

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *What Indeed Has Athens to Do with Jerusalem?* using Colossians 2:6-15.

As we wrap up our series on Sacred Pathways, we consider “Intellectuals”—those whose faith and sense of connection with God are energized by new understanding. The church has been profoundly shaped by powerful thinkers throughout history and yet, Paul wanted people to know that not all systems of thought are created equal. How might our intellect relate to our faith? How do we imagine we are guided by faith and are not simply delusional?

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

After Worship

Adult CE

Rooms 5 & 7

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K–1st Grads

2nd–5th Grades

Junior High

High School



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

"Fall Back"



This Sunday, November 2

Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour this Sunday as Daylight Savings Time ends!



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 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.

From the Congregational Care Committee

1L Relief Sale Sausage Sale



Last chance!

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 today using [this link](#)**. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

From the Outreach Commission

Hiking the Appalachian Trail: A presentation by Rick & friends

Sunday, Nov 9 at 5:00 PM at the MRC Community Building

Rick dreamed of hiking the 2,190-mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. He began the walk in Georgia in 2015 and has now completed 3/4 of the trail. To complete the dream, he has portions of the trail in three states, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine yet to go. Often one or two friends joined him on the trail. Come see some pictures and hear some stories from Rick and two friends who joined him on the trail.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission



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

Spending Plan Hearing



Sunday, November 16 after CE

Please take some time to review the 2026 Spending Plan before the hearing on November 16th. The intention of sending it out so early before the hearing is to give people time to ask any questions you might have before the day of the hearing. **You can view the proposed 2026 Spending Plan [here](#).** Members of the Administration Commission will be available after Worship again this Sunday, November 2 to answer any questions. You are also welcome to reach out to Mary by email.

From your Administration Commission: Mary (chair), Heath, Mark, Cindy, and Lauren (pastor)



Alternative Gifts Fair

Sundays, November 16 & 23

Every year Alternative Gifts International returns a portion of everyone's contributions to the community in which the Fair is held. Last year AGI sent \$400 to the Salvation Army Safe Harbor Shelter in Bloomington. Our Alternative Gifts Fair is November 16 and 23. If you have chosen a project for a booth, please let Mark know.

From the Outreach Commission

the YMCA

MULTIFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE 2025

November 23rd | 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Join us for a service revolving around what unites us with a focus on community and camaraderie. Refreshments will be provided in the Community Room afterward.

- ASL Interpreter will be present
- A freewill offering for the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign will be taken.

LEARN MORE BNYMCA.ORG

You are invited!



Sunday, November 16, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm

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, from 2:30 to 4:30 PM 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!



Moving

Claire, my daughter, is moving out of the house to a small house in Champaign, where she works. This is her first move away from home. She has a set of dishes from my mother and a few other odds and ends. I think she would feel loved if church friends provided some items for her. Feel free to connect with me about any other items you might suggest. We don't mind if you're downsizing and wish to contribute from your extras. Might you also share a recipe with her?

From Mary

MCN 50th Factoids



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

The singular Yelp review of Mennonite Church of Normal offers 3 out of 5 stars following a visit 11 years ago. The reviewer was disappointed that MCN was not more like "traditional Mennonites," which they imagined as rejecting all cultural material aside from what is useful for worship and "a very austere dress code." This may make us chuckle as many of us are familiar with differentiating ourselves from our historical/theological cousins in the Amish tradition. However, adding to the confusion, we partner with Amish folks for which of the following?

- A) Mennonite Central Committee
- B) Mennonite Disaster Services
- C) Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale
- D) Everence
- E) Pastor Kevin Chupp
- F) All of the above

The Answer is F, all of the above! Those of you who have been involved with those organizations have likely noticed these connections. You may not have known that Pastor Kevin's paternal grandfather, Menno Chupp, was raised Amish before marrying a Mennonite woman. *Image from the Museum of International Folk Art.*

Sharing Our Gifts Photos



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). **November 2:** Intellectuals – Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33 and **November 9:** Return to Narrative Lectionary



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



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.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 29

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 30

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Sunday, November 2

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Tuesday, November 4

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 5

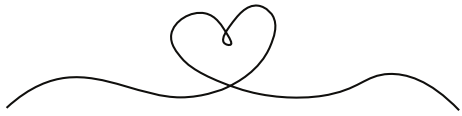
9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries



