

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Matt Burgess, CEO of Home Sweet Home Ministries, will preach the sermon.

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](#).



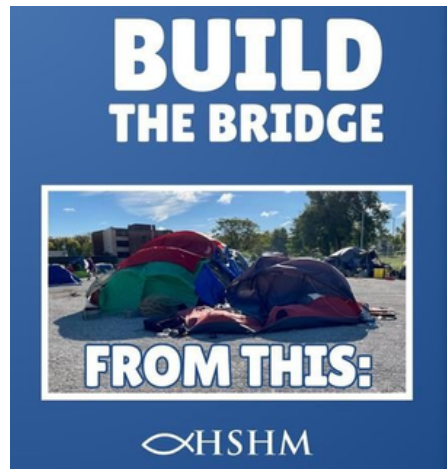
**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA



Preacher this Sunday

Matt Burgess is the Chief Executive Officer at Home Sweet Home Ministries. He first joined HSHM in August 2009 with his bachelor's degree in Psychology, master's in Community Mental Health Counseling, and his license in Clinical Professional Counseling. Over the past 11 years with HSHM, Burgess has demonstrated his passion to help others by updating Home Sweet Home's service models to reinforce the dignity and worth of everyone the ministry serves. A prime example of this transformation is the conversion of HSHM's food pantry into the Bread For Life Food Co-op. He has also led the way in helping HSHM become a "trauma-informed" organization, providing the framework for a more sensitive approach to caring for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.



Matt Burgess will be joining us this Sunday from Home Sweet Home Ministries (HSHM), sharing about the "The Bridge"—their new shelter village which offers 48 sleeping cabins that will house up to 56 adults for periods of 3-6 months as a transition to permanent housing. There will be on-site resources for addressing substance abuse, mental health, primary medical care, housing assistance services, and employment support. You can learn more [here](#). We hope that we can help fund one of the sleeping cabins (\$13,500) to show our love for the unhoused in our community. We will be taking a special offering on Sunday, and you can make your contributions to MCN with "HSHM" in the memo line. If you would like to help with painting and furniture assembly over the next several weeks, you can sign up [here](#).



MCN 50th Factoids

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

The merger that formed Mennonite Church of Normal came on September 26, 1976, but when did we start meeting in this building? That's a bit more complicated to answer! There was a "homecoming" here on October 19, 1980, followed by the "first worship service" on January 4, 1981, and finally a dedication service that took place on March 15, 1981. We'll leave it to those who were there to decide which is the correct answer.

Thursday, November 6 at 6:00 pm

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is November 6 from 6-8pm. 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

This 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

Quinn is currently on a Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) delegation to Palestine until November 7th. 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



Alternative Gifts Fair

Sundays, November 16 & 23

Our 2025 Alternative Gifts Fair will be November 16 and 23. Hearty thanks to the four families who have already chosen a project to support with a booth! We are hoping that three or four more families are still planning to jump in and set up a booth! If so, please check with Mark or Meredith for the projects already spoken for. Mennonite Central Committee and Alternative Gifts International Catalogues are still on the table in the library. AGI also provides background information and ideas to help set up booths for their projects. Let us know if you would like that information this Sunday. And our own creative juices are amazing! Both Catalogues can also be viewed online, [MCC here](#) and [AGI here](#). Shopping lists for both MCC and AGI and also a shopping list for children will be in your mailboxes on Sunday, to help you plan for our Fair. Thank you for helping to bring hope and life-changing help to many struggling people both here and abroad!

From the Outreach Commission

Spending Plan Hearing



Sunday, November 16 after CE

Mark your calendars for our 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 through Zoom.

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](#).**

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



IMC Withdrawal

Sunday, November 23

As part of Mennonite Church of Normal's (MCN's) process of 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 for Sunday morning worship, November 23. He and his wife, Carol, have also accepted our invitation to share lunch with us immediately following the Christian Education hour that day. If you would like to attend the meal and fellowship with Cal and Carol, please sign up [here](#). All are welcome! Any questions can be directed to a member of 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 **Saturday, 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.

