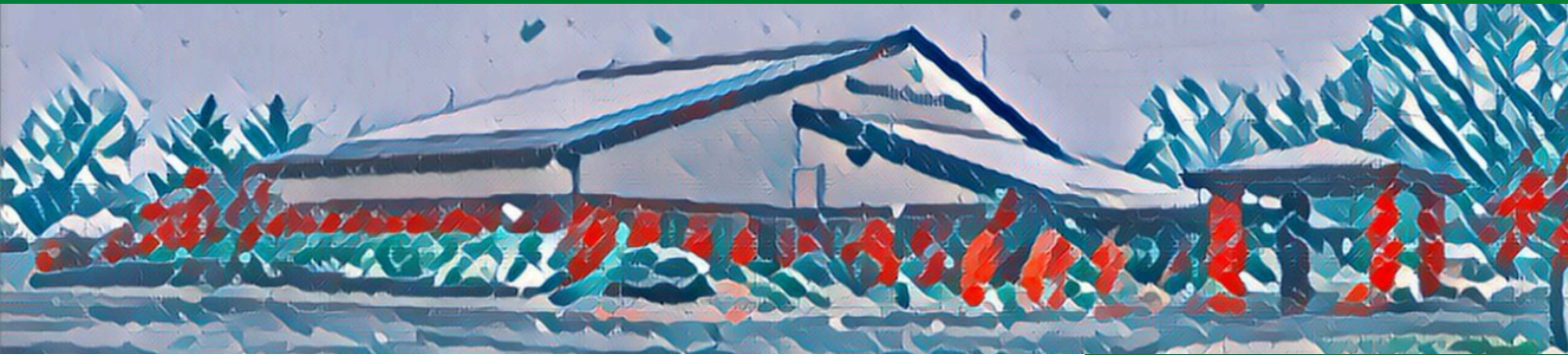


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Jim Bortell will preach a sermon titled "For Survivors, that *is all of us*" using Luke 10:38-42.

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

Christmas Eve Service



Wednesday, December 24 at 6:30 pm

Join us this evening at 6:30 pm as we celebrate Christmas Eve together! We will have singing and special music, alongside the texts of the biblical songs/prayers that surround the story of Jesus' birth, continuing the invitation to be amazed!

Cookie Reception to follow the Christmas Eve Service

Fellowship Committee is asking for those attending the Christmas Eve Service, 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.

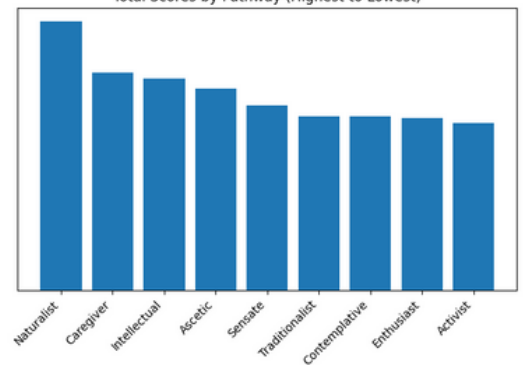
No CE



Sunday, December 28

There will be no Christian Education for adults, children or youth this Sunday so that families may enjoy extra time for the holidays.

Total Scores by Pathway (Highest to Lowest)



Sacred Pathways: One Final Look

As the year winds down, we take one final look at the information gathered from the Sacred Pathways series. According to the responses we received, it appears that MCN is solidly a congregation of Naturalists—those who find creation to be a primary setting for encounter with the divine. Every Summer, we hold a worship services at one camp and each winter retreat at another camp, but is there more we can do in worship or our shared life to respond to this strong leaning? [Wild Church](#) anyone? It is perhaps unsurprising that there are also many caregivers among us as well as intellectuals. And while many of us find ways to engage in activism and see those things as important, not many of us find that to be our primary way of connecting to God. What does this information inspire you to do? How do you think we have shifted over the last 50 years?

Shared by Pastor Kevin

Building & Office Closed

Noon on December 24 through January 1

The church building and office will be closed from noon on Wednesday, December 24 through Thursday, January 1. There will be no Midweek on December 31st. Thank you for your understanding!

Sunday, December 28

In a couple weeks, community faith leaders are being welcomed to “Bless the Bridge” as “[The Bridge](#)” (Home Sweet Home Ministries’ new shelter village) prepares to open in January. Some of you may be aware of the flurry of volunteer workdays that have made it possible to get the units ready, and we were a part of that! 58 quilt comforters were blessed together in worship on November 9th. We invite you to continue to pray as things are completed!

From the Outreach Commission

Message from Il Relief Sale Board



The Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Board wishes everyone a “Merry Christmas” and a “Happy New Year.” The Relief Sale Board would like to report our net income for the 67th Sale is \$95,000, and the recent income from our November Sausage Sale is approximately \$6,000. Our Annual Distress Supper will be Tuesday, February 10, 2026, and our 68th Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale will be March 20 – 21, 2026. Contributions of money as well as auction items, Dutch Market goodies, and many other items for all of our sale booths will be deeply appreciated. Finally, we will be most grateful for your prayers for our 68th Relief Sale activities and workers. Thanks again for your wonderful support! May God bless you this Christmas season and all year!

