

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Minor Second* using John 18:28-40.

Pilate's encounter with Jesus reveals him as a politician who is uncomfortable with the hand he has been dealt. Before deferring to the crowd, he asks Jesus, 'what is truth?'—striking a dissonant interval with John's gospel. Pilate doesn't wait for Jesus' answer. How would we answer him?

After Worship

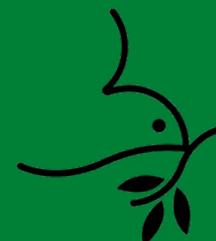
Adult CE

Rooms 5 & 7

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K-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



CDC Mid-Year Gathering

Saturday, March 14 via Zoom

9:30 am - 12 pm (gathering music begins at 9:15 am)

Mark your calendars! At this year's Central District Conference mid-year gathering we will seeking input from congregations that will be used to draft a statement on our position of dissent with respect to [Article 19 of the Confession of Faith](#) from a Mennonite Perspective, which pertains to marriage and human sexuality. Questions for Discussion in Breakout Rooms:

- What do we still affirm in Article 19? What do we not affirm?
- What is most important to you as we rewrite this statement?
- What other questions come up for you?

If you are able to attend, all are welcome. If you would like to share your answers with Pastor Lauren, she will relay them to this gathering. Thanks!

CDC Annual Meeting Delegates



In just a few months, the 2026 Central District Conference annual meeting will meet June 25-27, 2026 in Harrisonburg, Virginia at Eastern Mennonite University. The theme of Rise Up! Take Courage! We are looking for delegates to represent MCN at this meeting. Please let Lydia in the office or Pastor Lauren know if you are interested **by March 15**.

From the Administration Commission

Lloyd and Aldine Combs Scholarship Application

Deadline: March 15th

Applications are now open for the Lloyd and Aldine Combs Scholarship which supports students pursuing higher education, with a preference for those attending Mennonite-affiliated colleges, universities, and seminaries. Applicants are judged based on an essay and letters of recommendation which are scored by a committee according to a rubric. The scholarship is awarded to one student annually. This opportunity is open to MCN students who will be attending an institution of higher education in Fall of 2026. You can access the application at [this link](#).

From the Discipling Commission



Il Mennonite Relief Sale

Friday, March 20 & Saturday, March 21

Can you believe we are only a week and a half away from the 68th annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale!?!? Please continue to help get the word out and invite your friends! There are a few more spots to sign up to volunteer for. Helping Ben - the sale treasurer, serving ice cream on Saturday, and a few others. Please take a look at the sign-up sheets on Sunday. Don't forget to grab your supplies for baked goods! Last year MCN made 75 strawberry pies that were sold out early in the morning, this year our goal is 100! What are you baking?



Bel Canto Choir

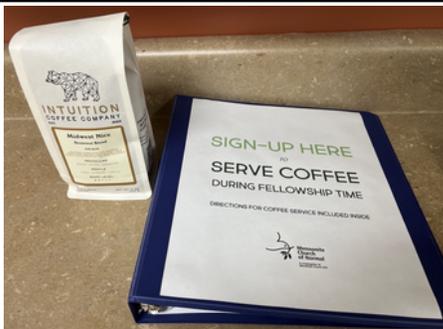
Sunday, March 22 at 9:30 am

We are delighted the Hesston College (KS) Bel Canto choir will lead our worship service on Sunday, March 22. We will share lunch with them (provided by the Fellowship Committee) before they leave to return to Hesston yet that day. **WHAT WE NEED:** Overnight hosts for the 22 students and 2 faculty on **Saturday night, March 21**. They will arrive at the church at 9pm and will need a place to rest their heads and eat breakfast before returning to MCN by 8:45am Sunday. If you'd like to host, please contact Jill with how many you can accommodate. If you have room for only one, that works too! They ask that each faculty member not be housed with students. Thank you for offering hospitality to these folks as they offer their gifts to us!

