

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Learning to Whistle* using John 4:46-54.

As Jesus loops back to Cana, he heals a child from miles away offering only some words of reassurance to their father. This is a miracle, of course, but John also calls it a “sign.” What does this story reveal to us about Jesus? How does it form our trust and shape our own response when we are asked to intervene?

After Worship

Adult CE

Rooms 5 & 7

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-1st Grades

2nd-5th Grades

Junior High

High School



Mennonite
Church
of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

WE KEEP US SAFE

Standing up to ICE and
Protecting Immigrant
Communities



BCPA LAWN

Saturday Feb 7. 600 N. East Street, Bloomington,
12 noon - 1pm

A PEACEFUL PROTEST



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)

Saturday, February 7 at noon

If you are joining the nonviolent protest this Saturday, here is [some inspiration for signs](#).

Shared by Gerry

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.

Take your
Valentine to Italy...
Vicariously!

BOOK CONVERSATION EVENT

**Author Judith Valente In
Conversation with Pantagraph
Columnist Susan Hazlett**

On Judith's new book:

- "The Italian Soul: How to Savor the Full Joys of Life"

Learn How We Too Can Live As Joyfully
And Mindfully As Italians

Saturday, February 14 - 2 pm to 3 pm

**Barnes and Noble
1701 E. Empire Street
Bloomington IL**

**The event is FREE.
Booksing to follow the conversation.
www.judithvalente.com**



Saturday, February 14 at 2 pm
Judith Valente invites everyone to a free program she is giving Valentine's Day, Saturday February 14 from 2 pm to 3 pm, at the Barnes & Noble in Bloomington when she will be in conversation with Pantagraph columnist Susan Hazlett on Judith's latest book "*The Italian Soul: How to Savor the Full Joys of Life.*" Some of you might remember the program Judith gave at MCN last June on "Leaning Into Summer: Life Lessons from Italy about Living More Mindfully and Joyfully." The Barnes & Noble event will be a fun and deeper dive into what makes Italians so expert at the art of living fully. All are welcome!

Community Peacemaker Teams Presentation

Sunday, February 15 at 11 am & 7 pm

This is a reminder that 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. Quinn will also lead a class on the same day during the CE hour on the history of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

In Peace, Phil, Chair of Outreach Commission

Call to Serve



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

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

"What Jesus Says About Marriage" by Melissa Florer Bixler

"Accusations of biblical infidelity are a feature of the newest series of rifts in US and global Anabaptism. The affirmation of LGBTQ people's spiritual gifts and marriages is not a matter of ethics, these groups argue, but of seriousness about the Bible. We are on dangerous ground if we reject what is clear in Scripture, and a cascade of other liberal fallacies follows in the wake..." [Read the rest of Melissa's essay here.](#)

Shared by Pastor Kevin



Congregational Care Committee

Heads up! You can expect to hear from someone from the Congregational Care Committee (CCC) as we work our way through the directory over the course of this year, focusing on and praying for part of the list each month. We are open for you to share whatever needs/issues you might be navigating, but we are also glad to hear what you are looking forward to this year. CCC is glad to support the Pastoral Team in meeting the emergent needs of the congregation, but we hope to also find ways like this to offer support in regular seasons.

From the Congregational Care Committee



MC USA Request for Prayer

On Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in Washington, D.C., will hear opening arguments in an appeal for injunctive relief in the "sensitive locations" lawsuit, Mennonite Church USA et al., v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et al. Representatives from MC USA leadership will attend the hearing. [Read the brief](#), filed by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy & Protection at Georgetown Law. Learn more about the lawsuit, which is still pending, here: [News release](#) (Feb, 2025) announcing lawsuit; ["Our Anabaptist witness as Mennonites"](#) by MC USA's Iris de León-Hartshorn; ["The free exercise of our faith"](#) by MC USA's Michael Danner. MC USA requests your earnest prayers. Please note that no further action is requested at this time.

Shared by Pastor Kevin

MCN 50th



We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of MCN on September 27th, 2026! One way we are celebrating this 50th year is by collecting stories. Read the [call for submissions here](#).

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 are now available to take from the Library Table.**

... other foundation can no
one lay than that is laid,
which is Jesus Christ.

