending Plan hearing will be on Sunday, November 16. We anticipate that the Spending Plan will be available early so that questions can be addressed prior to the meeting. We will keep you posted.



## Alternative Gifts Fair

**November 16 & 23**

Newcomers to our church may be wondering what an Alternative Gifts Fair is. The first Alternative Gifts Fair, in 1980, was the idea of Harriet Prichard, Director of Children's Ministries at Pasadena Presbyterian Church in California. She wanted to model for the children a way of celebrating God's gift of love and joy at Christmas by giving gifts which could truly change lives. "Shoppers" shopped at booths or displays lovingly created by children and their parents highlighting a favorite project overseas. In return for their support of different projects, they chose cards and inserts describing the gifts being sent in honor of their loved ones. Our church has hosted an Alternative Gifts Fair every year since 2004, although it was online during Covid. The two agencies which choose and vet the projects we support are Alternative Gifts International and Mennonite Central Committee, organized in 1920 after the First World War. Our Fair will be held November 16 and 23 this year. Both Mennonite Central Committee and Alternative Gifts International giving catalogues are available on the library table. The AGI catalogue is available online [here](#) and the MCC one is available [here](#). We hope for us all to consider setting up a booth to highlight a favorite project to lift up folks struggling in seemingly unsurmountable circumstances around the world.

*From the Outreach Commission*

## No Kings Rally



Pam was quoted in a recent WGLT article about the No Kings rally last Saturday. Read it [here](#).

# You are invited!



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## Sunday, November 16

Darvis and Shelly are inviting everyone to a dessert reception to celebrate the marriage of Jonah and Ruby! Jonah and Ruby were married in Indiana on September 6 of this year. The open house reception will be on Sunday, November 16 at the church. If you have a moment to RSVP it will help with numbers, but an RSVP is not required for attendance. We hope you will help us celebrate this very special event!

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## To Build Our Courage Training

On Oct. 16, four members/friends of Mennonite Church of Normal participated in [Mennonite Action's 'To Build Our Courage'](#) training at First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana. As most Mennonite gatherings do, the evening included breaking bread and singing hymns together. But its main purpose and focus were to prepare participants on why and how to engage in direct action against the occupation of Gaza and the Palestinian genocide, and against illegal and/or inhumane ICE raids and detentions and increasingly authoritarian acts here at home.

A Mennonite Action staff person walked us through their slide set, and then, with the leadership from local church members, we broke into small group discussions to figure out how to handle a potential local scenario. We then prepared in two groups for and enacted all together a role play of a protest action at a local high school. We ended the evening with some notes on next steps and some concluding rituals.

Overall, it was a good and much needed community-building activity in these difficult times. Mennonite Action encourages MCN and other Mennonite church communities across North America to form local chapters of Mennonite Action. The Champaign-Urbana congregation has not yet but is probably well on its way to becoming one. MCN members could join it or partner with them to make it a central IL branch, or form a separate Bloomington-Normal MA chapter that, perhaps, plans some common actions or activities with the Urbana group. While it's a 50 minute drive between us, the travel time can also be rich a community-building activity for participants as it was this time.

*Shared by the Outreach Commission*



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## MCN 50th Factoids

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

Eugene G. Covington, a physician and surgeon, moved to Bloomington from Virginia in 1900 to establish a family practice. The Ku Klux Klan had widespread following in Bloomington-Normal in the early 1920s, which created many limits on where black people could live, eat, shop, and work. However, Covington had full privileges at Mennonite Hospital—home to the careers of many from MCN and the congregations that preceded it. You can read Bill Kemp's article about Covington [here](#).