From the Community Life Commission



Bite-sized pieces of our shared history leading up to our 50th anniversary celebration (9/27/26). Mutual Aid is not unique to Mennonites, but we are historically champions of that method of addressing needs. Unlike our Anabaptist siblings, the Hutterites—who share a community of goods—we attempt to act responsively to meet the needs of the congregation as they arise. At MCN, we work with Mutual Aid in a number of ways. Our Congregational Care Committee oversees our congregational mutual aid funds, the Outreach Commission administers mutual aid outside the congregation (our “emergency funds”), and perhaps most uniquely, SMAP (Student Mutual Aid Program) provides for our students’ tuition at Mennonite institutions. MCN started a church scholarship program in 1972, and it was first fully funded in 1977 for 4 students. That eventually rose to twenty students in 1980. That year, representatives from MCN presented at denominational gatherings in Estes Park, CO (see photo), where they hoped to inspire other Mennonite Churches to follow this model. *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org*



Sign up by this Sunday to serve coffee during fellowship time and you might win this bag of coffee!
From the Community Life Commission and Fellowship Committee



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, March 11

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting

Thursday, March 12

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
6:45 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Monday, March 16

9:30 am Community Life Commission

Sunday, March 15

7:00 pm Adult Choir

Wednesday, March 18

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week



Mennonite Action: How to show up to No Kings Day March 28

In our demonstration against authoritarianism in the United States, we're joining in the No Kings Day rallies happening all over the country on March 28th. We're calling on Mennonite Action chapters to show up to their local No Kings Day, in their Mennonite Action gear and with our banners (new "Mennonite Action" banner design [here](#)) on that date. It's an opportunity to show up to oppose authoritarianism, support our immigrant neighbors against ICE, and to ensure Palestinian liberation is not excluded from the demands of the event. In showing up alongside others, we bring our faith as Mennonites into the community and invite others to take action with us. Critically, we're hosting a virtual training on Tuesday, March 10th at 7pm CST to help your chapter prepare for No Kings Day. This will provide more insight into what the event will entail, how we're showing up, and how to organize involvement. In addition to providing the training next week, we have [a toolkit available](#) to fully equip your chapter for participation. If your group decides to have a contingent, we'd love to know. You can utilize the [Google form here](#) to keep us in the loop. At a time of crisis such as this, showing up in coalition is important. Even more so that we show up as a group of Mennonite Christians, unwaveringly committed to liberation for those in Palestine and all who face oppression at home. **RSVP for the training [here](#).**

From Nick Martin, Campaign Director for Mennonite Action



Friday, March 20 at 11 am CDT
Mennonite Women USA's next Coffee and Conversation will be Friday, March 20 at 11 am Central. Inspired by International Women's Day, join in to talk to Marty Lehman about her role as MC USA's current moderator, where she sees women shaping the church, and where you see women women making an impact through ministry. **RSVP for the Zoom link [here](#).**

Tell Congress "Peace, not new wars, in the Middle East"

Background: On February 28 the Trump administration, in coordination with Israel, began a mass bombing campaign in Iran, targeting civilian, governmental and military facilities — an unprovoked and unilateral action illegal under both U.S. and international law. Iran responded with attacks on U.S. bases and other targets throughout the region. Hezbollah and Israel then restarted attacks across their shared border, and Israel [deployed troops into Lebanon](#). The Trump administration's pattern of using military action as foreign policy is both immoral and dangerous — and threatens to engulf the Middle East in a devastating and prolonged conflict. Recent U.S. aggression has included the invasion of Venezuela, attacks on civilian fishing vessels, the bombing of Nigeria and Yemen, and threats to annex Greenland. This is a critical time to press Congress to reassert its control and stop further military actions. Urge your members of Congress to:

- Oppose any supplemental spending bills for waging war against Iran
- Insist the administration seek congressional authorization for military action, as required by law
- Publicly oppose U.S. military aggression in the Middle East and beyond
- Re-appropriate military funding to human needs programs such as health care and humanitarian assistance

Faith reflection: Jesus called his followers to resist a culture of violence and death. We cannot passively wait for a better world to emerge but must work together to turn away from a path toward mutual destruction, and onto a path toward mutual flourishing.