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

What is the origin of these words that are prominently displayed in our sanctuary? Installed by Franzie Loepp, this has been a part of our worship since the building's dedication. The words are from 1 Corinthians 3:11 in the King James version. Not only is it a nice Jesus-centered passage, but it is the favorite verse of Menno Simons, the 16th century Anabaptist leader and our namesake. *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org.*



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, February 4

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting
2:00 pm Worship Commission (Zoom)
7:30 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, February 5

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Monday, February 9

7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 10

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 11

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting
7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week



Now Hiring: 2026 Summer Staff

Camp Friedenswald is now accepting applications for the 2026 summer staff team. If you or a young adult in your life are interested in serving on staff (and having the best summer of your life!), please apply. **For more information, click [here](#).** Application deadline: February 15

Antiwar activist and attorney to lead draft counselor training in February

Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 1 pm

A three-part draft counselor training program will kick off on Sunday, February 8, 2026, 1 p.m. Central Time, at Joy Mennonite Church in Oklahoma City. Organized by James M. Branum, a longtime antiwar activist and one of the country's leading civilian military law attorneys, the sessions will be also accessible online via Zoom. Timely questions will be addressed and answered by the program, including:

- What if the United States reinstated a military draft?
- How could you, your family and your neighbors be impacted?
- How can faith communities and community leaders help families prepare?

The purpose is to train and equip volunteer civilian draft counselors who can help potential draftees exercise their rights to legally avoid being drafted. Teachers, youth leaders, clergy and parents are encouraged to participate, as are community organizers and peace and justice advocates and activists. The first session, Draft Counseling 101, will last about two hours. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. There is no charge for the training, but donations to Joy Mennonite Church will be gratefully accepted to offset costs. **Register [here](#). Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

PPC/Equality IL Community Meeting

Tuesday, February 10 at 7 pm

Please join us at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10 at Hope Church, 1 Yount Drive in Bloomington for a special community meeting to discuss voting rights and learn about legislation proposed for the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly. **Kyle Ciani** is Director of Voter Services for the [League of Women Voters of McLean County](#) and Emerita Professor of History at ISU. She will present information on voter registration, the upcoming March primary, and the importance of voting. **Jose "Che-Che" Wilson** is director of Civic Engagement at [Equality Illinois](#) and serves as that organization's liaison to [Prairie Pride Coalition](#). Che-Che will update us on legislation introduced in the current session of the Illinois General Assembly that is of interest to the LGBTQIA+ community. He will also discuss an upcoming town hall in Bloomington/Normal co-sponsored by Prairie Pride Coalition and Equality Illinois. Our community meetings are hybrid; you can attend in person or via Zoom. Please e-mail us at info@ppc-il.org if you would like to participate virtually. Please join us Feb. 10 for this very important, informative session!

Shared by the Prairie Pride Coalition Team

Men's Retreat

March 6-8

Mennonite Men will be hosting a men's retreat at Camp Friedenswald with RawTools founder Michael Martin, March 6-8, 2026. The theme of the weekend will be "Becoming Malleable Men: Practicing Faith and Being Formed". **Click [here](#) to learn more and register.**

A Note from the Immigration Project

After thousands of federal agents were deployed in Minneapolis, two people have lost their lives, multiple students have been detained, others have been injured, an entire community is devastated, and we feel that devastation. At The Immigration Project, we believe every person deserves equal access, dignity, and justice. It is painful to witness such a blatant disregard for constitutional rights and such senseless violence—not only against U.S. citizens, but against everyone who calls this country, and especially Minneapolis, home. No one should ever face harm because of the color of their skin or the sound of their voice. No one should be targeted for peacefully protesting or simply existing in the presence of federal agents. No one should feel unsafe at the hands of those sworn to protect them. We stand firmly with the people of Minneapolis and with all communities suffering from the unethical use of militarized force. We mourn, deeply and collectively, the losses of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Jefferey Pretti. We also mourn the losses of those who have died at the border, the 32 individuals who have died in immigration custody in 2025, and Silverio Villegas González, who lost his life to ICE agents in Chicago during Operation Midway Blitz. Now more than ever, we must come together—not only as a community, but as a nation—to confront the injustices unfolding around us. When fear and intimidation are the goal, we must respond with courage, kindness, solidarity, and hope. Thank you for standing with us as we continue our fight for justice for all. Now, more than ever, we need your help.

