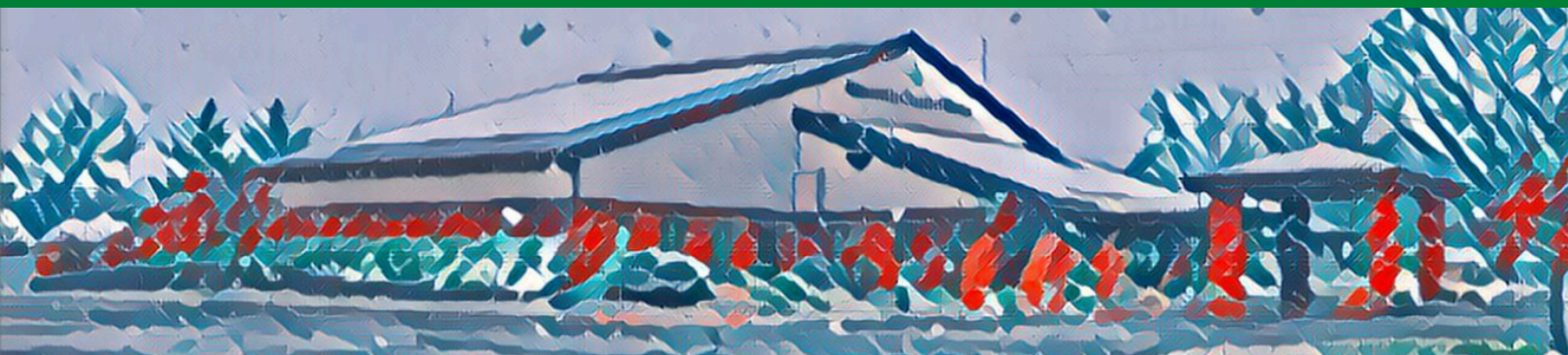


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Reverse Graffiti* using John 3:1-21.

A man named Nicodemus comes to Jesus expressing confidence that he is indeed acting on God's behalf. However, he is confused by Jesus' response. When Jesus elaborates, we receive this famous verse, John 3:16. What does this verse, in context, reveal to us about who Jesus is? How does it invite us to respond?

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

Spending Plan Voting Results



Following the Annual Meeting on January 18, the 2026 Spending Plan was passed with an approval rate of 98%. The Vision Team would like to thank all those that attended and participated in the meeting, the Fellowship Committee for coordinating the congregational meal, and those that played a role in the development of the Annual Report and Spending Plan.

From the Vision Team



IL Mennonite Relief Sale Distress Supper

Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm

The Distress Supper for the 68th Illinois Relief Sale will be held at First Mennonite Church of Morton on Tuesday, February 10, at 6:30 P.M. If you would like to attend, please contact Pastor Lauren.

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. We are meeting every Wednesday from 1-4:00 for 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

Call to Serve



The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, in consultation with the chair of the Outreach Commission, has called Peter Cerneka to serve on the Outreach Commission. Please send any feedback to Janet by **February 8, 2026**. Thank you!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Community Peacemaker Teams Presentation

Sunday, February 15 at 11 am & 7 pm

Quinn will deliver a presentation at 7:00 pm on Sunday, February 15th at MCN on his participation with a CPT Delegation to Palestine from October 28, 2025, until November 7, 2025. Although he already delivered a presentation immediately following his trip; this presentation will allow more stories and reflections about his CPT delegation and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Quinn will also lead a class on February 8th during the SS hour on the history of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. If you are concerned about what is going on these days with Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli Settlers and the Israeli military, you won't want to miss Quinn's professional quality stand-up presentations.

In Peace, Phil, Chair of Outreach Commission

Companion Congregation: Hope Mennonite Church

A view of the congregation at Hope Mennonite Church (Winnipeg, MB) as they share the "symbols" we sent them during their children's time. Read the recent letter from them [here](#).

Shared by Pastor Kevin



Coalition for Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery

Concerned about events in Minneapolis? Want to support a trusted group to protect vulnerable people and reduce violence? Lynn's daughter Meghan is on the Steering Committee for the Coalition for Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. That organization is protecting indigenous people who are under threat by ICE. The organization is dedicated to nonviolent accompaniment. You are invited to pray along with them and donate if you feel led to do so.

The Coalition for Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery host regular Zoom "Updates + Online Prayer Vigil for Minneapolis" to pray and sing together, share about what's happening on the ground with calls to action to support impacted communities, and strategies for organizing your own hyper-local community networks. **Sign up for their newsletter [here](#). To support Minnesota:**

- Join in sending funds to directly-impacted families, including Indigenous communities, for material support, rent support and food delivery. Donate here: dismantlediscovery.org/donate (mark your donation by choosing "Minnesota" from the dropdown menu).

