

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Gut Check* using Matthew 15:29-39.

When we talk about stories like the story of the feeding of the multitudes, we are most often distracted by the magnitude of the miracle at the expense of the motivation. Jesus wasn't motivated by a sense of challenge, but by compassion. How do we form and how are we formed by collective compassion? How do we train ourselves to respond like Jesus to the needs among us?

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



## Wednesdays from 1-4 beginning today, June 10

Quilters will be meeting every Wednesday from 1-4pm beginning next week June 10 to make quilt tops for the 50th Celebration in September. Everyone is welcome!

*Shared by Gerry*

## Immigrant Protection Plan from the Outreach Commission

### Sunday, June 14 after Worship

The Outreach Commission is proposing that the Mennonite Church of Normal (MCN) adopt the attached Immigrant Protection Plan. This plan has been reviewed by the other MCN commissions and was patterned after one written by Abraham Diaz of the Mennonite Central Committee. The purpose of this plan is to protect immigrants while attending MCN services from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. The Outreach Commission will lead a discussion of the MCN Immigrant Protection Plan during the CE hour in the sanctuary after next Sunday's worship service. Please use [this link](#) to see the proposed MCN Immigrant Protection Plan.

*In Peace, Phil, Chair of the Outreach Commission*

### Sunday, July 19 at 11:00 am

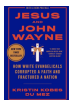
Dear friends, please join us for another enjoyable chance to hear poetry and enjoy fellowship and pizza together. Judith Valente, whom many of you know, will read poems from her latest collection, "How To Be A Contemplative" and talk about writing poetry as a contemplative practice. She will be joined by award-winning Chicago poet Albert DeGenova, editor of the literary magazine After Hours who will read some of his delightful poems. Longtime WJBC broadcaster Steve Vogel has agreed to come and read a passage from his new memoir, "Broadcast News" about growing up and working in radio in McLean County. There will also be a few musical selections by flutist Mary Beth Godfrey of Bloomington. Feel free to bring your own favorite summer poem to share with all. Hope to see you!

*Sponsored by the Discipling Commission*

**Leaning Into Summer  
A Poetry and Pizza Fest**  
**July 19**  
Mennonite Church of Normal, 805 S. Cottage Ave  
11:00 am (pizza follows the poetry reading)

**With poets Judith Valente and Albert DeGenova**

Enjoy music, pizza, and  
Special Guest:  
Steve Vogel reading from his  
new memoir *Broadcast Live*



## Christian Education

### Beginning June 21

[Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted A Faith And Fractured A Nation](#) by Kristin Kobes Du Mez will be the book study beginning June 21. The book has been described as a "sweeping account that reveals how American evangelicals have worked for decades to replace the Jesus of the Gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism." Class participants will be asked to secure their own copy of the book. Discussions will be facilitated by Joe and Bess.



# Spending Plan Update

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Thank you for giving soap full of hope



Thank you for your generous donations of bath and laundry soap during MCC's "Soap full of hope" collection this spring. Because of you, MCC can meet additional requests for soap from partners like hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps in countries where soap is expensive or difficult to source.

*Shared by Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes*

## Intergenerational Stories



**What is it?** As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we would like to gather intergenerational oral history interviews and record them. We hope to record conversations across various ages about what practicing your faith at MCN has meant to you whether you were someone who helped build the church, someone who has newly joined us, whether you are 94 or four. Some starter questions might include (but are not limited to):

- What is your most important memory of being here at MCN?
- What is it you hope I learn by being a part of MCN?
- And maybe a few silly questions from children, too.

Help us tell the story of who we are. While we do hope to gather some conversations across generations of families that have attended (ie. grandparents and grandchildren, parents and children), we hope to invite conversations across relationships much broader than that.

**What it will look like:** We will be setting up a station with an iPad to record these during fellowship and the traditional Sunday School time through June and July.

**What we'll do with these recordings:** We will share these interviews both in the weeks leading up to our 50th celebration and in a digital display during a portion of our open house in September. We will also keep these in an archive that we draw from for future memory moments. There is no plan to make these videos public facing online in order to protect the privacy of our young people.