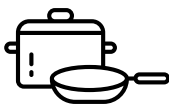
From the Congregational Care Committee

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 (email), 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? Her email is. [Here's a link](#) to the list.

From Mary



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Anniversaries

Birthdays



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 5

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

Thursday, November 6

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

6:00 pm Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

Sunday, November 9

Monday, November 10

5:00 pm Outreach Commission

Tuesday, November 11

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 12

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilt Project for Home Sweet Home Ministries

7:00 pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

7:00 pm Quinn CPT Delegation Presentation



Those Serving This Week





NPL Tiny Book Concert

Thursday, November 6 at 12 pm at the Normal Public Library

Lydia Hedberg will be performing with fellow cellist Christine Cicha tomorrow at noon at the Normal Public Library. Learn more [here](#).

URGENT: Tell the Senate "No war with Venezuela"

Background: Since early September, the U.S. has conducted at least 14 air strikes on small vessels off the coast of Venezuela killing a total of 61 people. U.S. officials allege the boats were transporting large amounts of drugs, however they have yet to provide evidence for those claims. [Latin American leaders have accused](#) the U.S. of murdering innocent civilians. Such extrajudicial killings without due process are illegal under domestic and international law. The U.S. has reportedly moved [a substantial number of warships, planes, and personnel](#) into the Caribbean Sea and officials have confirmed [the CIA is present in Venezuela](#), raising concerns that the goal is to oust Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro. [The history of U.S. intervention in the hemisphere](#) demonstrates that such a regime change will likely lead to more conflict and chaos. While MCC does not have partners in Venezuela, [there are Anabaptist churches](#)—and the prospect of military violence anywhere in the world weighs heavily on our hearts. MCC partners in Colombia and throughout Latin America could also see an increase in migrants fleeing Venezuela if the situation continues to deteriorate. Violence is never a path to stability or long-term peace. A Senate resolution to reassert congressional authority over these strikes was narrowly rejected 48-51 in October. A new resolution to restrain the strikes ([S.J. Res. 90](#)) will be voted on this week.

Faith Reflection: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9 NIV)

Action: Click [here](#) to contact your Senators and urge them to vote YES on S.J. Res 90!

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

Webinar Recording

Mennonite Church USA Executive Board and staff addressed questions about the relationship with Mosaic Mennonite Conference in this recorded town hall webinar from Oct. 14. **View the video (in English, Spanish and Indonesian) and additional resources [here](#).**

Mosaic Conference leaves MC USA, seeks partnership

Recommendation to end denominational membership gets 74% support.

Mosaic Mennonite Conference delegates on Nov. 1 voted nearly 3-to-1 to leave Mennonite Church USA and to be a partner with it and other Anabaptists. "This was a both/and vote: to discontinue membership and to build healthy, mutual partnerships," said executive minister Stephen Kriss after the vote during Mosaic's annual assembly at Souderton Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania. "The work for us will be to stay at the table, to maintain and extend those relationships further." Of the 165 delegates, 64% voted "green" (affirm the recommendation), and 10% voted "yellow" (yield to it). Both categories counted as yes votes, for a total of 74%, exceeding the two-thirds required for a bylaw change. Twenty-three percent voted "red" (no) and 3% abstained (counted as no). The change takes effect Nov. 3. **Read the rest of Paul Schrag's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Rooted and Grounded Conference explores radical kinship

“Kinship with All Creation: Pursuing Relationship, Justice and Community” was the theme for the seventh Rooted and Grounded Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship, held Sept. 18–20 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. Ninety in-person and 20 online participants gathered from across the U.S. and Canada for keynote addresses, workshops, paper presentations and worship centered on the topic. “We recognized that one aspect of our environmental crisis is our failure to see the interconnections of all of creation,” said Janeen Bertsche Johnson, MDiv, AMBS Campus Pastor and the coordinator of the conference. **Read the rest of Sierra Ross Richer’s blog post for Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary [here](#).**

Update from Amgad Al-Mahalawi: On the ground in Gaza

Read a text conversation from October 12, 2025 between Amgad Al-Mahalawi and Doug Hostetter published by the Anabaptist World [here](#). Previous messages from Amgad were published by Anabaptist World on [March 22, 2024](#), [August 11, 2025](#) and [September 2, 2025](#).

