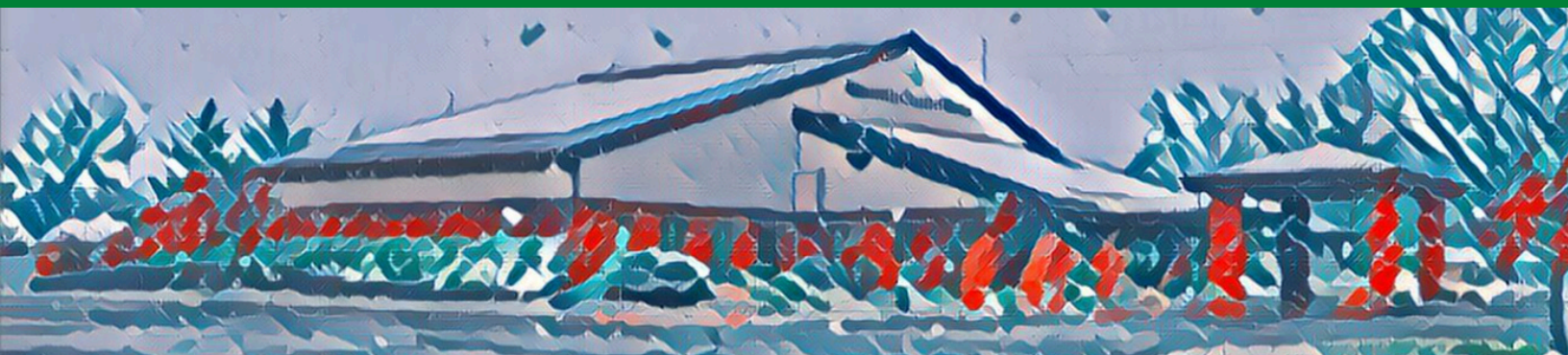


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Off-Key* using John 2:13-25.

In the “cleansing of the temple,” as it is known, we get a glimpse of a zealous Jesus showing little patience with the corruption that is taking place in the temple. However, John’s telling has a more vivid and seemingly violent take on the story. What were Jesus’ intentions? What should this story inspire in us?

After Worship

Adult CE
Rooms 5 & 7

Children & Youth CE
Pre-K–1st Grades
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

Annual Meeting



This Sunday, January 18 at 1 pm

You can read the 2025 Annual Report [here](#). The Annual Meeting will be this Sunday, January 18th at 1 pm in person and on Zoom at [this link](#). The link to vote will be available after the meeting through Monday at 5 pm. Paper ballots will also be at the back of the sanctuary if desired.



Congregational Meal

Sunday, January 18 at 12 pm

There will be a Potluck Meal to precede the Annual Meeting on January 18th. Please bring a dish to share that would feed 6-8 people. As always, feel free to trade with someone if you wanted to bring something else.

- Last names A-H dessert
- Last names I-P Main dish
- Last Names Q-Z salad or side dish.

From the Fellowship Committee

Building & Office Closed



Monday, January 19

The church building and office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day this Monday, January 19.



Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team has two requests for feedback from the congregation:

- In consultation with the chair of the Discipling Commission, the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team has called Gerry to serve on the Discipling Commission.
- In consultation with the chair of the Community Life Commission, the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team has called Marcia to serve on the Community Life Commission.

Please send any feedback to Janet **by this Friday, January 16**. Thank you!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team



Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

Thursday, January 22 at 6 pm

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is Thursday, January 22 from 6-8pm. MFB wants us to sign up at least a week ahead of time to facilitate their project planning, so if you think you will go, **please sign up as early as possible using [this link](#)**. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

From the Outreach Commission



January 23-25

EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at camp, January 23-25! Friedenswald is a beautiful retreat with large, comfortable, warm lodges for us to stay in. Whether you're looking for social time or solitude, there's something for everyone! Activities for the weekend can include sledding, tubing, hiking, relaxing, eating, cross country skiing, reading, games, worship, fellowship, and more! For more details and to sign up, please click [here](#).

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

2026 COMFORTER BASH

What is it?

We are gathering to assemble as many comforters as possible to donate to the Mennonite Central Committee. We hope to complete at least 35 comforters.

We also welcome pre-made comforter tops (60" x 80") and backs (65" x 85") for assembly at the Comforter Bash. Tops and backs may be brought directly to the Comforter Bash or dropped off at Hopedale Mennonite Church ahead of time.



Necessary skills for the Bash:

None! There will be something for everyone to do – tie knots, thread needles, help with lunch service, etc. We invite all women, men, and children to join us.

Who it helps:



MCC is donating blankets and comforters to our global neighbors who are dealing with conflict and disaster. Your participation in this Comforter Bash will go a long way in helping us meet MCC's goal of 45,000 blankets by the end of 2026. A handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten.