Shared by the MCN Action Network

Once again, this year we are participating in the “Partners in Healing” program at Carle BroMenn, where we are invited to pray for one of the hospital’s departments. This year we have been assigned to Environmental Services. This is the department tasked with cleaning and disinfecting medical equipment, rooms, and public spaces making sure that the hospital is a safe place to be for patients, staff, and visitors.

Shared by Pastor Kevin

Call to Worship



Read the Call to Worship that Cindy shared on January 18 [here](#).



CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This first issue of the year is full of stories and important announcements! Included are reflections about two pilgrimages to explore Indigenous history in Utah and Indiana, a review of this year's Lenten devotional from Herald Press centered on disability justice, and information about several upcoming events. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available to take from the Library Table soon.



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

One year ago was the funeral for former president Jimmy Carter, who died at the age of 100. What is our connection to Jimmy Carter? You may remember that [he was a speaker at Mennonite Convention in 2003](#), where he admitted, “if I ever stop being a Baptist, I wanna be a Mennonite.” But the even closer connection is that Carter was a close friend and partner in humanitarian work with LeRoy Troyer, the Mennonite architect who designed our church building. Troyer [died in 2018](#), with the service held at Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend, IN—a building he also designed. Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org.





Those Serving This Week



Sharing of Joys and Concerns



MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AT CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2026

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, January 28

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

Thursday, January 29

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, February 3

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

7:00 pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 4

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Mennonite Public Educators

Monday, February 2 at 6 pm

If you are a Mennonite working or teaching in a public-school setting, you are invited to join the upcoming Mennonite Public Educators Zoom meeting on Monday, Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. CT. The topic will be student behavior, discipline and restorative justice within your classroom and your school as a whole. **Register [here](#).**

AMBS Summer Courses

Take a summer course at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Hybrid courses (combining online work and one week on campus) include Biblical Storytelling; Christian Leadership in the 21st Century; and History of Christian Spirituality. In-person courses (also open to auditors) include Spiritual Practices: Trees of Life and the Trail of Death Pilgrimage. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first two courses for credit! Sign up by April 1 for the Trail of Death Pilgrimage and by May 4 for all other courses. **Click [here](#) to learn more.**

Join Trees for Creation Care

We continue to receive inspiring tree-planting proposals from Mennonite communities worldwide. Recently, groups in Indonesia and Kenya submitted plans to address the climate challenges facing their regions. Before we can fund these, however, we must first complete our current projects in Angola, DR Congo, and this year's U.S. project in Orrville, Ohio. **Read the rest of Steve Thomas's article for Mennonite Men [here](#).** p. 6

URGENT ACTION: tell Senate "NO money for ICE murders!"

We've all been watching as ICE has brutalized our immigrant communities and murdered those bearing witness in Minneapolis. As Mennonites, we must speak up. This week– as soon as Tuesday – the Senate will vote on the DHS appropriations bill that has already passed in the House. This means we have a small window to enact meaningful change: stop any increase in funding for ICE. As constituents, it's critical we call upon our Senators and demand they refuse to vote for any appropriations bill that continues to fund the Department of Homeland Security and ICE. The recent killings of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Silverio Villegas González, and Keith Porter Jr. have been horrifying to watch unfold. But even before these deaths, ICE has facilitated the deaths of migrants held in detention centers, disappeared our neighbors, and created fear and chaos in the lives of our immigrant neighbors. The recent killing of American citizens is a new chapter in a long history of state violence and brutality, primarily leveraged against black and brown people. We see ICE as an extension of the same violence that's claimed tens of thousands of lives in Gaza over the past two years. From Palestine to Minneapolis, authoritarian power asserts violence and subjugation over those created in the image of God – but Jesus stands on the side of the oppressed. Thank you for joining us in this urgent ask. In these dark days, we carry one another.

TO CALL:

Click [here](#) to find your Senators. Call both their federal and state offices and call often. Use the provided call script:

Hello my name is ___ and I am a Mennonite Christian constituent of yours living in [place] at [zip code]. I'm calling to urge Senator [Name] to refuse to vote for any appropriations bill that continues to fund the Department of Homeland Security and ICE. The killings of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Silverio Villegas González, Keith Porter Jr. and the numerous deaths in ICE detention facilities are part of a broader pattern of unchecked violence, impunity, and abuse carried out by federal immigration enforcement agencies against our communities. As a person of faith I am compelled to bear witness and love my neighbor. And I cannot remain silent as our neighbors are kidnapped, beaten, and murdered by federal agents. We have no time to wait, Senator [Name] must vote no this week and say 'No more money for ICE.'