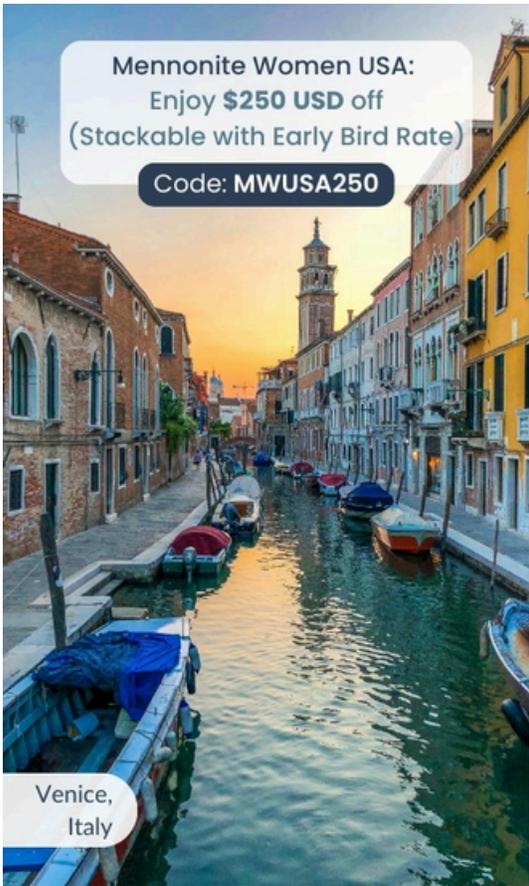
Take action:

1. [Send a letter to your members of Congress](#)
2. Join prayer vigils, peaceful protests and other nonviolent actions

Additional resources: [MCC statement on Iran](#) | [AFSC fact sheet](#)

JoinHands Grant Empowers Ghanaian Church Construction

In spring 2025, Mennonite Men connected with Ghana Mennonite Church through Matthew Krabill of Mennonite Mission Network. The approved JoinHands grant supports Santramozorh Mennonite Church's dream of building a place of worship. This partnership reflects shared faith, generosity, and the hope that God's kin-dom will continue to grow across the world. **Read the rest of Jon Zirkle's article for Mennonite Men [here](#).**



Mennonite Women USA:
Enjoy **\$250 USD** off
(Stackable with Early Bird Rate)

Code: **MWUSA250**

Venice,
Italy

VIENNA TO VENICE:

The Untold Stories of Women,
Peasants & the Anabaptist
Witness



May 6 - 19, 2026 or
September 16 - 29, 2026



14 days



Kimberly D. Schmidt

TourMagination



MENNO HAVEN

WOMEN'S Retreat

- ✓ Bible Teaching from Jessica Boggs
- ✓ Meaningful Worship with Tamar Chipp
- ✓ Encouragement & Restful Spaces

Join us for an overnight retreat
alongside other women who want to
find connection with the Word of
The Lord and with other women.



APRIL 24-26, 2026
STARTS AT 6 PM



MENNO HAVEN
9301 1575 East St
Tiskilwa, IL 61368

LEARN MORE



More Information:
mennohaven.com



Learning to cope/adapt in Ukraine as the fourth anniversary of invasion looms

Even some horses have become used to the sounds of war in Ukraine.

Under a clear-blue sky on a chilly day last November, two women who work for MCC partner Reimer Center stood in a small, enclosed field near the Carpathian Mountains in western Ukraine. While showing off horses used for youth therapy to visiting MCC staff, there were suddenly loud jet-like sounds echoing off the hills near the stable. "It is the Ukrainian military doing [weapon] exercises," said Margarita, who leads the therapy program for Reimer Center. The horses did not budge. "They are used to it," she added. Nearly four years since the Russian military launched a full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022, the citizens of Ukraine are also used to war in Ukraine. Despite the horrible conditions, many have learned to adjust. These days, Ukraine is a country filled with heartache and hope — heartache with the lives that have been taken and buildings that have been destroyed, and hope that the war will soon end. Many Ukrainians have a comfort zone when it comes to living in the country. That is the case for [Maxym, the director of MCC partner New Hope Center](#). Each person has their own limit for what they can live with, says Maxym. "For my family, we will leave in case of [Russian] occupation. If Zaporizhzhia becomes occupied, that is our level. Then we will leave."

Read the rest of David Driver's blog post for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).