Dates: Friday, February 13, 2026 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Saturday, February 14, 2026 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Please come and go as you are able. **Lunch will be provided both days.**

Location: Hopedale Mennonite Church, 5192 Hopedale Rd., Hopedale IL 61747

Please RSVP to Hopedale Mennonite Church, 309-449-6600 or office@hopedalemennonitechurch.com (so we can plan for lunch)

February 13 & 14

Our congregation has again been invited to take part in a Quilt Bash at Hopedale Mennonite Church on February 13 & 14. They have requested our help both on those dates and also asked us to make 10 comforter tops to be knotted. Beginning **today**, we will be meeting every Wednesday from 1-4:00 sewing and constructing tops. If you cannot come on Wednesday you are welcome to make one at home. Fabric and patterns are available. So consider using your creative gifts and contributing to this worthwhile project. Thanks for helping.

Shared by Gerry

MCN 50th Factoids

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

In the 1920s, the First Mennonite Church of Normal experienced some rapid growth, which was partly attributed to the the success of "Old Folk's Day." What was special about Old Folk's Day? Pastor William Grubb offered the sermon in German. What might constitute Old Folk's Day today?



January 16 & 17

We express condolences to the family of Stan Clemens, former longtime member of MCN and project manager in the construction of our church building, who died of pneumonia on Sunday morning, January 11, 2026. He and his wife Joenita moved to Bluffton many years ago where he taught at Bluffton University. Stan was receiving treatment for cancer. Please remember Stan's family in prayer as they grieve. Stan's service will begin at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 17, 2026 at First Mennonite Church, Bluffton. Pastor Phil Yoder officiating. Visitation will be held on Friday, January 16, 2026 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services, Bluffton and one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Burial will take place prior to the service at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, January 17, 2026 at Maple Grove Cemetery, Bluffton.

Read his obituary [here](#).



A Message from BMC

Friends at Mennonite Church of Normal,

Thank you for your 2025 gifts to Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC) as a member of our Supportive Communities Network! Your support gives us courage in a time of fear. Through programs, resources, education, and mutual aid, BMC continues our work to challenge harmful church & political systems and proclaim the sacred worth of queer, trans, and gender expansive people in the Mennonite and Brethren traditions. In May we gathered over 75 lgbtqia+ Anabaptists in Philadelphia for Fabulous Fierce and Sacred, a weekend that lives beyond its name! We're grateful for local Supportive Communities Network congregations who helped make FFS possible. At the July Church of the Brethren Annual Conference and the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Greensboro, we connected with hundreds of BMCers and allies alike for queer worship, seminars, song circles, meaningful conversation, and artmaking. In this era of increased violence towards lgbtqia+ people, these spaces of joy, belonging, and solidarity are ever important. Read more [here](#). Save the Date for [BMC's 50th Anniversary Celebration](#) May 29-31, 2026 to be held in Minneapolis, MN! Thank you for helping to sustain this vision, this labor, and this beloved BMC community.

*From Annabeth Roeschley, MDiv (they/she), Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests
Executive Director*



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.



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week





A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 14

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

7:00 pm Community Life Commission (Zoom)

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, January 15

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, January 18

12:00 pm Congregational Meal

1:00 pm Annual Meeting

Monday, January 19

All Day Church Office/Building Closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day

Tuesday, January 20

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 21

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting



Carle BroMenn Compassion Closet

Carle BroMenn Medical Center remains deeply grateful for your continued support of our outreach programs serving patients in need. Thanks to your generosity, in December we distributed:

- 18 sweatpants
- 13 T-shirts
- 16 sweatshirts
- 7 pairs of socks
- 6 pairs of shorts
- 6 bags of food
- \$630.56 in Emergency Vouchers through the Caring Hearts Fund

At this time, sweatpants and sweatshirts are especially needed. If your community is willing to donate new or unworn clothing, we would be deeply grateful as we work to ensure each discharged patient has warm clothing to wear. Thank you for all that you do to support and uplift our community. Your dedication, compassion, and commitment make a profound difference in the lives of those we serve. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and the many ways you embody care and hope.

Shared by Rev. Chris Schilling, M.Div., BCCi, Coordinator for Faith Community Relations for Carle BroMenn Medical Center



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS & COMMUNITY DEFENSE

Protesting is a start, but we have to be educated to effectively resist ICE. Join us for two important trainings

- **Jan 22 - Know Your Rights** - learn what your rights are and what ICE can and can not legally do
- **Jan 29 - Community Defense and ICE Watch** - explore how we can develop rapid response teams to effectively monitor immigration actions and protect our neighbors

Thursday, Jan 22 and 29 - 6:30 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church
1613 East Emerson Street, Bloomington
<https://linktr.ee/blono50501>



Mennonite Church USA



With **Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Jim Amstutz**



Sue Park-Hur, Michelle Armster

PRACTICING CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION IN COMMUNITY

MARCH 12-14, 2026

BEAVERTON, OREGON

Engaging Our Grief and Finding Resilience Thursday, Jan. 22

4 p.m. PT/7 P.M. ET on Zoom

Join us for an interactive meeting on coping with and processing grief. Learn new practices that lead toward resilience and peace.

