

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Cassandra and the Rooster* using John 18:12-27.

Amid terrible circumstances, Peter fails to live up to his own expectations and denies multiple times that he is a follower of Jesus. This troubling scenario is made more tragic by the sound of the rooster, reminding Peter of Jesus' prediction. What do we make of this weird story? Why do all four gospels encourage us to remember that Peter—the "rock" on which Jesus claimed he would build his church—did this? How might this dissonance offer us hope?

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).
The bulletins get posted under the Worship tab of our [website](#).

After Worship

Adult CE

Rooms 5 & 7

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K–5th Grades

Junior High

High School



Mennonite
Church
of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA



Ken Clements Memorial Service

Friday, March 6 at 6:30 pm Central Time

Memorial Services for Ken Clement will be held in Toowoomba, Qld at 10:30 am on March 7 AEST (March 6 at 6:30 pm CST) at St David's Presbyterian Church (click [here](#) for livestream). Nerida encourages everyone to share their memories of Ken on the condolence board. **Read his obituary [here](#).**

Adult CE



Beginning this Sunday, March 8

A new Christian Education quarter begins on Sunday, March 8. The adult class will be using a Salt and Light study, "Sin, Salvation and New Life" by Leonard Beechy, a thought-provoking writer. Lessons will focus on Lamentations, John and Psalms. The expression of difficult emotions and strengthening our capacity to communicate with God are foci for this quarter's study. Study books can be picked up on the shelves at the west end of the classroom.

From the Discipling Commission

POSTPONED: Presentation by Meghan

Sunday, March 8 at 5:00 pm at the MRC Community Building

This presentation has been postponed. A rescheduled date TBD.

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

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



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!



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 Community Life Commission



Meal Train



Il Mennonite Relief Sale

Friday, March 20 & Saturday, March 21

Where is your favorite place to volunteer at the sale? It's a great time to invite friends, family, and coworkers to visit the sale. Brochures are now available as well as posters and yard signs to help get the word out. Have you signed up for trivia night yet? This year you don't need a team, you can be added to one by the organizers or buy the whole table for yourself! Please consider signing up on the forms by the north wall of the atrium for a time and place to volunteer that works for you. There is still time to donate auction items and grab some supplies for baked goods!



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

We colloquially refer to some places as “the other side of the world” when referring to far-off destinations, but do you know what is the true antipode of Mennonite Church of Normal? The exact point is a remote area in the Southern Indian Ocean between Australia and Madagascar (-40.50342, 90.98827). However, the closest land a few hundred miles to the West is *Île Amsterdam*, or Amsterdam Island. It is a French-controlled volcanic island that is limited to scientific research, housing around 30 scientists—and some Amsterdam Albatrosses that breed there exclusively. Certainly not Normal...

Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 4

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

Thursday, March 5

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women’s Bible Study

Sunday, March 1

7:00 pm Adult Choir

Tuesday, March 10

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 11

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting



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.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Those Serving This Week



Menno Haven's Spring Work Day

Saturday, March 28 from 8-4

Come volunteer, meet others who love camp and enjoy a meal. For more information and to RSVP click [here](#).

CDC Israel Palestine Resources

Central District Conference has added Israel Palestine resources to their website. These include the Kairos II document and a study guide to go with it. You can find the resources [here](#).

Mennonite Action Meeting Re-Cap

Thank you to all who joined last Thursday's Mass Call. After a month of coordinated actions across the U.S., disrupting business-as-usual with hymns in our "Sing Down the Doors" campaign at Target, we had a lot of great updates to take in. If you missed the call, you can view the [recording here](#). To quickly access all of the provided resources, [check out this link](#). New headlines have emerged in the few short days since we gathered for our Mass Call. Over the weekend, we received messages from friends in the West Bank about the ramifications of Trump's latest acts of war on the region. As we hold the reality that all these events– from the ICE actions prompting our latest campaign, to the bombs falling in the Middle East– are interwoven, a timely event to put on your calendar is [this week's Picket & Pray](#), where we'll be hearing from partners in the West Bank. Make plans to attend if you're able. Throughout Thursday's call, we heard updates from chapters across the country who've participated in Sing Down the Doors. We were moved by their stories, their rapid organizing, and the boldness on display. We additionally got to hear an update from delegation members who spent most of February in the West Bank, practicing protective presence and planting trees with Palestinian farmers. And we heard from staff and leadership on the ground in Minneapolis working with local partners, aiding migrant neighbors there. Watch the recording to take it all in. We hope you find grounding and hope, in our community and collective action, amidst the turbulence. Upcoming opportunities for involvement include showing up to your local No Kings Day event, ensuring Palestinian liberation is included in the demands we make of the U.S. government, on March 28th. [You can access our toolkit here](#). As we continue to train and equip ourselves for courage, our new Mennonite Action book, "Courage to Enter the Song," [is available for bulk purchase](#). In May, we'll be launching a 4 week Sunday School guide, so you and your congregation can work through the material together.

