

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *The Stone Broken Off from the Mountain* using Isaiah 9:1-7.

Isaiah did not shy away from confronting corrupt rulers, but pointed out when they were careening toward destruction. Neither did Isaiah shy away from utopian level hope. A timelier dynamic is hard to imagine. What gives Isaiah the ability to hold both extremes and the courage to speak them loudly? Which is more difficult for us?

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



Community Peacemaker Team Delegation

Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm

Quinn has recently returned from a Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) delegation to Palestine. Outreach Commission was able to support him using special funds that were set aside for that specific purpose. Quinn is planning to join us at MCN on November 12th at 7:00pm to share about his trip. We hope you'll join us!

From the Outreach Commission

Spending Plan Hearing



This Sunday, November 16 after CE

Please join us for the Spending Plan Hearing on Sunday, November 16! It will follow a potluck meal hosted by the Fellowship Committee and be available to join both in-person and on Zoom. Please take some time to review the 2026 Spending Plan before the hearing on November 16th. Our hope is for people to ask any questions you might have before the day of the hearing. **You can view the proposed 2026 Spending Plan.**

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



Congregational Meal

This Sunday, November 16 after CE

There will be a potluck meal prior to the Spending Plan Hearing this Sunday. Please plan to bring a dish as follows. Feel free to trade with some if you want to bring something different than your assigned grouping.

- Last names A-H for soup or main dish. Enough to feed 6-8
- Last name I-P Salads, enough to feed 6-8
- Last name Q-Z, desserts enough to feed 6-8

From the Fellowship Committee



Alternative Gifts Fair

Sundays, November 16 & 23

Our 2025 Alternative Gifts Fair opens this Sunday, November, 16 and concludes November 23. Our best thanks to the 7 families who are highlighting 8 projects offered by either Mennonite Central Committee or Alternative Gifts International, together all making our Fair possible! Shopping lists for both AGI and MCC were in church mailboxes last Sunday, and also a Children's Shopping List featuring items from both catalogues. Fuller information on all the projects can be found in the MCC and AGI catalogues on the table in the library and also on their websites, [MCC here](#) and [AGI here](#). Our Alternative Gifts Fair is an opportunity to honor our loved ones at Christmas by giving for them a life-changing gift of hope and joy which reflects Christ's love for us all. Shoppers choose cards and receive inserts describing the gifts they are sending on behalf of their loved ones. Checks should be made out to Mennonite Church of Normal, and all gifts are tax-deductible. Our Fair is another way to lift up the light of God's love in a hurting world. *From the Outreach Commission*



IMC Withdrawal

Sunday, November 23

As part of Mennonite Church of Normal's (MCN's) withdrawal from Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC), MCN leadership invited a representative from IMC to be present with us during a worship service, where we can acknowledge and express gratitude for our shared history and exchange blessings as we move forward. Cal Zehr, a member of IMC's Minister Team, will join us on November 23 for Sunday morning worship. He and his wife, Carol, have also accepted our invitation to share lunch with us immediately following the Christian Education hour. If you would like to attend the meal and fellowship with Cal and Carol, please let the Vision Team know [here](#). All are welcome! Any questions can be directed to a member of the Vision Team.



Periodical Renewals

It's that time of year again -- periodical subscription renewals! Each year the church organizes group subscriptions to three Mennonite publications: [Rejoice!](#) (a quarterly devotional) by Menno Media for \$38, [The Upper Room Daily Devotional](#) (delivered quarterly) for \$9.29, and [Anabaptist World](#) (16 issues) for \$49. This gives everyone the opportunity to subscribe these publications with a discounted rate through the church office. If you would like to **renew**, **begin**, or **end** a subscription to **one or more** of these publications, please contact Lydia in the church office at 309-452-6622 or church@normalmennonite.org **before Monday, December 8th**.

From the church office



As of Sunday, we have raised \$3,650 for Home Sweet Home Ministries' Build The Bridge campaign—which is set to offer transition to permanent housing for unhoused people in our community. That is 27% of the cost for one of the “cabins” that we heard about on Sunday. If you would like to add to Mennonite Church of Normal's contribution to this project, you can drop off a check at the church office or donate online with a note for HSHM. Thank you for your support!

From the Outreach Commission

Missing Items



If you accidentally picked up two directories and a handmade dishcloth from the planters last Sunday, Shelly is looking for them! You can return them to the church or directly to Shelly.



MCN 50th Factoids

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

Northern Indiana, home to Goshen College, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and the Mennonite Church USA denominational offices is just a few hours away from us in Normal, IL. If you travel there using the highway and avoid tolls you will inevitably pass through Markham, Illinois, which is home to [Community Mennonite Church](#). In 1985, Mennonite Church of Normal committed to “moral and financial assistance” to this church that saw itself as a “sanctuary church” for refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala.



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.

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 12

- 9:30 am** Wednesday Morning Book Group
- 1:00 pm** Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries
- 7:00 pm** Quinn CPT Delegation Presentation
- 7:00 pm** Fellowship Committee (Zoom)
- 8:30 pm** Community Life Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, November 13

- 7:00 am** Next Man Bible Study
- 9:30 am** Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, November 16

- 1:00 pm** Spending Plan Hearing
- 2:30 pm** Reception
- 7:00 pm** Adult Choir

Tuesday, November 18

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

Wednesday, November 19

- 9:30 am** Wednesday Morning Book Group
- 1:00 pm** Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries
- 7:00 pm** Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)



Those Serving This Week





MC USA awards scholarships for BIPOC students

Mennonite Church USA has announced the recipients of the 2025-26 Scholarship for BIPOC Students. Nine students received scholarships from three partner schools. The Scholarship for BIPOC Students was created to support students who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color, who are members or active participants of an MC USA congregation, and who are attending or plan to attend an MC USA-affiliated Mennonite college, university or seminary. **Learn more about the recipients and scholarship [here](#).**

MCC Immigration Training Sessions

Some of the dates for the upcoming Mennonite Central Committee Protecting Our Communities training sessions have changed. Register [here](#).

