

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Fine Lines* using Acts 17:16-31.

Paul speaks to a curious audience in Athens that is eager for new ideas, and open to new possibilities, but less ready to move beyond the realm of stimulating discussion and into practice. How do we relate to these Athenians?

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

Give soap full of hope: Help MCC collect bars of soap in April & May

Mennonite Central Committee provides soap to hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps in countries where soap is expensive or difficult to source. There is a need for soap beyond what is supplied in kits. MCC Great Lakes invites you to take part in a special collection of bath soap and laundry soap throughout April and May. **Soap collected at MCN will be delivered to the MCC Drop Off Site at Metamora Mennonite Church.** Thank you for limiting your generosity to the items listed below. **Learn more [here](#).** If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Commission. *Shared by MCC Great Lakes and the MCN Outreach Commission.*

Bath soap specifications:

NEW bars of soap

- 85g (3oz) or larger
- Please leave in wrapper.
- Please keep in mind that hotel soaps are too small.

Laundry soap specifications:

NEW bars of laundry soap

- Brands such as Fels Naptha®, Sunlight® or Zote®
- Please leave in wrapper.
- Homemade laundry soap blocks of 150g (5oz) or larger are acceptable.

Share Your Story!

Submissions have begun to come in for our collection of stories celebrating the 50th anniversary of Mennonite Church of Normal. In the interest of including as many stories as possible, we are extending the deadline to **July 1st**. Do you have a story about MCN that is worthy of sharing? **The answer is yes!** We aren't just looking for historical and monumental stories, but every story that speaks to the experience of this congregation, both big and small. For more information, see the call for submissions [here](#).

From the MCN 50th Committee



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

Historically, many churches had “churchyards” that served as burial grounds for the congregation and a visible reminder of the “cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12). We don't have such an arrangement at Mennonite Church of Normal, so where are our people interred? Many are buried at the Mennonite Church of Normal (Ropp) Cemetery located several miles North of Normal, 1/4 mile West of 1200 E on 2100 N. It was originally established as a Mennonite family cemetery (the Ropp family) in the 1800s and was acquired by the church in 1987. *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org*



Those Serving This Week



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



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, April 29

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

Thursday, April 30

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Tuesday, May 5

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 6

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

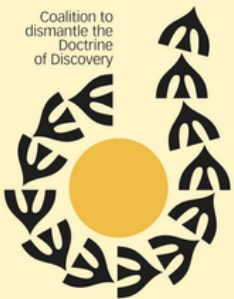


SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PILGRIMAGE

**JUST
PEACE
PILGRIMAGE**

Sept. 22-26,
2026

Coalition to
dismantle the
Doctrine
of Discovery




Travel with us to Navajoland near Bluff, Utah, to engage with contemporary Indigenous realities, explore the histories of Indigenous Peoples, and examine the complexities of Indigenous-settler relations.

Cost: \$1,050, plus travel to and from Durango, Colorado

Led by Sarah Augustine, Executive Director for the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and **Joe Hubbard**, Episcopal priest and convener of the Episcopal Indigenous Justice Roundtable.

Facilitated by Mennonite Mission Network, in partnership with Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.



 Mennonite Mission Network

UNMASKING & DISMANTLING SETTLER COLONIALISM ON TURTLE ISLAND



Music Scholarships

The Pratt Music Foundation is dedicated to providing talented young musicians with the opportunity to develop their skills through private music lessons. We understand that the cost of music instruction can be a barrier for many families. That's why our foundation offers full scholarships for music lessons through the Illinois Wesleyan University's Music Preparatory Program. Scholarship recipients receive professional instruction in piano or string instruments, including violin, viola, and cello. For more information or to request an application, please contact prattmusicfoundation@gmail.com.

- **Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

- Music scholarships are available to students in grades 2 through 12 who demonstrate:
 - Financial need
 - Dedication and motivation
 - Musical talent

- **Important Details**

- Application Deadline: June 1
- Free Resources: Scholarship recipients receive free music books from The Music Shoppe. Instruments are also available at minimal fee (\$20 annually) for those who need them.

- **How to Apply**

- Applications can be completed online [here](#).

Shared by the Pratt Music Foundation

Texas pastor embarks on 90-mile march to spotlight child ICE detention

A Texas pastor embarks on 90-mile march to spotlight child ICE detention, featuring Dianne Garcia, pastor of Roca de Refugio, by Molly Wilhelm published by Chron. **Read it [here](#).**

Shared by Mennonite Church USA

MWC appoints representative for North America

David Chow, a Mennonite Brethren pastor from Calgary, Alberta, has been appointed Mennonite World Conference regional representative for North America. Chow's appointment completes [a process that stalled last fall](#). MWC had been set to appoint Stanley Green of Mennonite Church USA to the role until concerns were raised by three of MWC's five member denominations in the United States. The three unnamed groups were not comfortable having an MWC representative who is a member of MC USA due to a 2022 denominational statement viewed as judgmental of churches with more conservative views on LGBTQ inclusion. Green is executive conference minister of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference and former executive director of Mennonite Mission Network. Regional representatives function as two-way ambassadors for member churches and MWC, helping with information sharing and communication both to the churches from MWC and to MWC from the churches. MWC's previous North American representative was Gerald Hildebrand — like Chow, a member of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. He served from 2018 until retiring in June. **Read the rest of John Longhurst's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Faith in Action Peace Camp Sept. 3-7