If you are interested in being part of this project, please reach out to me, Amy. Please also let me know if you already have an idea of who you would like to conduct this interview with or if you would like to be partnered with someone and we (Amy & Holly) will work to partner you with someone.

*From the MCN 50th Committee*

# 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*

## MCN 50th Factoid: The Mother Road

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

As Route 66 Centennial celebrations continue, we remember the historic highway's connection to us. While our building sits a comfortable mile away from the main drag today, our former congregations were much closer to the action. Bloomington Mennonite Church at 1101 North Roosevelt Ave was a block and a half away, and First Mennonite Church at the corner of Church St and South University St in Normal was about the same. There are a few other Mennonite congregations that share a close connection to that "mother road." They include Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church (Clinton, OK), Rainbow Mennonite Church (Kansas City, KS), Mennoville Mennonite Church (El Reno, OK). *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: [kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org)*



## 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.



### 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

# This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

**Wednesday, June 10**

**1:00 pm** Quilting

**Thursday, June 11**

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

**Tuesday, June 16**

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

**Wednesday, June 17**

**1:00 pm** Quilting



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



## Those Serving This Week



## Anabaptist Short Course Bundle

Want to deepen your understanding of Anabaptist history, thought, witness and practice? The Anabaptist Short Course Bundle offers the best deal on Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's collection of discussion-based online short courses! Take four noncredit six-week courses in 2026-27 for only \$995 USD total and save more than \$400. (The regular price is \$350/course.) No grades, no papers! CEUs available. **Learn more [here](#).**

*Shared by the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary*

# Join us in D.C. for Interfaith Action for Palestine

July 5-7

In response to the *sumud* (steadfastness) of Palestinians in the face of genocide and the increased threat of Christian Zionism and religious nationalism in the US and across the world, we will once again come together this summer in steadfast love for the [Interfaith Action for Palestine, July 5-7](#). With partners representing a broad faith coalition, we at Mennonite Action will take action in solidarity with Palestinians, and recommit to faith rooted in liberation and care: a world in which Palestine and all people are free. If you already know you're ready to join us in Washington D.C., July 5-7th (or even for just one or two days of the programming!) [you can register here](#). To learn more about Interfaith Action for Palestine (IAP), we invite you to join us on the coalition's informational calls to learn more. Join us on [June 12 at 11 am CT](#) or [June 18 at 7 pm CT](#) for more information on our itinerary, the safety and accessibility protocols we have in place, this year's themes, and everything else you need to know in order to be a part of it. We know a different world is possible: a world rooted in care, not warfare; in community, not domination. From Gaza to Sudan, from Minneapolis to Memphis to Montgomery, we are grounded in the belief that our liberation is intertwined. When we come together as an interfaith coalition, we model and demand the world of mutual flourishing we believe in. Come be a part of it with us. Will we see you in D.C. this July?

*Shared by Mennonite Action*

## A tangible way to disrupt ICE, from cities and towns across the U.S.

Thursday, June 18 at 7:00 pm CDT

Perhaps like you, I have loved ones living in Chicago, Minneapolis, Southern California, and Washington, D.C. who have been resisting ICE activity in their communities. Their stories of documenting and disrupting detainments and supporting impacted families inspire me, but it also leaves me feeling unsure of how to act in the place where I live. What does it look like to resist ICE in a town without large, well-documented ICE activity? What about when the impact on families in my city flies under the radar, or is discreet? As it turns out, there's been plenty for me to do. I'm excited to invite you into a [cross-chapter conversation on June 18th](#) where we'll talk about a tangible way to confront ICE activity. On this call, we'll be discussing 287(g) agreements. If there is a 287(g) agreement in your community ([learn how to look this up in our 287\(g\) backgrounder](#)), or even if one could be signed in the future, I invite you to join me on Thursday, June 18th. We'll get to know each other and think creatively about ways to put pressure on our decision-makers to get rid of 287(g). **Read the full announcement [here](#).**