TO WRITE:

Utilize our page [here](#) to easily send an email to your Senator with the same messaging and demands.

Shared by Mennonite Action

Colorado couple cooks with the sun

Solar cookers shine a light on sustainable alternative to gas, electric and wood ovens. It's impossible to pass Peter and Mary Sprunger-Froese's house in Colorado Springs, Colo., without noticing the large yellow contraption resembling a homemade telescope in the front yard. On closer inspection, a lucky passerby might discover a batch of cookies bubbling in the insulated box at the center of the dish. Instead of radio waves, the reflective panels of this solar oven concentrate sunlight for baking food. "We leave the oven outdoors in front of the house all the time," Mary said. That way, it's always available when they or their neighbors want to use it. **Read the rest of Sierra Ross Richer's article published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**

Sensitive Locations Lawsuit

Mennonite Church USA is requesting prayer for the hearing for injunctive relief in the "sensitive locations" lawsuit, [Mennonite Church USA et al., v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et al.](#) Oral arguments will be heard on Feb. 5, 2026, in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in Washington, D.C. Representatives from MC USA leadership will attend the hearing. Please note that no further action is requested at this time. Read the opening brief [here](#).

Confronting Islamophobia in the Church

Central District Conference recently partnered with Illinois Mennonite Conference and Michael Wolfe to host "Nurturing Anabaptist Roots: Mennonites and Baptists Together" featuring Gerald Mast as the presenter. Michael and his spouse, Anna Piela, serve as regional ministers for the Chicago region of the American Baptist Churches. Perhaps you will find their new book and resources helpful in your congregation or broader community. **Learn more and pre-order [here](#).**

Shared by Central District Conference

Borderlands and Beyond: Monthly Charlas with MCC

Every third Thursday, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Immigration Network will facilitate casual virtual monthly charlas (conversations) to engage with MCC's community partners, programs and leaders working in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands and beyond. **View the program calendar and register [here](#).**

Shared in the Mennonite Central Committee US National Peace & Justice Ministries [January E-Memo](#)

Vastria detention centre: a new Environmental Impact Assessment recycles old problems – and introduces new ones

Now nearing completion on the island of Lesbos, the Vastria Closed Controlled Access Centre – essentially a prison for people on the move – embodies the shift of both the Greek state and the European Commission towards increased control. Vastria CCAC is located in the middle of a pine forest at enormous risk of wildfires, posing serious danger to the lives and safety of a potential 5,000 detainees. [As we have already warned](#), for over four years the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum has bypassed environmental protections, ignored local opposition, and sidestepped legal rulings through piecemeal amendments and technical redesigns. The opening of Vastria has been delayed over, among other things, a failure to allow full public consultation during a previous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which was in any case inaccurate and misleading. Following legal appeals against it, the EIA was eventually withdrawn. The move was considered a procedural evasion ahead of an upcoming annulment hearing by the Council of State. **Read the rest of CPT Aegean Migrant Solidarity's article published by Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**

We Cannot Stand Aside

The CPT Iraqi Kurdistan team joins the call for solidarity with the people of Rojava. Two members of the CPT team, together with a group of civil rights activists and independent journalists from Slêmanî, travel to North-East Syria to provide international presence and solidarity with the Kurdish-led civilian resistance and the defense of life. For over 20 years, CPT has accompanied civil rights defenders and nonviolent resistance in the face of Turkish and other foreign military attacks in South Kurdistan and Iraq. Today, as the hard-won autonomy of Rojava and the rights and lives of its people face an existential threat— amid mounting fears of ethnic cleansing and other mass atrocities— the CPT team has decided it cannot stand aside. Across Kurdistan, people are experiencing a profound sense of betrayal by Western governments that once supported the administration of Rojava. These governments have now largely abandoned it, choosing instead to support and normalize relations with the current Syrian regime under the false pretext of a “unified Syria.” **Read the rest of the Community Peacemaker Teams press release [here](#).**

The future of Mennonite Church USA

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Executive Director Glen Guyton urges MC USA to face challenges with faith, reimagine its structure, and engage congregations in shaping a hopeful, Christ-centered future together. **Read Glen Guyton’s Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

How can Anabaptists respond to authoritarianism?

Find out more about authoritarianism and how to creatively resist through [this new NPJM resource](#).

Shared in the Mennonite Central Committee US National Peace & Justice Ministries [January E-Memo](#)



Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commissions and Teams Contact List

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!

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

Facility Use Agreement

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commission Meeting Minutes

Past Midweeks

Structure Documents