During a time in our country where there is increasing division and violence, how should we faithfully respond? Join Mennonite Central Committee U.S., in partnership with [Mennonite Action](#), September 3-7 in the Chicago area to dive deeper into Anabaptist traditions of nonviolent resistance and to learn how to embody these practices in our current social context. During [Faith in Action Peace Camp](#), we will hear from MCC partners and local leaders who have lived out their faith while standing in solidarity with communities most vulnerable to violence. During the camp we will explore:

- Theological grounding for activism and nonviolence
- History of peace movements around the world
- Stories from Chicago partners practicing nonviolence during immigration raids
- How to be trauma informed in this work

[Peace Camps](#) are one way to encourage and support the next generation of the Church to live out an active faith as peacemakers. Young adults, ages 18-30, are invited to apply for this exciting and timely experience. MCC covers all costs of travel (does not include airfare outside of the U.S. and Canada), lodging and meals beyond the \$250 registration fee. Please reach out with any questions or concerns. **Click [here](#) to head over to our website to apply by June 21.** Don't miss the incredible opportunity to put theory into practice!

Shared by Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries

April E-memo: Policy Updates

- **FY 2027 budget:** On April 3, President Trump released his budget request for FY2027 with a 30% reduction in the federal foreign affairs budget. This includes sharp cuts to global health and humanitarian assistance and the elimination of the Food for Peace initiative, all while increasing defense spending by 42% to \$1.5 trillion. **Take action:** [Ask Congress to pass a budget that saves lives](#)
- **Middle East:** Impacts from the U.S.-Israel [war of choice](#) on Iran continue to reverberate throughout the region and [around the world](#). Significantly, Israel's invasion, bombing campaigns, and occupation of southern Lebanon have killed more than 2000 people and displaced over a million. Only Congress can declare war—urge your members to assert their power and stop these illegal military actions. **Take action:** [Peace, not new wars in the Middle East](#) | [Donate to the Lebanon Response](#)
- **Permitting reform considered in Congress:** The U.S. Senate will vote soon on two permitting reform bills, the SPEED Act and the PERMIT Act, which would weaken the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), expose water sources to pollution and create barriers to building climate resiliency. **Take action:** [Oppose SPEED and PERMIT Acts](#)
- **DHS funding saga:** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shutdown is [likely to end](#) soon as Congress votes on legislation to fund the agency except for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Democrats have refused to fund the agencies without substantive reforms. Republican leaders are reportedly planning to fund ICE and CBP through a partisan process called “budget reconciliation” in the coming weeks.

Shared in the [Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries April E-Memo](#)

Militarism Summit coming this fall!

Join Mennonite Church USA for a summit exploring the impact of militarism. We'll come together to reflect, learn and engage in thoughtful dialogue on waging peace in meaningful ways. The summit will be held at Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, Pennsylvania, Nov. 6-7. **Sign up [here](#) to receive updates about registration and the summit.**

Shared by Mennonite Church USA

Call for the immediate halt of Vastria CCAC

CPT, alongside partner organisations, calls for the immediate halt of all plans to construct or operate a new migrant detention centre in Lesvos. The Vastria Closed Controlled Access Centre constitutes a direct threat to fundamental human rights. Despite heavy criticism, Greece has approved yet another extension for the camp to be completed. **Read Community Peacemaker Teams Aegean Migrant Solidarity's statement [here](#).**

Mennonite Action April Mass Call Recap

Thank you to all who joined us for our April Mass Call last night! We heard Nick and Adam's big announcement of transitioning out of their director roles after two and a half years of faithful leadership. With hearts full of gratitude, we reflected on how far we've come and where our movement will go from here. You can [watch the recording of the call here](#), and find the [call companion with links, updates, and offerings here](#). On the call, we heard from chapters across the country who participated in the March 28 No Kings Day demonstrations. From Maryland to Illinois to Colorado, we heard how chapters are building coalitional relationships through singing together, sharing homemade ice cream (Melt ICE, make ice cream!), creating bold and beautiful signs, and showing up for their communities in resistance to authoritarian violence at home and around the world. Our work continues as we build power together. As Jay Bergen, pastor at Germantown Mennonite Church, named on the call, "We are called to put our hand to the plow and keep moving towards justice." As we enter a season of transition for our organization, we are asking everyone in Mennonite Action to help sustain our work. Today we are asking people to help Mennonite Action find an [Executive Director](#), by spreading this job posting to your church networks and personal networks, and we're also asking people to make a [donation](#) - no matter how big or small - today to show your commitment to our movement for the years to come. To hear from our chapter leaders, more from Nick and Adam, and all of our other organizing updates, you can check out our recording [here](#).

Shared by Mennonite Action



Commissions and Teams Contact List

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

Past Midweeks

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Commission Meeting Minutes

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Facility Use Agreement

Item Check-Out Request Form

Items for the Midweek



Structure Documents