Dream a Better Dream

I have been blessed with ADHD and as such my mind is a rabbit warren of thought trails. Normally, I run these tunnels by myself, but together we may glimpse the Spirit’s movement. Starting at one of my favorite trailheads, we have the 2005 cinematic masterpiece, *The Adventures of Shark Boy and Lava Girl in 3D*, one of the best bad movies ever made. The Bible has many examples of people in crisis that could guide us towards our destination, but this tunnel leads us to the prophet Joel. Squeezed in between two of my favorite dens, Joel is easy to miss. One of the obscure prophets from the book of the Twelve, this small, three-chapter prophet packs a lot of crises into a small space. In his prophecy, Joel represents the crisis of exile and ethnic erasure as a crisis of environmental devastation. Joel’s environmental crisis is all encompassing, touching not only every element of human life, but of creation domesticated and wild. This crisis in Joel is not just overwhelming, it is traumatic. I don’t know about you, but I often feel overwhelmed by our world today. It’s so easy to look around and see crisis at every corner, racial and economic crisis, heteropatriarchy and political crisis, climate change and extinction. **Read the rest of Stephen Lowe’s article published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**

Prayer for Crete

Those who now reach the shores of Crete in small and fragile boats come because Europe offers no safe or legal way to seek asylum, though international law recognizes their right to do so. They come because war, poverty, and persecution leave them no other choice. Ten years ago, the Aegean islands became the frontline of Europe’s border regime. **Read the Community Peacemaker Teams Prayer for Peacemakers [here](#).**

Worship for Everybody

What if our Church gatherings were designed with everybody in mind – from toddlers to elders, from disabled folks to neurodivergent thinkers?

When we read Acts 2, how is worship portrayed? Is it in the apostles' teaching? Is it in the sharing of resources and caring for one another? Is it in the daily gathering and sharing of meals together? Yes, to all the above. When we read Acts 2, we see a picture of worship that is both embodied and communal in nature. Since the Reformation and the rise of literacy, Sunday mornings have become increasingly intellectualized. Sitting for a 20-minute sermon has become the main event and activity of Sunday morning worship. Teaching in this way can be vital to our faith formation, but it is not the only way that we can be formed as the Church. This model has unfortunately left out children, people with intellectual disability, and others who can't engage through sitting and listening quietly. That's where All In comes in. **Read the rest of Keli Boyer's blog post for Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

Enrollments face shifting visa climate

The higher education institutions affiliated with Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Church Canada and the Mennonite Brethren denominations in the U.S. and Canada have released fall enrollment statistics, many revealing impacts of government shifts regarding international student visas. **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**

We pray for justice on Toronto's streets

October has been a heavy month for the Turtle Island Solidarity Network. We watched from afar as our collaborator Mskwaasin Agnew, an Indigenous (Cree and Dene) harm reduction worker living in Toronto, sailed toward Gaza on the Conscience with the Freedom Flotilla. On 7 October, the Israeli military intercepted the vessel in international waters and detained everyone aboard, in violation of international law. Then, on 16 October, TISN members observed as municipal workers evicted unhoused people camped in the churchyard at the Church of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields, where CPT's Canada Office is located. For the past five years, the City of Toronto has repeatedly removed unhoused people and their belongings from the site, over the objections of the church. **Read the Community Peacemaker Teams' blog post [here](#).**



Commission Meeting Minutes

Past Midweeks

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!

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Facility Use Agreement

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