Prison kits are 'sacred neighboring'

In Philadelphia, over 20,000 people are released from prison each year. They need housing, employment and accompaniment as they navigate life outside of prison. But neighborhoods are not equipped to receive them. At Mennonite Central Committee East Coast's Day of Service on Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Day, about 100 people gathered at the PAX Center in South Philadelphia to pack prison care kits and to hear keynote speaker Lori Banfield encourage churches, organizations and individuals to practice sacred neighboring. Banfield, executive director of Redemption Housing, an MCC partner, described sacred neighboring as "presence with a purpose" that helps "to foster a restored dignity in the process of civil reintegration." The anointing is on the church, not the government, to practice this ministry of reconciliation, she said. Philadelphia has 2,200 churches that have an opportunity to be sacred neighbors. Churches could help "before the walls" with prison prevention. Congregations can also help "behind the walls" through projects like MCC's prison care kits, and they could help "beyond the walls" with transportation, housing and food pantries. Banfield encouraged participants, many of whom represented at least 11 congregations, to consider how they might best serve. The work is more than willing hands and feet. It involves spiritual preparation, too. **Read the rest of Eileen Kinch's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

CPT condemns the US-Israel war on Iran

On Saturday morning, the US and Israel launched Operation Epic Fury, attacking Tehran and multiple Iranian cities. Israel described the attack as "pre-emptive", yet the opening strikes reportedly killed over 100 children at a school, and took place as negotiations were making progress. According to the mediator, a deal was "within our reach". **Read Community Peacemaker Teams' statement [here](#).**

Police join spiritual leaders in conflict mediation workshop

The sun rose over the Bellville campus of the [University of the Western Cape](#) (UWC) on Monday, January 12, 2026, casting long shadows across the lawns. Forty-four religious leaders — pastors, imams, reverends, traditional healers, and other faith-based figures from communities identified as crime and violence hotspots across the City of Cape Town Metro, in Western Cape — arrived for the start of an intensive five-day workshop. They gathered under the metaphorical shade of a Baobab tree in the spirit of ubuntu — a space of knowledge exchange and skills strengthening where everyone contributes, and everyone grows. These men and women were selected for their influence in neighborhoods where crime intertwines with despair, moral erosion, and unseen spiritual battles. The “Conflict Mediation for Spiritual Crime Prevention Leaders” workshop was a collaboration between the South African Police Service (SAPS) Western Cape Provincial Command, the [Centre for Transformative Regulation of Work](#), established by the Faculty of Law at UWC, and Mission Network partner [South African Dispute Resolution Agency](#) (SADRA). SADRA’s experienced facilitators led the sessions, drawing on years of work in transforming conflict in South Africa’s divided spaces. The program stemmed from a longstanding partnership between SAPS and faith-based organizations that recognized traditional policing alone does not heal the wounds fueling conflict and violence in communities. **Read the rest of Jane Morrow’s blog post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Mennonite, Brethren publishers to merge Bible curricula this fall

MennoMedia and Brethren Press are partnering to create a new quarterly Bible study curriculum. Beginning this fall, *Salt & Light: A Guide for Biblical Studies* will be written by Church of the Brethren and Mennonite biblical scholars, pastors and educators. The new curriculum blends *A Guide for Biblical Studies*, published by Brethren Press, and *Salt & Light*, published by MennoMedia. Designed for use in Sunday school classes and small groups, and following the Committee on the Uniform Series Bible outlines, *Salt & Light* integrates biblical study with spiritual formation. “Now we are extending this partnership to include adult curriculum,” she said. “Several years ago, MennoMedia moved away from the Committee on the Uniform Series for Bible outlines, and we think this return to CUS will be a welcome change for our readers.” A Spanish edition, *Sal y Luz*, will be available in digital form. **Read the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

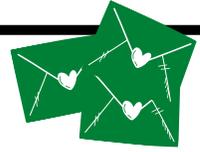
Making peace in your town

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, in “Making peace in your town,” Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz (MC USA’s denominational minister for Peace and Justice) shares how two congregations model Anabaptist peacemaking through disaster response, immigrant solidarity and hands-on community ministry rooted in Jesus’ call to justice-centered peace. **Read Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz’s Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [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

Past Midweeks

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

Structure Documents