- Sessions on November 17, 25, and December 2 will be in English.
- Sessions on November 11 and 18 will be in Spanish.

Charges dropped against CPT Canada Coordinator

Community Peacemaker Teams celebrates the fact that charges have been dropped against our Canada Coordinator, Rachelle Friesen. Last September, Friesen was arrested for participating in nonviolent direct action against the genocide in Gaza. Toronto Police Services detained Friesen at Pearson International Airport while she was en route to visit a friend in the US. Now, after a year under threat of criminal proceedings, the Crown has dropped all charges against her. While we welcome the news, we are clear: this is not proof that the criminal justice system works. The charges against Friesen occurred in a broader context in which 135 people have been arrested for their Palestine solidarity work since October 2023. Police tactics have included the over-arrest of large numbers of people, dragging them through lengthy criminal proceedings, only for charges to be ultimately dropped. Of 135 such arrests, the Crown has dropped charges against 64 people, while 10 were found or pled guilty but received discharges. To date, nobody has been convicted. Instead, the constant delays and postponements are an attempt to harass and inhibit protesters. **Read the rest of Community Peacemaker Teams' press release [here](#).**

Granola Mennonite, dancing furiously

In a Zoom session, faces are stacked in a grid with the bottom row smaller but centered. For the first years of the pandemic, we stayed home and lived in Zoom. Jason and I took shifts working in our guest room office and supervising the twins' Zoom school. People I loved died. And Jason's father Harold had his first stroke. We spent our weekends packing his things and renovating a damaged house next door to us so that he could move in. A septic system replacement turned our side yard and field into a pile of rocks from our cobbly soil. The towers I built there were huge and heavy, and I was afraid they would smash the children's toes if they fell awry, so I stopped. Instead, we danced. Each morning, I opened my laptop, and the girls and I added our faces and bodies to a grid of dancers from around the world. My colleague Katie Mansfield, who started this community, specializes in embodied strategies for building resilience. Years in, we still dance with Katie almost every day. **Read the rest of Kirsten Eve Beachy's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

A cold peace: a ceasefire without demobilization

Seven months on from the PKK's unilateral ceasefire, bombardments and attacks by the Turkish Armed Forces in Iraqi Kurdistan seem to have ceased. But the increasing military presence by both actors makes the situation appear fragile. **Read CPT Iraqi Kurdistan's article for Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**

As Isaiah said: Defend the oppressed

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. — Isaiah 1:17, NIV. When the topic of justice is discussed in religious circles, Micah 6:8 is a passage that is often raised. The three-part instruction: “Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God” is catchy and resonates strongly in our highly individualistic society. Lately, however, I’ve found myself preferring to emphasize a similar, three-part instruction from Isaiah, Micah’s contemporary. In particular, the New International Version’s translation, “Defend the oppressed,” leads us to a deeper analysis of our present situation. I also find a strong resonance with Jesus’ first sermon in Luke 4, where he quotes Isaiah and expresses exactly what he has come to do — and, by implication, what we are to do as the church. Good news to the poor, freedom for prisoners, recovery of sight to the blind. And just in case we didn’t understand those previous instructions as they relate to oppression, he concludes with “to set the oppressed free.” **Read the rest of Joe Paparone’s article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

A Message from The Immigration Project

As we welcome the holiday season, our hearts are full of gratitude for the generosity of our community. Each year, your kindness brightens the season for families in our community, and we invite you to join us once again in spreading holiday cheer. Now through December 5th, The Immigration Project in Normal is collecting gifts for children ages 0–12. We’re asking for new or gently used toys and games, candy and small treats (no expired items, please), and gloves or socks for children. Donations can be dropped off at our Normal office during business hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Every contribution, big or small, reminds families that they are valued and embraced by a caring community. Thank you for helping us spread holiday cheer this season!

From the Immigration Project

CPT Palestine Delegation

Read about the recent Community Peacemaker Teams Delegation to Palestine [here](#).

MC USA reaffirms mission following Mosaic’s withdrawal decision

On Nov. 1, 2025, Mosaic Mennonite Conference delegates voted to “discontinue membership in Mennonite Church USA.” MC USA Executive Director Glen Guyton said, “This transition clarifies each body’s sense of call. Our work now is to continue strengthening our witness, supporting our congregations and living into the commitments that shape us. We release this relationship with care and integrity, and we carry forward our mission with clarity and hope.” Guyton affirmed the denomination’s ongoing commitments, saying: “Our identity as MC USA is rooted in following Jesus together. We continue to prioritize safe and supportive environments for congregations, equip leaders across a wide range of cultural and ministry contexts, and sustain the educational and formation ministries that serve the wider church. These commitments guide our life together and will continue to shape our future.” **Read the rest of the Mennonite Church USA article [here](#).**

Medicare for All Listening Session

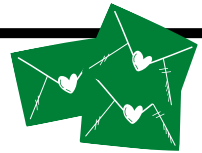
Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 6 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church

Join One People's Campaign for a Medicare for All Listening Session on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church (Fell Room). Doors will open for light refreshments at 5:30 pm. This community conversation will focus on sharing experiences with healthcare, setting priorities, and planning next steps toward a people-powered Medicare for All campaign. **Register [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 Pastor Kevin designated office hours: Wednesdays, 8am-12pm (or call to plan a visit)
<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

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!

Past Midweeks

Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Facility Use Agreement

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
