

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *The Lord of Song* using Philippians 2:1-13.

Philippians 2 contains what is sometimes called "The Christ hymn." This section is likely an extended quotation from an existing hymn or poem from early church worship about Christ's self-emptying love. Knowing that, how do we sing such an idea? How do we make this song our own?

## 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



## Condolences

**Visitation: 10:00 am Friday, May 15**

**Funeral: 11:30 am Friday, May 15**

We express condolences to the family of Esther Brown, who passed away Saturday, May 9, 2026. Esther was a long-time member of the Mennonite Church of Normal where her Funeral Service will be held. Please remember Esther's family in your prayers. Her Funeral Service will be at 11:30 am on Friday, May 15 at the Mennonite Church of Normal, where visitation will begin at 10:00 am. Interment will be at East Lawn Memorial Gardens, Bloomington. View her obituary [here](#).



## Funeral Meal

Everyone will be invited to lunch following the Funeral Service for Esther Brown this Friday, May 15. If you are willing to provide something for this meal contact Marge. Thank you so much!

**NEEDED:**

- 10 Salads (each to serve 8-10)
- Desserts (indicate serving amount)

## Congratulations Graduates



**Sunday, May 24 after Worship**

Come and celebrate our graduating high school seniors with some punch and treats! This will happen between church and Christian Education on May 24th.



## Basketful of Cards



## Meal Train



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## Third Sundays of the Month at 5 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington Normal

The Bloomington-Normal Singing Resistance group is a part of the national Singing Resistance movement. This movement emerged as a protest to the violence in Minneapolis earlier this year. The local group exists both to be prepared to take protest action as needed locally, and to be a place of gathering for the many of us who are wearied by all that is happening. We are meeting monthly on the third Sunday of the month, 5-6:30 PM, at the UU Church for a time of singing and connection. All are welcome to join these gatherings! Please contact Lynn or Sheryl with questions. **View a flyer [here](#).**

*Shared by Sheryl*



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## A Note from Vision Team

Your Vision Team met on May 11 and the meeting discussion included:

1. Updates on pastoral teams and commissions
2. Upcoming joint commission chair meeting for updates and visioning
3. Debriefing on the Vision Team retreat we held on April 3.

Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in the **[Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#)**.

*Shared by the Vision Team*

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## 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.



## Shine Collective

We, Holly and Amy, recently attended an event called Morning for Mujeres which introduced us to the work of the [Shine Collective](#), an organization whose efforts focus on women and their roles in transforming their communities. The Shine Collective is part of the larger organization [Enlace](#), which works specifically with churches in their local communities and governments to reduce and end multidimensional poverty in Central America. The event we attended highlighted the project of compositing latrines which are built at a cost of \$500 and have had significant impact in reducing illness, protecting water, and protecting dignity for mothers and young women. In honor of Mother's Day, Holly and I, with support from the Outreach Committee, are fundraising for one compostable latrine, a total of \$500. Outreach Committee is supporting this fundraiser with a contribution of \$100. Please consider donating to this fundraiser by registering for our MCN team and donating at this [link](#).

*From Holly and Amy*

## 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*

## CDC Connector



The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). This month we are gearing up for CDC's Annual Meeting (June 25-27) with a preview issue filled with all the details of worship, youth programming, seminars, and more! There are also stories about our conference's relationship with Mennonite Church Manitoba and a recent training on power dynamics with CDC leadership. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available to take from the Library Table soon.

# MCN 50th Factoid

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

Our 50th anniversary celebrates a merger between two congregations. Just how common is a church merger? At the time, “congregational mergers were unknown” among Mennonite congregations. (*Meetingplace*, 100). That has shifted very little today. According to research for the book, *Better Together*, Jim Tomberlin and Warren Bird estimate that two percent of US Protestant churches merge annually. They describe mergers that are successful as “motivated by a strong, future-oriented sense of mission and expanded outreach”—perhaps an echo of the leading sentiment among Mennonites in Bloomington-Normal in the mid-seventies. *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: [kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org)*



## Those Serving This Week



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



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## 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](mailto: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.



