

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Wholehearted Impermanence* using Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14.

In Jeremiah, we see difficult news with a positive spin—the people will be in exile for seventy years, but during that time if they seek the welfare of the city where they find themselves in Babylon, they will get to share in its prosperity. How do we seek the peace of our city?

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



Sunday, November 23

Sunday is the concluding day of our Alternative Gifts Fair. Our best thanks to the families which again put up very engaging and informative booths for a wide variety of projects. And hearty thanks to all who have already supported the Fair! Additional shopping lists will be available at the check-out tables. Any amount can be used to support any project! "Prices" on the shopping lists are only suggestions from the MCC and AGI catalogues. Both AGI and MCC cards are on the central table, and inserts describing your gifts on behalf of loved ones, to put with the cards, are also at the check-out tables. Checks should be made out to Mennonite Church of Normal, and are fully tax deductible. Thank you for considering this "alternative" way of also remembering our loved ones at Christmas, and bringing the light of God's love into other hearts and homes around the world. Blessings to one and all from the Outreach Committee

From the Outreach Commission



IMC Withdrawal

This Sunday, November 23

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

From the Vision Team





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](https://www.bnymca.org)



Cookie Baking

Sunday, December 7 after church

On December 7th, MYF and JMYF-ers are invited to stay after church for devotions (during the SS hour), cookie baking and lunch. We'll plan to be done by 1:00 or so. The cookies we bake will be frozen for a congregational / family event on December 12th: Cookies and Caroling. On that night, the pre-baked cookies will be brought out for attendees to decorate and package before being dispersed in groups for cookies and caroling. After caroling, we'll meet back at the church for hot drinks, cookies, and conversation. We're very hopeful that your child will be able to join us for cookie baking and lunch on December 7th! Please let me know if you have questions!

From the Discipling Commission

Cookies and Caroling



Friday, December 12

You're invited to participate in a cookie decorating and Christmas caroling event on December 12. We'll gather at MCN to decorate and package cookies that have been pre-baked for us by MYF / JMYF and then disperse to carol at MRC, the surrounding neighborhood, and perhaps Westminster Village. Afterward, we'll gather back at the church for hot drinks, cookies, and conversation. Please RSVP using this [Sign Up Genius](#). We look forward to singing, snipping, and snacking with you! While no formal dinner will be offered, there will be bread, pb & j, cheese and lunchmeat plus apples and carrots if your child needs a quick dinner before helping decorate cookies!

From the Discipling Commission



Spending Plan Update



You can watch a recording of last Sunday's Spending Plan Hearing [here](#). You can view the [corrected] presentation.

Shared by the Administration Commission



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

CDC Connector



The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). In this last issue of the year, we learn about our new church safety coordinator, Gestalt pastoral care, how to age well as a congregation, and much more! If you would like a paper copy, they will be available to take from the Library Table soon.

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).

This Sunday, we formally end our dual conference affiliation by leaving Illinois Mennonite Conference. At the time our congregation was formed, this spanned two denominations and was a visual witness to unity in the church. In 1987, when such an arrangement was popular, there were about 60 dual conference affiliated congregations. In 2002, when the denominations merged to form Mennonite Church USA, there were 51, with about half of those ending over the following five years, leaving 26 in 2007 (21 from Central District Conference). There are currently 8 dual conference affiliated congregations remaining within Central District Conference. Among those, at least one other beside us (First Mennonite Church (Champaign-Urbana) is in the process of ending dual conference affiliation. As this symbol fades, we look for new ways to embody unity among Mennonites and the wider Church.

Sharing Our Gifts Photos

Thank you all for sharing wonderful photos of you sharing your gifts! Find a link to the slide show that played before and after the Sunday worship service last Sunday [here](#).

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 19

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

7:30 pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Thursday, November 20

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Sunday, November 23

7:00 pm Adult Choir

Tuesday, November 25

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 26

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)



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



Those Serving This Week



MWC drops MC USA member from consideration for representative role

Mennonite World Conference has decided not to appoint a Mennonite Church USA conference minister to a representative role after three MWC member denominations raised concerns. The unease stems from an LGBTQ-affirming resolution that MC USA delegates passed in 2022 and the possibility that an MC USA person would “represent MC USA theological positions,” according to a letter from MWC. Stanley Green, executive conference minister of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference, “was due to be appointed” as MWC’s regional representative for North America, according to [a Nov. 13 letter](#) [see below] from MC USA moderator Marty Lehman on behalf of the denomination’s Executive Board. However, “questions were raised as to whether he would — inadvertently or by request of his church — carry or represent MC USA views in his MWC relationships,” wrote Janet Plenert, MWC regional representative coordinator, in an Oct. 2 letter to MC USA executive director Glen Guyton and leaders of other North American MWC members. **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

A letter from the MC USA Executive Board to MC USA constituents regarding a MWC Decision

Mennonite Church USA, through her members, congregations and area conferences, remain strong supporters of MWC to this day through participation, service and generous contributions. As MC USA strives to live into the work of repentance, healing and transformation with our LGBTQIA+ siblings, we are also committed to MWC's [Shared Convictions](#) of Global Anabaptists which includes No. 7, "As a world-wide community of faith and life we transcend boundaries of nationality, race, class, gender, and language." We believe, along with MWC, that our Shared Convictions are sufficient for member bodies to walk in harmony while also allowing room for diverse approaches to other matters. A recent MWC decision raises concerns about the continued application of this principle. **Read the rest of the MC USA Executive Board letter in English [here](#) and en español [here](#).**

World AIDS Day – "Rethink, Rebuild, Rise"

Monday, December 1 at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Bloomington Public Library Community Rooms 2 & 3

A collaboration of Prairie Pride Coalition; Positive Health Solutions; Central Illinois Friends; McLean County Health Department; Carle Health; and McLean County Museum of History. Our event's local theme is "40 Years Later, Remembering McLean County's First Loss to AIDS." We will display six quilt blocks from the AIDS Memorial Quilt, each one containing a quilt with a local connection to McLean County. The quilt blocks will remain on display during library hours Dec. 1 - 5.