## From the Outreach Commission

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- **No Kings Rally** – Many MCN people attended the No Kings rally in Bloomington at the BCPA to peacefully demonstrate opposition to US administration policies. This was part of a worldwide demonstration. People I spoke with at the rally feel like this is very difficult, troubling time in our country. A time when we need to speak out wherever we can to get things going in a different direction. This was a wonderful world wide community event.
- **Mennonite Action** – Several MCN people attended a “Build our Courage Tour” on October 16th in Urbana organized by Mennonite Action. We will hear more about this at a Mennonite Action Mass call at 7:00 pm this Thursday, October 23rd. Please use the following link to attend this mass call virtually: Mass Call next week, October 23rd 5 PM PT / 8 PM ET
- **Community Peacemaker Teams** – Quinn will leave next week on a CPT Delegation to Palestine starting October 28th and ending on November 7th. After his return, Quinn will make a presentation about his trip at MCN at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 12th. And since he lives out of state and cannot make a presentation on a Sunday in November or December, he will make a second presentation on a Sunday evening in late January or early February 2026.
- **Widows’ Cruse** – In addition to the food donated in the grocery cart in the MCN library to the Mt. Pisgah Food Pantry, we also donated \$500.00. Cal and Vivian have coordinated this effort to feed people in need for MCN.
- **Mennonite Disaster Service** – Please think about going on an MDS trip in 2026. MCN members went on an MDS trip to Ashville, NC on August 17th and shared their experiences on Sunday, October 19th at the MRC. This team was led by Gerry and Steve.
- **MCC School Kits** – Louise led a successful MCC School Kits challenge again this year which provided 235 kits to MCC.
- **Alternate Gifts Fair** – Meredith, Pam, and Mark are coordinating the Alternative Gifts Fair this year. It will take place on November 16th and 23rd.
- **Home Sweet Home Bridge Project** - Matt Burgess, CEO of Home Sweet Home Ministries (HSHM), will do a presentation at the worship service on November 9th about their tiny homes project which is to build homes for people without homes. The challenge is for MCN to raise \$13,500 which is the cost to build one tiny home. We are asking people to make an out of budget contribution to MCN and designate it to “HSHM” for tiny homes.
- **Making Good Trouble** – See the photo above of several MCN people at the No Kings Rally on October 18th making good trouble!

*In Peace, Phil, Chair of Outreach Commission*



# Marge



## CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This month's issue of the Connector features stories about an interdenominational VBS in Harrisonburg, VA, a reflection on caring for pastoral wellbeing by Rachel Ringenberg Miller, and an introduction to our new two-year vision statement: Rise Up! Take Courage! **If you would like a paper copy, they are now available to take from the Library Table.**



## 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)), **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



**Anniversaries**

**Birthdays**

## 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](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.

# This Week at MCN



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A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

## **Wednesday, October 22**

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

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

**6:30 pm** Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

## **Thursday, October 23**

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

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

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

## **Sunday, October 26**

## **Tuesday, October 28**

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

## **Wednesday, October 29**

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

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



*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*





## BEYOND the STATE

The Role of Civil Society in  
Peacebuilding Transitions  
from Negative to Positive Peace

**October 29, 3:30 pm**

Milner Library

Floor 2 Speaker's Corner

*Refreshments Provided*



Lecture and Q&A with journalist

**Emma DeSouza**

Emma DeSouza is a journalist, peacebuilder, and civic innovation specialist. She is the Founder and Co-Facilitator of participatory democracy structure The Civic Initiative, Director of the Northern Ireland Emerging Leaders program with the National Committee on American Foreign policy, and a consultant on peace processes and civic innovation.

This event is sponsored by the Harold K. Sage Foundation and the Illinois State University Foundation Fund.

Hosted by the Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies program and the Illinois State University chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA).