Those Serving This Week





MCC immigration training sessions

November 4, 11, 18, or 25 at 6 pm CT

Churches are called to be places of peace, welcome, and safety for all. Yet, with recent changes to immigration enforcement policies, faith communities are facing new challenges in protecting and accompanying immigrant neighbors. Join Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) Immigration Network for a special two-hour virtual training designed to help your church understand immigration enforcement, know your legal rights as a faith community, and develop a plan of action in case immigration agents show up at or near your congregation. Just like we make a fire drill plan for our church, our churches can make an ICE response plan to keep our neighbors safe. Through this training, participants will:

- Learn what "sensitive locations" are and how immigration enforcement policies have changed.
- Explore how to create a church response plan and understand your rights under the law.
- Learn how community-led Rapid Response Networks operate to support families and document ICE activity.
- Reflect on how our faith calls us to respond with courage, hospitality, and solidarity.

Two sessions will be in English and two in Spanish. Each session will provide the same content. **English:** November 4 & 25. **Spanish:** November 11 & 18. **Time:** 6:00–8:00 PM (Central Time) Location: Online via Zoom. **Register [here](#).** The training sessions will be led by Abraham Díaz Alonso, Immigration Program Coordinator with MCC Central States, who works regionally and, in the U.S.-Mexico border region to equip churches in advocacy, accompaniment, and immigrant protection. Together, we can prepare our churches to respond with compassion, wisdom, and peace.

Shared by the Mennonite Central Committee Immigration Network

Webinar series: Find your way at AMBS!

Tuesdays, 7–7:30 p.m. CT

How can faith speak to issues that matter? Gain inspiration and insight from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary faculty in these webinars geared toward young adults:

- **Nov. 18:** Find Purpose in the Mission of God, [Joe Sawatzky](#), PhD, Core Adjunct Faculty
- **Jan. 20:** Find Hope in the Midst of Despair, [Jackie Wyse-Rhodes](#), PhD, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible
- **Feb. 17:** Find Meaning in Life, [Sunghyun Lee](#), PhD, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Psychology

Attend any or all of the webinars! Register [here](#) to receive the link. Please share about the webinars above with young adults who may be interested in these topics!

New global Anabaptist history series deepens understanding of God's work in the world

In 1922, when Rebecca Sengu was about 14 years old, she defied her parents and enrolled herself in the Mennonite girls' school at the Nyanga mission station in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She mustered the courage for this act, because she had heard about a God who loves girls as much as boys, and she was willing to challenge societal norms to follow such a God. In church, Sengu was an assertive woman. She would debate with the male church leaders in meetings about the importance of women taking their God-given places in the church. Sometimes, she would preach. Mundedi is also one of the writers for a new Mennonite World Conference biographical history series, *Global Anabaptist Forebears*, edited by Anicka Fast, who is serving with Mission Network. **Read the rest of Lynda Hollinger-Janzen's article for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Microbe or pathogen?

A typical adult human body, I recently learned, contains more microbial cells than human cells. Indeed, non-human cells — bacteria, viruses, and fungi, collectively known as the human microbiome — comprise roughly 57% of our bodies. Most of the time, these organisms live in a symbiotic relationship with the human body. Among other things, they aid in digestion, regulate the immune system and protect against pathogens. But occasionally some of those same microbes threaten the body in the form of infection and disease. In *Foreign Bodies: Pandemics, Vaccines and the Health of Nations* (Ecco, 2023), cultural historian Simon Schama details the fascinating story of this delicate balance, especially as it has played out in modern pandemics such as smallpox, cholera and the plague, which have led to the deaths of untold millions. Schama's primary focus is on the counterintuitive, frequently controversial discovery that small doses of those same lethal diseases, administered in the form of inoculations or vaccines, can provide immunity against the diseases themselves. Paradoxically, the thing that seems to threaten the body most also bears within itself the promise of health. I've been pondering these mysteries ever since, not only for their biological complexity but also as a rich metaphor of our own complicated social, political and religious moment. **Read the rest of John D. Roth's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

West African peacemaker uses art and music to counter radicalization of youth

I grew up in Goro, a small, close-knit community in northern Benin, where my grandfather was the village chief. We are members of the Fulbe tribe, one of the largest ethnic groups in West Africa, numbering more than 45 million people. Because of my paternal lineage as nobility, I was expected to follow in my grandfather's footsteps. But I wanted to become a musician. Musicians are part of a different caste in the social hierarchy of the Fulbe people. This caste includes goldsmiths, praise singers, musicians, cobblers and weavers, who serve the nobility. It was taboo for me to become a singer. But God gave me talent, and I loved music! **Read the rest of Daniel Dama's blog post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