Shared by the Prairie Pride Coalition

Creative Resistance

March 20-25, 2026

Join Mennonite Central Committee for Creative Resistance, a transformative week-long experience in Los Angeles exploring how creative expression fuels the imagination for peace and justice while building resilience in communities under attack. Set in Los Angeles, a city that has endured extraordinary challenges — from the devastating January wildfires to recent ICE raids and National Guard deployments — this program will explore how art emerges not in spite of struggle but because of it. Grounded in Scripture's rich artistic tradition — from the Psalms to Jesus as a creative disruptor who used parables and embodied actions — you'll discover how creativity builds pathways toward justice. **Learn more and apply [here](#) before January 15, 2025.**

Message from CPT

Read a recent message from Community Peacemaker Teams "BREAKING NEWS: New evidence proves that Canadian weapons are still flowing to Israel through a deadly loophole in Canadian law!" [here](#).

Can Mennonites write art?

Anthology traces evolution of Mennonite thinking about literature.

The editor of a new anthology of Mennonite literary criticism penned over 150 years hopes a carefully curated resource about the past may inform the future of the field. The 736-page book was launched at the Mennonite/s Writing Conference in Winnipeg, Man., in June, a conference that features writers who are Anabaptists by faith and others of Mennonite heritage who are not. The same is true for the authors featured in *In Search of a Mennonite Imagination: Key Texts in Mennonite Literary Criticism* (Canadian Mennonite University Press). Robert Zacharias, an associate professor at Toronto's York University, has collected 53 texts by 44 authors. "The hope," he writes in his introduction, "is that this collection will serve as a meaningful record of where the critical conversation has been, and a resource for those who will extend it into the future." **Read the rest of Mary Ann Zehr's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

A Note from Mennonite Action

We've been organizing together for the past two years: mobilized by a moment of escalated violence against Palestinians, anchored by our Anabaptist tradition that has long taught us to stand on the side of the oppressed. Many of you have joined Mennonite Action as a continuation of your own commitment to Palestine and to action, buoyed perhaps by memories of your own experiences in the region. For others, stepping into bold faithful public action has been a new experience. Maybe you remember the moment, in the past two years, when you first realized you'd be willing to get arrested alongside your community, or you first wrestled with the idea of civil disobedience. The myriad of experiences across this organization gives us our shape, each one of you bringing your own story, motivation, and courage. Together, we find our strength. Our Mass Calls started from a place of urgency, needing to quickly rally together to discern how to rise to the occasion of the moment God saw fit to place our lives within. Now, they serve as a regular container for our time together. We've carried on with the ritual each month, as a valuable way to share stories, align ourselves to one another, and plan our next move. This month's call marks the two year anniversary of Mennonite Action, and feels especially significant. We'd love for you to join us on **[November 20th, 7 pm CST for our Anniversary Call](#)**. As much as we wish this work was no longer necessary, we're grateful that we have a community willing to respond to the need, for as long as it exists. Until Palestine is free, and the liberation of all God's children is realized.

From Mennonite Action

AMBS Online Short Courses

Consider signing up for an Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Online Short Course this Spring! In it you will deepen your understanding of Anabaptist history, thought and witness through our six-week, discussion-based online short courses. There are no grades, and no papers! Offerings this Spring include [Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture](#), [Biblical Interpretation Across the Two Testaments](#), and [Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication](#). Register by Jan. 7 to save \$50! **Learn more and register [here](#).**

Thriving in the Midst of War

Approximately a month after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Anabaptist World published the story "[MCC workers evacuate Ukraine; churches respond to risk of war](#)." The article referenced Prometheus, a special needs school in Zaporizhzhia serving 167 students. It was started 17 years ago by parents with the help of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). The cover of that March 4, 2022, issue featured Dasha Bardus, an 11-year-old student, walking with arm crutches. Many students with special needs cannot attend public school in Ukraine, although the government provides the school building and some teachers. **Read the rest of Joe Landis's blog post for the Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

Harm handed down for generations

At a national event I attended this summer hosted by a mainline denomination, Indigenous young men shared around a fire at a reflective circle event. This provided the opportunity to share about their lives — and for others to listen and learn. Each shared about trauma they experienced as children and young men and the anger and despair that followed. I also could see how people might misinterpret what was shared. In the dominant narrative, "generational trauma" means something bad happened to a grandparent (like boarding school/residential school), and this negative experience impacted the grandparent's behavior as they raised their own children. This experience impacts not only how they parent but also how their children go on to parent. In this way of seeing things, experience and action are described at the individual level only. Trauma "trickles down." But this way of describing things does not acknowledge systemic harm — the harm caused by laws and policies that continue to oppress Indigenous people. **Read the rest of Sarah Augustine's article published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**



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

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



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