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

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## This Week at MCN



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A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### **Wednesday, May 13**

**9:30 am** Wednesday Morning Book Group

**1:00 pm** Quilting

### **Thursday, May 14**

**7:00 am** Next Man Bible Study

### **Friday, May 15**

**11:00 am** Esther Brown Visitation

**11:30 am** Esther Brown Funeral

### **Monday, May 18**

**5:00 pm** Outreach Commission

### **Tuesday, May 19**

**3:00 pm** Pastoral Team (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, May 20**

**9:30 am** Wednesday Morning Book Group

9:30 am Community Life Commission

**1:00 pm** Quilting

**6:30 pm** Fellowship Committee (Zoom)



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## Raising up leaders: Five ways churches can nurture a call to ministry

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In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Amy Yoder McGloughlin reflects on her call to ministry and how congregations can nurture the next generation of pastors through spiritual practices, mentoring, intergenerational worship and intentional encouragement of God's call. **Read Amy Yoder McGloughlin's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

# Submission Call: A Dangerous Faith Holding Love and Justice

*A Dangerous Faith: Inspiration for the Journey* is an online and printed zine for youth and young adults with content written by them and for them. How does your search for justice impact your faith? How does your faith inform your activism? Join us as we seek inspiration for the journey ahead. Call for submissions: We want contributions from you! Young people of faith who are passionate about justice and advocacy. We are interested in visual art, poetry, songs and reflections (max: 1000 words). **Our theme for the Summer 2026 issue: Holding Love and Justice.** Psalm 85:10 describes a relationship between Love, Faithfulness, Justice, and Peace. Depending on the translation, they are paired together, like the NIV: "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other." Submission deadline: Monday, July 13, 2026. To share your submission, fill out [this short google form](#). Read the full call [here](#). The Zine is a collaborative project of [Anabaptist World](#), [The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#), [Mennonite Action](#), and [Anabaptist Climate Collaborative](#).

- What do you picture the meeting of righteousness (or Justice) and peace would look like? How would you describe the meeting of Love and Justice? What examples of this have you seen in the world around you?
- Loving your enemies: In [Matthew 5:43-48](#) Jesus calls us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. What does this call mean to you? How is 'love' as a practice or skill different from an emotional feeling? What does justice look like when we love our enemies?
- In [1 Corinthians 1:18](#) it says "the message of the cross is foolishness". The idea of loving your enemies can seem foolish, and appearing 'foolish' to others can be seen as a negative. What is the importance of being foolish? What is possible when we appear foolish in front of others as we live out our values? What does it look like when love, justice, and foolishness meet?

*Shared by the Anabaptist World*

**MENNO HAVEN**  
WORSHIP CENTER  
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

## OPEN HOUSE RALLY DAY

Rally Day is an opportunity to experience the grounds, meet the people who work hard to make the camp run well, dedicate the summer program and summer staff, share and eat a delicious meal and celebrate a new camp season! Everyone is invited!

**MAY 25 2026**  
10 AM - 4 PM

9301 1575 EAST ST  
TISKILWA, IL 61368

**RSVP NOW**

**More Information**  
[mennohaven.com/rallyday](http://mennohaven.com/rallyday)

## Surrounded by crocodiles in an orange home

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*In the West Bank, 21,000 homes have been shattered by the incarceration of a family member. Ameera Al-Rajabi reflects on the human toll of mass imprisonment.*

If we painted every home in the West Bank where a Palestinian has been arrested during the recent aggression in Gaza with the color orange, 21,000 houses would be transformed across the landscape. Let your mind enter these houses and think about the families who were arrested. Each one trying to live a normal life, probably sleeping peacefully at night, when they hear their door explode open, followed by the sound of boots stomping through their home. Children scream in terror as they're dragged from their beds and are forced into one room at gunpoint. Soldiers search every corner, throwing clothes from closets, overturning furniture, tearing up family photographs, smashing anything in their path. They see their father, brother, or son forced to the ground, hands zip-tied so tightly the plastic cuts into the skin. Sometimes the soldiers blindfold him right there, in front of his children. Sometimes they beat him before dragging him out. A group of soldiers then takes one family member to an unknown destination. The family must reach out to different organizations just to find out where their loved one went, to which prison. The only accusation: they are Palestinian. **Read the rest of Ameera Al-Rajabi's blog post for Community Peacemaker Teams' [here](#).**