Shared by Mennonite Action

Camp Friedenswald Summer Registration Open

Camp Friedensald is happy to announce that summer youth camp registration is now open! They hope you (or your camper) will join for a summer of ["Walkin' in Wonder"](#) at Camp Friedenswald. The schedule is as follows. Please consider the grade the camper will be entering in the fall of 2026 when determining camp week.

- High School Camp (grades 9-12): June 14-19
- Jr High (grades 7-8): June 21-26
- Pre-Junior (grades 3-4): June 28-July 1
- Junior (grades 5-6): July 5-10

Education beyond checkpoints

CPT Palestine's School Semester Report, September 2025-January 2026, is out now. It highlights violations of the learning environment experienced by students as they access their right to education. These violations include bag searches, detention of children, the use of force against school students, and checkpoint closures. [Click here to read the Community Peacemaker Teams' new report.](#)

MC USA's Women in Leadership welcomes new steering committee members

Mennonite Church USA's Women in Leadership ministry, a denominational initiative that empowers women and works to dismantle patriarchy across MC USA, has named three new members to its steering committee: Dianne Garcia, Joanne Gallardo and Rosalind Young. Each will serve a three-year term, beginning Jan. 2026. Through Women in Leadership, MC USA partners with conferences, congregations and leaders across the denomination to cultivate spiritual vitality, justice-centered leadership and equitable practices in the church. The steering committee plays a vital role in shaping that work, offering theological insight, lived experience and strategic guidance to support women as they respond to God's call in diverse ministry settings. **Read the rest of the Mennonite Church USA press release [here](#).**

Children's drawings encourage peace at UN headquarters

'Their strokes inspire us to dream of a world where it is dignified to live for everyone.' As global delegates to the United Nations (UN) entered the General Assembly in November, they were greeted by an exhibit of children's drawings of colorful landscapes, self-portraits and favorite activities. The drawings showed world leaders the kind of future children around the world want – one that is open, peaceful and bubbling with hope. The "Drawing Hope —Children's Art for Peace" exhibit included artwork and messages of peace from children in eight countries that have been affected by conflict. Children from several Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) partners in Colombia contributed artwork to the exhibit, which was coordinated by Drawing Hope Network, a global peace initiative. **Read the rest of Linda Espenshade's article for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

If you're angry, make it count

Our scripture verse for Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference this year is Amos 5:24: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (ESV). In our conference gatherings, we have focused on the stream as the giver of life. We've considered what justice might look like. We've reflected on our own contributions to justice and righteousness. For a theme verse, we only use a snippet of scripture, something catchy and memorable. The preamble to this verse, however, is not at all catchy but should prove memorable. It says: I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fattened animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. Hate. Despise. These are powerful words. Some of us have been taught not to use them because of their power and strength. Anger is not constructive unless it's a catalyst for change. Anger is not useful unless we address the underlying sadness. There is no easy cure for sadness. It's been my experience that the only way out is through. Let's not skip the angry stage. Anger shouldn't be forced, but if we feel it, let's not run away from it. **Read the rest of Joanne Gallardo's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

The rise and fall of Gaza's airport

A symbol of the Palestinian struggle.