*If you need an accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Michelle Neuffer at [mgneuff@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:mgneuff@IllinoisState.edu). Please allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation.*

## CDC Coordinator of Church Safety

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Central District Conference leadership is excited to welcome Kristin Thomas Sancken as our Coordinator of Church Safety. This is a new position serving approximately 8-10 hours per week. (The job description can be found [here](#).) Kristin began on October 15. Kristin and her family live in Charlottesville, VA where they are currently members of an Episcopal Church. Her family formerly attended Charlottesville Mennonite and her spouse grew up at First Mennonite Church, Champaign-Urbana, a CDC congregation. Kristin has a Doctorate in Ministry from Western Theological Seminary (Holland, MI). Her thesis was, "Maternal Inheritance: Interrogating the Divine in Stories of Intergenerational Trauma and Sexual Abuse." Kristin also has a Master of Social Work degree from Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond). Kristin spent part of her childhood in Central and South America and is fluent in Spanish. Kristin's role has two primary responsibilities:

- Kristin is our educator, resource person, and go-to person for Church Safety policies and procedures. She is available to review your church policies, train congregational leaders, and provide counsel and support.
- Kristin will work closely with MC USA leadership to follow up on all accusations of ministerial misconduct according to our new [Prevention and Accountability Resource](#). Reports of abuse or misconduct can be directed to Kristin ([churchsafety@mcusacdc.org](mailto:churchsafety@mcusacdc.org)) or Conference Minister, Doug Luginbill ([doug@mcusacdc.org](mailto:doug@mcusacdc.org)).

Kristin states, "I'm deeply honored to serve Central District Conference in this role. It uniquely aligns with my background as a social worker and communicator committed to trauma-informed ministry. I'm eager to contribute to the health and safety of congregations and pastors through this work."

*Shared by the Central District Conference*

## The Human Rights Museum built on stolen land

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Located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, sits the Museum of Human Rights. The name makes it sound like Canada is progressive for having such an institution. Questions remain as to whether this museum serves instead as a feel good experience, allowing us comfort, situating human rights violations as something in the past that we have remedied.

**Read Katrina Matthies's article for Community Peacemaker Team [article here](#).**

## Ambiguities of peacemaking

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*From the Vietnam War to social justice today, there's clarity and quandary.*

Question: What would you fight for? Answer: Nothing. Jesus said his followers would not fight, because his kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36). So, I literally won't fight for anything, and using the word "fight" metaphorically often has dangerous connotations. But I am passionate about peace. I felt that God called me to go to Vietnam in 1968 as a peacemaker during the war there, but I ran like Jonah. Finally, I bargained with God to allow me to attend seminary first so I could more clearly know the biblical basis for my beliefs. Peace is more than the absence of war. **Read the rest of James Klassen's article for the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Not a costume: facing ICE in Illinois

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I rarely wear a shirt with a clerical collar — or anything else that indicates I'm ordained clergy. In my little Mennonite congregation, everyone knows I'm their pastor, and besides, among the priesthood of all believers, we are all called, and I don't want to look pretentious. But when a colleague from another church asked me to join her for a prayer vigil outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Broadview, Ill., on Oct. 3, I understood the assignment. I put on a cross necklace and dug a clerical shirt out of the back of my dresser drawer. And I prepared a borrowed gas mask, just in case. For nearly 20 years, a small group of mostly Catholic Christians has gathered to pray outside the Broadview ICE building, located just outside Chicago, every Friday morning. But since September, when the president authorized the Operation Midway Blitz immigration enforcement initiative focused on the greater Chicagoland area, those faithful few have been joined by many others alarmed about the unjust and often terrifying treatment of our immigrant neighbors. **Read the rest of Kristin Loeks Jackson's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Policing at Bethel supports shalom