The Corinthian Plan
Together, providing health care for pastors and church workers

How Are You?

LISTENING CIRCLES

Sponsored by
Not In Our Town
In Bloomington

When:
Sunday, January 18 at 3pm

Where:
Heartland Community College

Building: Community Commons Building (CCB)
Room: CCB 1406-1407
Address: 1500 W Raab Rd, Normal IL

An opportunity to share with neighbors, in facilitated small groups, to share your concerns about our community, nation and world. Duration - 1.5 hours

Parking Instructions:
The event will be in the Community Commons Building (CCB) with a GPS address of 1500 W Raab Rd, Normal IL, 61761. This will take you to Community Commons Drive. The CCB building and Parking Lot B will be the first ones on your right-hand side. Additional parking can be found in Parking Lot N, which is along Millennium Blvd.

eliminating racism empowering women
ywca
McLean County

WISCONSIN MUSEUM OF HISTORY

NOT IN OUR TOWN

HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PRAIRIE PRIDE COALITION

LWV

Dungeon No.38

In this short story, Danya Nasereddin sketches the life of a young Palestinian as he navigates detention and interrogation under Occupation. **Read Danya Nasereddin's short story published by Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**

The Immigration Project Rapid Response Team

In light of increased immigration enforcement, our Rapid Response Team is committed to ensuring that our communities feel safe and supported during these challenging times. We're looking for volunteers who can remain calm under pressure and assist with documenting and de-escalating tense situations. Spanish and French speakers are especially needed! If you've ever wondered how to stand with your neighbors in a moment of uncertainty, this is your chance to make a real difference. **Click [here](#) to sign up to Volunteer for the TIP Rapid Response Team.**

From The Immigration Project

CPT Delegations to US/Mexico Borderlands

Despite a more than 90% drop in the number of migrant apprehensions at the border since President Donald Trump took office, people continue to try to reach the United States through ever-more dangerous routes. Increased border security pushes migrants to cross through more remote and risky areas of the desert. The remains of [154 migrants](#) were found in the Arizona desert in 2024 with 40 more in the first 5 months of 2025. Come, witness firsthand the impact of immigration enforcement in the US/Mexico borderlands where foreign policy masquerades as domestic, and where life and death decisions are imposed upon our migrant neighbors, placing them in vulnerable and volatile situations. Journey through this gauntlet of the Sonoran Desert, part of the lethal continuum that our migrant siblings traverse to reach the fields, factories and detention centers of the USA. Come to observe, query, discern, contribute, learn and take home the story of human struggle and hope. **Learn more and apply on Community Peacemaker Teams' website [here](#).**

Stop me if you've heard this one...

Pastor Jin thought he was telling the congregation something new.

Pastor Jin, a visitor from China, was just warming up his preaching at Rosthern Mennonite Church in Saskatchewan when he said he wanted to tell a story that had changed his life. While in the Chinese merchant marine, he served on ships all over the world. It was a rough life: He had encounters with organized crime and always had to watch his back. He experienced the same feeling later in his career as he climbed the ranks in the Communist Party. A dramatic conversion led him to become a pastor, with an opportunity to study in South Korea. **Read the rest of Jeanette Hanson's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Responding with Integrity in Times of Darkness

A powerful article by Peter Wigginton asks: How do Jesus-followers respond when gangs demand extortion money to "protect" the church?

- Pay → fund more violence
- Refuse → risk lives and maybe the church itself
- Stay silent → become complicit.

Read Peter Wigginton's blog post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).

Come As You Are

Come As You Are: Camp KIND at Amigo Centre

The Popcorn Campfire and Talent Show was the culminating feature of 2025's Camp KIND, the pilot year of ADN and Amigo Centre's family camp for kids with chronic illness, neurodivergence, and disabilities (KIND stands for Kids with chronic Illness, Neurodivergence and Disabilities). Children, caregivers, and support staff shared their passions, projects from the week, or talents, a living example of the week's spiritual formation theme: One Body, Many Parts, from 1 Corinthians 12. **Read the rest of Em Hunsbaker's blog post for Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

Puerto Rican role model

Neftali Torres challenged the church to see the full humanity of Latinas/Latinos.

I first met Neftali Torres — a Puerto Rican Mennonite pastor and civil rights icon — in 2003 in Matamoros, México, where he was the keynote speaker at a conference. During a lunch break, we sat and talked about his life, ministry and religious activism. This summer, when Neftali died on Aug. 11 at the age of 82, I recalled the time I spent with him that afternoon 22 years ago. He provided for me a more expansive and inclusive picture of Anabaptism, one that few Mennonites know about. Neftali was one of the most recognizable Latinos in the Mennonite Church in the 1970s. His leadership roles extended from his service from 1969 to 1972 as a pastor and activist with the Minority Ministries Council, a multiethnic group of Mennonite church workers. **Read the rest of Felipe Hinojosa'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

Past Midweeks

Our Members in Care Facilities

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



Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commissions and Teams Contact List

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