*Shared by Sarah Baggé from Mennonite Action*

Join us for 2026  
**Korea Peace Advocacy Summer!**  
June-July 2026 | RSVP at [bit.ly/kpas26](https://bit.ly/kpas26)

kpn Korea Peace Network



MOBILIZING WOMEN FOR PEACE IN KOREA WOMENCROSSDMZ



# Stop the invasion of Lebanon

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Since the start of Israel's genocide of Palestinians in October 2023, the Lebanese border has been a consistent hot zone of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Multiple ceasefires brokered by the U.S. have been violated by Israel numerous times. Two days after the U.S. and Israel began their war against Iran, Hezbollah responded with rocket attacks into Israel, and then the Israeli military began widespread bombing of Lebanon followed two weeks later by a ground invasion. Israel is occupying large swaths of southern Lebanon, with Defense Minister Israel Katz using the same techniques as in Gaza. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon, accompanied by air attacks in Beirut, the Bekaa Valley and southern Lebanon, has already killed more than 3,000 and displaced over a million from the South and from the Bekaa Valley region. According to U.S. law, the president needs approval from Congress to wage war. One way Congressional offices are trying to stop the bombing of Iran and return military personnel is through War Powers Resolutions. [Urge Congress to stop all U.S. military aggression in the Middle East.](#) Support War Powers Resolutions such as [H. Con. Res. 84](#), return to peace-centered diplomacy through a reallocation of military funding to diplomacy and peacebuilding, hold Israel accountable for its war crimes in Lebanon. MCC has been in Lebanon conducting direct programming since 1977 and earlier sent relief to the country in 1948-49 and 1958-59. Some of MCC's partners are located in southern Lebanon where the Israeli invasion is occurring. The organization LOST (Lebanese Organization for Studies and Train), has been responding to the invasion by providing hot meals.

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

## First cohort graduates from new theological program offered by Hispanic Ministries and AMBS

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Ten Hispanic students, all active pastors, graduated May 3, from the new Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies program offered by Hispanic Ministries of Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS). The commencement was held at AMBS, Elkhart, Indiana. The graduates are the first cohort to complete the program, launched in 2023. The fully online program – the first Spanish-language Graduate Certificate in Theology offered by a seminary of MC USA and Mennonite Church Canada – is designed to provide professionals, congregational leaders and bivocational pastors with a strong foundation in theological and biblical study. “One of the greatest gifts of this program has been studying alongside a diverse community of leaders whose stories, struggles, hopes and ministries reflect many of my own experiences,” said Sandra Montes-Martinez, associate conference minister for MC USA’s Western District Conference and one of the graduates. “Learning in a space where we could fully understand one another, contribute from our own realities and grow together has been deeply enriching.” **Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA’s news release [here](#).**

## Take Action: Stop the U.S. and Israeli militaries from being further enmeshed

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Last week, the House Armed Services Committee approved the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which will advance to the House of Representatives before it determines U.S. military spending in 2027. It's unsurprising that the NDAA bill includes a lot of disturbing allocations, as the largest budget for defense spending that's ever been proposed to Congress. But there's a particularly dangerous provision that's been included, called "United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative" (section 224) that would advance the war machine collaboration in unprecedented ways. With bi-partisan efforts to strike it down, it is not too late to use our collective voice against this amendment. We've created a [letter writing campaign](#) so you can contact your representatives in the House and demand they oppose section 224 of the NDAA when it comes to the House floor, which is expected to happen late this month. The militaries of the U.S. and Israel already collaborate extensively, but section 224 introduces new levels of harm. First, it centers defense tech, which means the shared use of AI to surveil, target, and kill Palestinians with dystopian-esque technology. Secondly, it reduces congressional oversight and creates avenues that will allow increased military aid to Israel without transparency, in perpetuity. **That is the opposite of holding governments accountable for genocidal violence.** Finally, it proposes "data fusion" that would effectively merge the military intel of the two countries, creating a world that is less safe for all of us across our interconnected struggles. As people who follow the way of Jesus, we must make it known that we do not stand for this. Our core beliefs in divinely imposed human dignity and nonviolence compel us to do everything in our power to stop the governments of the United States and Israel from further bloodshed. We can use our collective political power as constituents by persistently contacting our officials, (daily if you can) and demanding they oppose section 224 of the NDAA, or otherwise vote no against the bill. Please [share the campaign widely](#) ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) posts here), and thank you for your attention and *sumud* (steadfastness) in advocating for our Palestinian siblings.