## Brethren to consider affirming civil disobedience

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Church of the Brethren delegates will consider at this summer's Annual Conference a resolution on immigration urging civil disobedience when government policies conflict with biblical teachings. The Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board issued [the seven-page resolution](#) during its March 13-15 meeting in Modesto, Calif. "Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience and Supporting One's Neighbors" emphasizes the body's longstanding commitment to nonviolent civil disobedience, including conscientious objection to war and offering sanctuary to refugees in church properties. "Historically, when immigration law was inconsistent with Christ's teachings, the Church of the Brethren has accepted civil disobedience in the form of providing sanctuary as a reasonable and, in some cases, necessary response," states the resolution. "Today, there are many legal ways in which members of the Church of the Brethren can and have supported their immigrant neighbors. "However, in cases where such actions are portrayed as against the law or if laws change moving forward, civil disobedience may be the faithful response." Calls to action include learning about refugee stories, building relationships rooted in trust, praying for immigrant families and communities, speaking up when policies harm families, supporting church members or staff who prayerfully participate in civil disobedience, and accepting inconvenience, misunderstanding or criticism. The denomination considers immigrants deserving of support when migrating due to violence, climate change and economics. The resolution stresses that Church of the Brethren tradition holds civil disobedience is carried out only after discernment that seeks guidance of the Holy Spirit in a congregational context. "The Church of the Brethren has historically emphasized community discernment as civil disobedience is considered a faithful action in service of the peace witness (nonviolence, conscientious objection) and toward the goal of standing with marginalized neighbors," states the resolution. "Simplicity and humility have been helpful postures as Brethren discern the call to civil disobedience." Annual Conference is June 28-July 2 at Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, Ind. **Read the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

## War and the way of Jesus

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*We refuse to baptize aggression in the language of faith.*

When missiles start flying, the question becomes brutally simple. Who is about to die so a politician can look strong? So we'll be distracted? Our instinct should be to distrust the stories leaders tell when they want a war. They promise safety. They promise victory. They promise the violence is unfortunate but necessary. History has heard that speech before. Again and again those promises leave behind burned neighborhoods, grieving parents and generations of anger that no speech can erase. Which is why the church cannot speak softly about moments like this. Launching attacks without evidence of an imminent threat is reckless violence. It is the powerful choosing destruction because destruction is available. It is the oldest trick of empire. Create fear. Start a war. Hope the public stops asking questions. Using war to distract from political collapse is grotesque. It is sick. It is evil. It turns human lives into a shield for a leader's reputation. It means families across the world bury their children so a politician can survive another news cycle. Christians should be the first people to call that what it is. Jesus refused the logic of empire. Rome ruled by spectacle and terror. Crosses lined the roads to remind everyone what happened to people who resisted power. Jesus answered empire with a kingdom that refused to play the game. When bombs fall and politicians demand loyalty, followers of Jesus have to ask a question that cuts through slogans and noise. Is this the way of Christ? If the answer is no, then silence is not neutrality. Silence is surrender. The church can't prevent war. But we can refuse to bless it. It can refuse to baptize aggression in the language of faith. It can refuse to let political theater hide the bodies piling up beneath it.

**Read the rest of Chris Scott's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Canadian Native residential school survivors begin healing journeys

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From 1962 to 1991, Mennonite-related organizations operated residential schools for Indigenous people in northwestern Ontario. On March 6-8, 30 survivors from those schools gathered in Dryden, Ont., to tell their stories and begin their healing journeys. The schools were run by the Northern Light Gospel Mission, an organization formed by U.S. Mennonites in Pennsylvania, and Northern Youth Programs, a Mennonite-related organization based in northwestern Ontario. Northern Light Gospel Mission operated the Poplar Hill residential school, while Northern Youth Programs, founded in 1967, ran Stirland Lake residential school for boys and Cristal Lake for girls. About 400 students attended the schools. For Jonathan Kakegamic, who helped organize the gathering, a benefit of the time together was hearing other students share about the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and sexual abuse they experienced at the schools. "Hearing people talk about it helped them see 'I wasn't the only kid who was beaten,'" said Kakegamic, a student at Stirland Lake from 1986 to 1988. "That helps on the healing journey." Although Northern Light Gospel Mission and Northern Youth Programs were not officially tied to any Canadian or American Mennonite conferences, Kakegamic wonders if Mennonite groups today might be willing to come alongside survivors to provide support and healing. "Can the Mennonite community be a healing community for us?" he asked. "Those stories need to keep being told. We need to be heard." Also at the gathering were representatives from the now defunct Northern Light Gospel Mission, Northern Youth Programs and Living Hope Ministries, which also had a link to Northern Light Gospel Mission. Andrew Lang, executive director of Living Hope Native Ministries, said: "We are part of a church that did harm. We all share some of that responsibility. . . . There are people who were hurt by what was done in our name as Mennonites." For Scott Morton Ninomiya, who directs the Mennonite Central Committee Ontario Indigenous Neighbours Program, coming alongside survivors of the schools was an "opportunity to redeem the church from the wrongs of the residential school system."