Gaza had an airport. Designed by a Moroccan architect, it was a gem with arabesques and attention to light and space. It embodied hope for peace, as the Palestinian Authority took responsibility for local governance from the Israeli military. The airport was in southern Gaza, nestled between Rafah and Israeli and Egyptian borders for ease of access to the Israeli military, who provided the security processes they deemed necessary. By the time it was destroyed in 2001 during the second intifada, we had returned to Pennsylvania. The terminal stood for years in hopes of being rebuilt, but that never happened. In 2010, I saw photos of a summer camp activity with some 7,000 children dribbling basketballs for five minutes on the runway tarmac to set a new world record. A news report quoted an 11-year-old, "I hope one day I can fly from this airport to the world as member of Palestine's national basketball team." **Read the rest of Linda Herr's blog post for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

Learning that transforms

Students engage questions of calling, purpose through final projects.

Each year, candidates for graduation from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary complete final projects and papers to fulfill the requirements of their master's degree programs. Through this process, they take a deep dive into topics they're wrestling with and that matter to them. We invited five recent graduates to share about how they chose their theme and how what they've learned is shaping them as leaders. **Click [here](#) to read the blog posts from Christian Berambaye Nawai of N'Djamena, Chad; Chialis Thuan of Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia; Daniel Teye Nuertey of Dodowa, Accra, Ghana; Joshua Landis of Telford, Pennsylvania; and Micheline Ayitoma Ilonga of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.**

Shared by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Hesston rescues an irreplaceable flock

While the restoration of Hesston College's J.D. Charles Hall of Science and Arts moved ahead after a May 9 fire, the fate of feathered friends in the building remained uncertain. The specimens were part of an exhibit prepared from 1948 to 1956 by Richard H. Schmidt, a Mennonite taxidermist from Goessel, Kan., for the Maurice Yoder Memorial Museum in Charles Hall. The collection was not exposed to the fire, but chemical smoke damage coupled with arsenic used in preservation 70 years ago resulted in 260 specimens with an unknown future. After several failed attempts to connect with a taxidermist willing to take on a project of cleaning and restoring over 200 birds, the college was at a loss. Numerous inquiries from community members as to the collection's fate made its value apparent, but the college was running out of options. Moving forward on a wing and a prayer, Ben Miller, director of campus facilities, connected with Wes Becker, president of the Kansas Association of Taxidermy and owner of M&W Taxidermy in Mount Hope, Kan. **Read the rest of Sara Hadaway's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Filing taxes and finding belonging in Canada: Elena's story

Elena* made the decision to start over—again. Originally from Ukraine, she had already rebuilt her life once after moving to Israel in 1993. She worked as a civil engineer for 23 years, building a career and raising her family. But after years of conflict and uncertainty in Israel, Elena and her husband made the difficult choice to leave once more. In 2020, they came to Canada through a family sponsorship from their daughter. “Our first visit to Canada was in 2012, when our granddaughter was born,” she says. “We liked Canada from our first visit, but we decided to move after several wars in Israel.” Starting over in a new country at that stage in life wasn’t easy for Elena. Even after several years in Canada, some essential tasks didn’t come easily. Filing taxes and finding affordable groceries—key parts of settling in—felt confusing and overwhelming at times. Then a friend told Elena about New Foundations, a free program offered by MCC BC in Victoria. It supports newcomers through group workshops on topics like budgeting, job search skills and stress management, along with one-on-one support and a community kitchen that teaches healthy, low-cost cooking with Canadian ingredients. For Elena, that support made all the difference. **Read the rest of Monet Lamphere-Ma’s blog post for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

God's dream: Focusing on what matters

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Nathan Luitjens reflects on MC USA’s annual Conference Ministers’ Retreat and how MC USA leaders are re-centering their work around God’s dream of shalom, reconciliation and faithful presence in local contexts. **Read Nathan Luitjens’s Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

Sustain Friedenswald Update

Renovations are well underway to staff housing at Camp Friedenswald! The old Tri-plex is being transformed into Hugel Haus (translated: Hill House as it sits on the edge of Turtle Hill) with an anticipated completion date of May 2026. We are grateful for the volunteers who have been assisting with a variety of projects along the way and for those who have supported these timely projects financially. **You can read more and follow our progress [here](#).**



Commissions and Teams Contact List

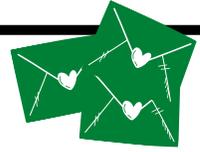
Items for the Midweek



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

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

Facility Use Agreement

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Past Midweeks

Commission Meeting Minutes

Structure Documents