From the Illinois Relief Sale Board



No. 61—Main Building, Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Ill.

Pontograph Printing and Stationery Co.

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

The first of the two churches that became Mennonite Church of Normal was First Mennonite Church, initiated by leaders from East White Oak Mennonite Church. It began as a “mission Sunday School” in July 1910 in the second story room over a store on the Northwest corner of Main and Hovey—exactly one mile East of where we are now. 115 years later, the storefront has understandably been replaced by apartments as Illinois State University now has over 10 times the enrollment it did back then! *Image above: The view of ISU (then ISNU) around 1910.*



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, December 24

Noon Church Office & Building Closed

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

All Day Church Office & Building Closed

Friday, December 26

All Day Church Office & Building Closed

Sunday, December 28

7:00 pm Adult Choir

Monday, December 29

All Day Church Office & Building Closed

Tuesday, December 30

All Day Church Office & Building Closed

Wednesday, December 31

All Day Church Office & Building Closed

Thursday, January 1

All Day Church Office & Building Closed



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week



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.



Are we ready to welcome people this Christmas and in the new year?

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Sue Park-Hur urges churches to embrace diverse, Christlike hospitality during Advent and the new year – and highlights a practical checklist to help leaders create welcoming spaces. **Read Sue Park-Hur's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

The blissful sound of silence

There is a quiet place I carry with me, I wrote once. The words still hang on an index card beside my desk. No matter where I go, or how busy my life has been, or how many distractions I feel around me, that quiet place is there if I pause and wait for it. But so many things bombard that quiet place: Motherhood, because children cannot always be gotten away from. Marriage, because I voluntarily surrender some of my space for the fulfillment of intimacy. Smart phones. "I'm so busy, I don't read much anymore," I told a friend recently. "But is it because you have a smart phone?" she asked. She does not. Her question got me thinking. In *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture*, Shane Hipps writes that media is not just a neutral carrier of information. Rather, the shape of our media shapes our brains. **Read the rest of Lucinda J. Kinsinger's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Search & Rescue on trial again!

Twenty-four members of Search & Rescue organisations are going back on trial, facing long prison sentences, only for doing saving lives. Their case is emblematic of a broader trend across Europe, where those who stand up for human rights and dignity are increasingly targeted. CPT Aegean Migrant Solidarity reminds us: solidarity is not a crime. **Read Community Peacemaker Team's Instagram post [here](#).**

Not back, not forward, but to God

I was blessed in October to be part of Just Peace Pilgrimage, in which the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery partnered with Mennonite Mission Network to introduce congregational groups and individuals to the Navajo context in Bluff, Utah. MMN explained that “we explore what God is doing to bring about justice and peace in the world and ways in which we can participate. We learn together how to walk in solidarity.” My colleagues and I planned activities for more than 20 pilgrims from congregations across the United States. As we explored the impacts of colonization on Indigenous communities, we met with elders and community leaders who shared their hearts and lives with us. We experienced what to me is the most breathtaking land in the country in the red desert of Utah and Monument Valley. It was a valuable experience for me, joining two communities of my relatives: Indigenous kin and non-Indigenous Christian kin. But the most profound learning for me came in a moment of crisis. **Read the rest of Sarah Augustine’s article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

A most unusual Amishman

In the summer of 1980, only days after returning from our honeymoon, my wife and I set out with two Austrian friends, in town for the wedding, on a brief sightseeing tour. Included in the trip were the obligatory visits to Niagara Falls and the Empire State Building. But between those landmarks we stopped for the night in Aylmer, Ont., where we were hosted by David Luthy, a most unusual Amishman who was creating a world-class collection of Amish books, periodicals and artifacts while helping to direct a publishing enterprise that would have profound impact on the Old Order Amish community in North America. **Read the rest of John D. Roth’s article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Subversive joy

Advent’s prophetic heart is not escape from the world’s pain but engagement with it. Advent begins in twilight. Candles are lit one by one, small flames trembling against the dark. We read Isaiah’s promise of a people who walked in darkness seeing a great light, and we long for that light to break into our world. The question that lingers beneath the surface of our worship is the one Advent dares to name: How do we wait with hope when the world is wounded and God’s promises seem unfulfilled? **Read the rest of Nate Showalter’s article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Pocket Practices

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, spiritual director Wendy Janzen offers five simple, embodied spiritual “pocket practices” to use anytime to feel more grounded, connected and spiritually supported. **Read Wendy Janzen’s Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**



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

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Past Midweeks

Commission Meeting Minutes

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!

Facility Use Agreement

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