**Read the rest of John Longhurst's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Carrying Mennonite Action into the future

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In late October 2023, we ran into each other on the lawn outside the U.S. Capitol after joining a vigil hosted by the Jewish organization IfNotNow. We were outraged by Israel's unfolding genocide in Gaza and had joined protests calling for a ceasefire. During the vigil at the Capitol, we joined in the placing of visitation stones, a Jewish practice of mourning and remembering those who had been killed in Gaza and who had been killed by Hamas. We were moved by the faith practices and solidarity in the face of violence, destruction and pain. We quickly came to the same question: What if we organized Mennonite and Anabaptist communities to center our faith practices and historic peace witness in calling for a ceasefire, too? We knew the movement against the genocide needed as many voices as possible. And we hoped to give members of our historic peace church an outlet to put their faith into action in meaningful ways. We saw the opportunity to engage Mennonites, other Christians and friends in the practice of taking nonviolent action for political change, using our faith as a compass. We started Mennonite Action without any assumptions about organizational success. Our work has always been grounded in our belief in organizing people to come together in community to take strategic, prayerful, peaceful public action for Palestinian liberation. Over the past two and a half years, we — along with countless others — have had the privilege of leading this organization from that fledgling dream into a political movement powered by the Holy Spirit through Mennonites, Anabaptists and friends from all over the U.S. and Canada. We're proud of what Mennonite Action has grown into. [Now we're ready to hand it over to new leadership.](#) We believe that together we've built a movement that is here to stay. Many hands work tirelessly to sustain this movement: organizing trainings, participating in demonstrations, creating banner art, raising resources, praying for Gaza and our immigrant neighbors, and much more. Active participation and grassroots leadership are the foundation of our movement and the reasons we believe Mennonite Action will continue to be successful after both of us step away from our leadership roles. On our first Mennonite Action mass call in November 2023, we asked people to take a chance on us. Now we're asking for continued trust in Mennonite Action by [helping us seek a new executive director](#), supporting our staff, funding our programs and carrying on demonstrating until Palestine is free and all God's children are free. **Read the rest of Nick Martin and Adam Ramer's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## The Americas at a crossroads: against the militarization of the hemisphere

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*Amid rising tensions in the Americas, CPT Colombia reflects on US interventionism and the growing threat of imperialism in Latin America.*

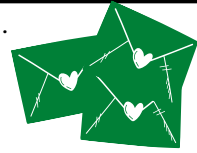
CPT is anti-militarist, anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist. We oppose all military intervention and exercises of hegemonic control by one country over another. We reject the revival of the Monroe Doctrine, which asserts the USA's government's unilateral right to intervene in the domestic affairs of other states in order to maintain hemispheric and global dominance. **Read CPT Colombia's statement published by Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**



# Our Members in Care Facilities

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PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS.  
SEND A CARD IF THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!



## Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

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<u>Building Open:</u>	<b>Standard Hours:</b> Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM & 1:30PM-3PM <b>Pastor Kevin designated office hours:</b> Wednesdays, 8am-12pm (or call to plan a visit)
<u>Lydia Hedberg:</u>	Office Administrator; <a href="mailto:church@normalmennonite.org">church@normalmennonite.org</a> ; 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; <a href="mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org">kevin@normalmennonite.org</a>
<u>Lauren Satchwell:</u>	Pastoral Team Lead & Pastor for Administration Commission, Discipling Commission, & Vision Team; <a href="mailto:lauren@normalmennonite.org">lauren@normalmennonite.org</a>

## Items for the Midweek



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Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

## Commissions and Teams Contact List

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## Past Midweeks

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Commission, Team, & Committee Members

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Item Check-Out Request Form

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Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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Facility Use Agreement

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Commission Meeting Minutes

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Structure Documents

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