- **Make your voice heard** – Call or email your senators and state legislators, urging them to support pro-immigration policies.
- **Stay informed and act locally** – Subscribe to [Illinois Advocacy alerts](#), volunteer to be a part of the [rapid response networks](#), follow our Minneapolis mission partners at [MIRACMN](#) and [The Advocates for Human Rights](#), attend [peaceful protests](#).
- [Donate to The Immigration Project](#) – to continue the fight for justice for all.

Shared by The Immigration Project

Dismukes Project: Black history in Appalachia

Dr. Henry Dodford Dismukes, an African American Physician in the early 1900's, founded the largest privately owned Black hospital in the country for its time. The hospital was discovered to have been located on the grounds of Mennonite Central Committee property in McDowell County, Kimball, West Virginia. Over the past several years, MCC has been working with the local community to share not only the story of Dr. Dismukes, but also to preserve other stories of Black history in Appalachia. As of January 9, 2026, the Henrietta Dismukes Nurses' Home is officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thanks to generous support from donors, MCC recently completed critical exterior renovations to the historic Henrietta Dismukes Nurses' Home, ensuring the building is ready for the next phase of interior renovations. Once fully rehabilitated, the Nurses' Home will be repurposed as a community learning center offering classes and preserving local history. MCC is working to share not only the story of Dr. Dismukes, but also to preserve other stories of Black history in Appalachia. **Learn about the Dismukes Project and how you can support it with Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

A Note from Mennonite Action

In a time of so much fear and darkness, last night marked a bright spot of hope. Over 700 of you joined us on our Mass Call! Thank you for listening to our friends on the front lines in Minnesota, and our partners in Palestine resisting against occupation. You can find the recording of the call [here](#). AND last night included a big announcement—for those of you who missed it last night, we're excited to share our latest campaign, [**Sing Down the Doors: taking action to peacefully disrupt Target for ICE compliance**](#). This will be an action we're encouraging all chapters, including yours, to consider enacting where you live. You're encouraged to hold public, nonviolent hymn sings at a Target store in your neighborhood or city. We've created [a toolkit](#) with everything you need to know to plan your own action. But to get you started, you may be wondering:

- Why Target? Target is headquartered in the Twin Cities, and ICE officers have been utilizing the stores there and elsewhere to stage operations. ICE has been filmed brutalizing observers and onlookers within Target and in response, local organizers in Minnesota have called for solidarity actions at Targets across the country.
- Why now? We learned that in key moments, called "red line moments," it is crucial to take bold action. We believe this is one of those moments, as the recent killings of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Silverio Villegas González, and Keith Porter Jr. have escalated tensions in the U.S. But we know that 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 immigrant communities. The recent murderers are part of a long history of state violence and brutality, primarily leveraged against black and brown people. We want to use the momentum of the moment to work towards a world where ALL our neighbors are kept safe, from Minneapolis to Palestine.
- So what do we do next? Download our [toolkit](#), make a plan with your chapter, and [put it on the map!](#)

For your reference, [here](#) are all the links we shared on the call last night— including opportunities to donate to impacted parties in Minnesota and to the olive tree fund in the West Bank. Thank you for tuning in, and we look forward to bold, courageous action with you for the liberation of all God's children.

In peace, Mennonite Action

Four days in Minneapolis

Resisting ICE, people of faith protest violent oppression, show love for immigrants.

It is Wednesday, Jan. 21. My flight lands in Minneapolis just before midnight. Even fully protected, my hands and toes are freezing, but my heart is warm as I enter the eye of the storm. As I arrive, Minneapolis is one of several U.S. cities occupied by federal immigration agents. It's in the national media spotlight — a battleground between protesters and 3,000 federal agents, who outnumber local police by about five to one. The agents have already killed one U.S. citizen, Renée Good, 37. Mennonites, along with other faith communities and residents, are caught up in these events — organizing vigils, mass meetings and collective witness as their neighborhoods are under attack. This is the story of what I witnessed... **Read the rest of Juan Moya's article published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**



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

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

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!

Facility Use Agreement

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

Past Midweeks

Structure Documents
