



# Mennonite Church of Normal

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

**December 14, 2025**

*Offering Christ's peace to hearts, homes, community and world*

# Order of Worship

## Gather

Welcome and Congregational Life

Ministry Moment – Vision Team

Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn	<i>We Come</i>	VT* 225
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Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn	<i>Hope Is a Candle</i>	VT 211
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Gathering Prayer

## Listen

Children's Time	<i>Away in a Manger, vs. 1</i>	VT 257
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Junior Choir	<i>Then the Baby Cried</i>	
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Scripture	Isaiah 55:1-13	
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Sermon	<i>The Savior Has a Flowering Garden</i>	
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## Respond

Hymn	<i>With Mary Sing Magnificat</i>	VT 208
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Adult Choir	<i>Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets</i>	
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Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Stewardship Affirmation

## Sent

Sending Song	<i>O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem</i>	VT 275
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Benediction

Final Response	<i>O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, refrain</i>	VT 275
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*\*Voices Together Hymnal*

## Assisting in Worship:

**Worship Leader & Planner:** Cindy Ropp

**Accompaniment & Prelude:** Bill West

**Song Leader:** Barry Weaver

**Children's Time:** Janet Wilson

**Sermon:** Kevin Chupp

**Adult & Junior Choirs Director:** Cindy Ropp

**Pastoral Prayer:** Lauren Satchwell

**Tech:** Adam Augspurger

### **In Memoriam:**

**Joyce Thompson**, long-time MRC resident: March 9, 1927 – October 13, 2025

**Roberta Bortell**, wife of Jim Bortell: April 26, 1947 – October 12, 2025

**Doris Shoemaker**, member of MCN: April 13, 1926 – September 13, 2025

**Evelyn Benner**, mom of Steve Benner: January 30, 1944 – July 24, 2025

### **Announcements from the Midweek:**

- **Cookie Reception:** Fellowship Committee is asking for those attending the Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday 12/24 at 6:30 pm to please consider bringing a plate of cookies to share after the service. There will be a few tables in the back to place your cookies before the service, and then everyone can enjoy a small bite afterwards.
- **Call for Music:** The Christmas Eve service is just 2 weeks away! If you are interested in offering a solo or group song for our service, please reach out to Pastor Kevin ([kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org)). We will continue on our Advent theme (Be Amazed!) but your song doesn't necessarily need to relate to that theme.
- **Responding to ICE:** The Outreach Commission proposes that MCN develop a plan to respond to ICE (Immigration and Custom Enforcement) in order to protect our community. Two MCN members attended a two-hour training by MCC's Immigration Network on November 25th designed to help churches understand immigration enforcement, know our legal rights as a faith community, and develop a plan of action in case immigration agents show up at or near our church. According to MCC, our 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. For more information about the MCC training, please use the links in the Midweek.
- **AGF Totals:** You can view the total Alternative Gifts Fair giving in the Outreach Commission Minutes folder with the link at the bottom of every Midweek.
- **Spending Plan Status as of November 30, 2025**
- **SMAP:** The Student Mutual Aid Program continues to support two students this year. The Mennonite Church of Normal will make the next payment for the Spring semester by the end of December. If you pledged or would like to support this program please send your money to MCN with SMAP in the memo. Thanks for your continued support of this program!

### **This Week:**

Sunday 12/14	6:00 pm	Junior Choir
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
Tuesday 12/16	3:00 pm	Pastoral Team (Zoom)
Wednesday 12/17	9:30 am	Wednesday Morning Book Group
	7:30 pm	Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)
Thursday 12/18	7:00 am	Next Man Bible Study
Sunday 12/21	6:00 pm	Junior Choir
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir

### **Our Vision:**

*Mennonite Church of Normal is a nurturing, Christ-centered Anabaptist congregation that welcomes all people. As followers of Jesus, we aspire to transform our communities and world into places of peace, healing, and hope.*

### **Our Welcome:**

All people of any race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, age, education, or ability who confess faith in Jesus Christ, are welcome to participate in the full life and ministry of the Mennonite Church of Normal. Furthermore, all people of any gender or sexual orientation who confess faith in Jesus Christ, may become members, be married, and are eligible for all volunteer, staff, and pastoral positions at MCN.

### **After Worship Christian Education:**

Pre-K – 1 <sup>st</sup> Grades	Room 9/12
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Room 11
Junior High	Conference Room
High School	Room 8
Adults	Room 5/7

**Building Open Hours:** Monday – Friday 9am-11am & 1:30pm-3pm

**Office Administrator:** Lydia Hedberg | church@normalmennonite.org  
309-452-6622

**Custodian:** Rita Munkakusi

**Community Life Commission, Outreach Commission, Spiritual Gifts**

**Discernment Team, & Worship Commission Pastor:**

Kevin Chupp | kevin@normalmennonite.org

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

**Pastoral Team Leader and Administration Commission, Discipling Commission, and Vision Team Pastor:**

Lauren Satchwell | lauren@normalmennonite.org