I'll be the judge and look in the mirror

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and destroy the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath so that we may offer wheat for sale, make the ephah smaller, enlarge the shekel and deceive with false balances, in order to buy the needy for silver and the helpless for sandals and sell garbage as grain?" The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget what they have done. Amos 8:4-7. The title above this passage in the Contemporary English Bible is "Judgment on Oppressors and Hypocrites." I'm on board with that. I'm quick to pass judgment, and maybe you are, too. Currently, in many Mennonite circles, we talk about those who oppress, rob, swindle and cheat. We protest. We call our legislators. We preach about the evils of empire and the sins of the world. There's much to pass judgment on. The brand of Christianity that many people see right now is, quite frankly, an embarrassment. Christians engage in the activities Amos describes, holding contempt for the marginalized and the poor. But lately, I've wanted to hold a mirror to my church — and, in that, hold a mirror to myself. It's easy to point to other churches. Churches that aren't as "evolved" and "social-justice oriented" as we are. We can list our virtues: We take part in Mennonite Action. We've formed an antiracism task force. We give to those in need. These are all great things, but none of us is blameless for making church too great a burden for some to bear. For example, in several churches I've attended, it feels as if there's a certain income threshold needed to belong. I've been told to move because I was sitting in someone's regular seat. People of color have been tokenized — placed in roles to satisfy antiracism criteria — to make certain people feel better about themselves. I don't say this to condemn, because I take part in this as well. **Read the rest of Joanne Gallardo's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Sowing Seeds: J.D. Graber and the Vision for Global Anabaptism

In Sowing Seeds, "Mr. Missions of the Mennonite Church" points the way forward. *Sowing Seeds: J.D. Graber and the Vision for Global Anabaptism* is a biography of "Mr. Missions of the Mennonite Church," who began 43 years of mission engagement when he and his wife Minnie (Swartzendruber) Graber traveled to India in 1925. Their sending agency was Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities (MBMC), a predecessor agency of Mennonite Mission Network. **Read the rest of Lynda Hollinger-Janzen's blog post for Mennonite Mission Network or watch the video [here](#).**

Wings to Fly

Mukarabe's powerful story started with parents who believed in her. Now she empowers others to heal trauma, build livelihoods, collaborate across differences, and strengthen systems. Hers is an incredible journey of a girl nearly denied education becoming a scholar, minister, and leader for peace. She continues her story in sisterhood, affirmed by our faithful commitment to [International Women's Fund \(IWF\) scholarships](#). Read her story, peaking into the way God works through us when we—leaders, donors, and sisters—choose to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. **Read Mennonite Women USA blog post by Mukurabe Makinto-Inandava [here](#).**

Abu Ghraib is closed but dissidents are still imprisoned

In the name of spreading democracy and deposing Saddam Hussein, the US Army – after its occupation of Iraq – continued the legacy of Abu Ghraib, filling it with those they perceived as threats to their power. The CPT Iraq team had a presence in Baghdad, and in October 2002 it was the first organization to report about the torture and mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners by the occupation forces. Abu Ghraib prison was closed down in 2014. It was a place of repression and abuse over 54 years. In Iraq, like many other places, dissidents are still repressed, face constant threats, abuse and sometimes assassination for speaking up against injustice and restriction of freedoms. CPT Iraqi Kurdistan continues the accompaniment work that was begun by those who came before us, and keeps working against human rights violations and abuses. **Read the rest of Community Peacemaker Teams' post [here](#).**



Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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!

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open:

Standard Hours:

Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM & 1:30PM-3PM

Pastor Kevin designated office hours: Wednesdays, 8am-12pm
(or call to plan a visit)

Lydia Hedberg:

Office Administrator; church@normalmennonite.org; 309-452-6622

Rita Munkakusi:

Custodian

Kevin Chupp:

Pastor for Community Life Commission, Outreach Commission,
Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, & Worship Commission;
kevin@normalmennonite.org

Lauren Satchwell:

Pastoral Team Lead & Pastor for Administration Commission,
Discipling Commission, & Vision Team;
lauren@normalmennonite.org

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Facility Use Agreement

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