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In April 2019, the Bethel College Board of Directors adopted the following vision statement: "Bethel College graduates students who increase human flourishing (shalom) in society by owning and enacting their faith, demonstrating compassion for the powerless, engaging in critical thought and bringing value to the workplace." Fast forward to one year ago, near the start of the fall 2024 semester. The Bethel campus was experiencing a series of disruptive events. Some were petty crime: breaking into cars, siphoning gas. A few, however, were clearly intended to threaten individuals or groups: loosening lug nuts on a car, vandalizing appliances in a residence hall, misogynistic graffiti scrawled in public spaces. Taken altogether, these incidents disrupted the "shalom" of the Bethel campus. Members of a community cannot flourish when they are concerned about their safety or the security of their belongings. For that reason, college leaders reached out to the North Newton, Kan., police to request an expansion of their normal drive-throughs to include foot patrols as well. This touched a nerve among Bethel stakeholders. Students organized protests and other campus engagement around the issue; board members received scores of emails and letters. Some alumni threatened to withhold contributions or to discourage their children from attending Bethel. More recently, AW writer Sarah Augustine devoted part of [her August column](#) to questioning the propriety of police on campus, and [letter writers added their comments](#) in the September issue. For these reasons, we are grateful to Anabaptist World for giving Bethel College this space to explain why we feel police patrols are consistent with our vision of shalom and our long-standing commitment to Anabaptist principles. **Read the rest of Wynn Goering's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Everence ToolKit

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Read Everence's Fall 2025 edition of their ToolKit [here](#). (Also available [En Español](#).)

## MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries

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After two years of genocide in Gaza, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) welcomes the news that Israel and Hamas have signed a ceasefire deal. The deal brings new hope—but it must signify a new beginning and not a return to the status quo. A just peace will require Palestinians to have full self-determination. MCC has stood faithfully with our partners, working together to meet the immeasurable humanitarian needs caused by the genocide. We remain concerned that, under the current ceasefire plan, only those organizations approved by the Israeli government will be allowed to deliver humanitarian aid in Gaza. We will continue to urge U.S. policymakers to push Israel to make the ceasefire permanent, fully open humanitarian access into Gaza, and provide for a Palestinian-led reconstruction. Please continue to cry out with us for a lasting peace. Take action for peace: [Continue to call for peace and restoration in Gaza](#) and [Rising violence in the West Bank](#).

*Shared by Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries*

## MDS Canada appoints next executive director

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Mennonite Disaster Service Canada has appointed Reynold Friesen to be its next executive director. He will succeed Ross Penner, who has served as executive director since 2015 and will retire in March. Friesen is director of alumni, church and donor relations at Canadian Mennonite University and will begin his new role at MDS Canada in February. Before taking his job at CMU in 2021, Friesen was agency manager at Harvest Manitoba, directing a staff and volunteer team supporting more than 200 food banks, soup kitchens and other non-profit agencies across Manitoba. Prior to that role, he was pastor of community ministry and pastor of youth and young adults at Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg. He also served as director of Silver Lake Mennonite Camp in Ontario and as assistant pastor of the Vineland United Mennonite Church in Ontario. "I'm excited to be part of an organization which has a practical approach to living out faith," said Friesen, who served with MDS as a volunteer in Manitoba in 1997 and in Crisfield, Md., in 2015. **Read the rest of John Longhurst's article for the *Anabaptist World* and Mennonite Disaster Service [here](#).**

## Take a seminary course this spring with AMBS

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**January 13 through May 1**

Take a seminary course this spring! Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's distance-friendly options include Biblical Foundations for Peace and Justice; Faith Formation and Spirituality: Adults and Seniors; Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations; Numbers: Encountering Wilderness; Practicing and Embodying Nonviolence; Spiritual Practices: Play and Rest; and more. In-person courses are also available. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first six credit hours. Courses run Jan. 13 – May 1; **sign up [here](#) by Jan. 5.**



# 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

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Building Open:</u>    | <b>Standard Hours:</b><br>Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM & 1:30PM-3PM<br><br><b>Pastor Kevin designated office hours:</b> Wednesdays, 8am-12pm<br>(or call to plan a visit)                               |
| <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,<br>Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, & Worship Commission;<br><a href="mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org">kevin@normalmennonite.org</a> |
| <u>Lauren Satchwell:</u> | Pastoral Team Lead & Pastor for Administration Commission,<br>Discipling Commission, & Vision Team;<br><a href="mailto:lauren@normalmennonite.org">lauren@normalmennonite.org</a>                 |

## Commission Meeting Minutes

## 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

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Facility Use Agreement

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Past Midweeks

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Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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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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