*Shared by Mennonite Action*

## Five emerging leaders receive MC USA BIPOC Scholarships

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This year's scholars include a future social worker advocating for equitable healthcare access, a youth mentor from the Philippines seeking to strengthen the global church, a Colombian social worker committed to healing in post-conflict communities, a Philadelphia pastor deepening his peacemaking work, and a food service worker answering a call to chaplaincy. Through their studies and service, each recipient reflects the church's ongoing commitment to nurturing leaders who bring hope and transformation to their communities and the world. The Scholarship for BIPOC Students supports students who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color, who are members or active participants of an MC USA congregation, and who are attending or plan to attend an MC USA-affiliated Mennonite college, university or seminary. This year's scholarships were awarded through three MC USA-affiliated partner schools attended by the recipients, with funding provided by MC USA. "God calls people to serve the church and the world," said Amy Yoder McGloughlin, MC USA denominational minister for Education. "I'm glad we can offer wisdom, support and encouragement to them through our Mennonite churches, schools and particularly through this scholarship." **Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA's news release [here](#).**

## New trial results in death sentences for murders of UN investigators

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A Congolese Army colonel and about 30 other people were found guilty of war crimes and sentenced to death for the 2017 murders of United Nations investigators Michael J. Sharp and Zaida Catalán on June 5 in an appeal trial in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Sharp was a former Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Mission Network worker in the region whose service experience led to his appointment as an armed group expert for the United Nations. He graduated from Eastern Mennonite University. The Congolese colonel, [Jean De Dieu Mambweni](#), had continuous contact with several people singled out by UN investigators for participating in the murders. Congolese officials originally blamed the murders on a militia, but eventually arrested Mambweni and other officials. Human rights groups have claimed even higher government or military involvement in the deaths of the investigators, who were looking into human rights abuses and sanctions violations in Kasai-Central Province. Sharp's parents, Michele Miller Sharp and John Sharp, live in Hesston, Kan., and oppose the death penalty sentences. Michele Miller Sharp said the verdicts came as a surprise and expressed appreciation that the Congolese government and judicial system took the situation seriously enough to pursue convictions. "Whether that brings closure, we don't know, because other people were involved, but it feels like a step toward accountability," she said, specifically citing accountability of Mambweni because Sharp's investigations had the goal of stopping people from perpetrating violence against the Congolese people. "But then it's such a mixed bag when they are sentenced to death, because that is everything Michael and Zaida were against." John Sharp expressed appreciation to UN investigators and Secretary General António Guterres. "Guterres kept dipping into his discretionary fund to finance the investigation. Seven expert investigators worked eight years to uncover the truth. When they debriefed us — Michele, our daughters Erin and Laura, and me — their deep attachment to Zaida and MJ was clear," he said. "The finding also unilaterally debunks the claims of the naysayers who insisted that MJ and Zaida were inexperienced and unprepared and should never have entered the forests without armed protection. "And it exposes the monthslong conspiracy to cover the mass graves of innocent Congolese civilians for which Colonel Mambweni and his henchmen were responsible... Still unresolved is the arrest and prosecution of those up the chain of command. We believe Colonel Mambweni could not have engineered such a crime on his own authority." **Read the rest of Tim Huber' article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## A season of renewal: Cultivating hope in a changing climate

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In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, MC USA's denominational minister for Peace and Justice Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz shares five practical ways congregations can practice faithful environmental stewardship and respond to climate change with hope and action. **Read Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

## A movement rooted in dignity

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*'Sanctuary of fierce and tender care' for LGBTQ+ Anabaptists turns 50.*

For 50 years, a stalwart band of Brethren and Mennonites chipped away at church walls that excluded LGBTQ+ people and built a robust community rooted in care, dignity and belonging. While the [struggle for equality is far from over](#), their persistence sparked such striking change that several people said "I can't believe how far we've come" during the 50th anniversary celebration of the [Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Interests](#), or BMC, May 29-31 in Minneapolis. However, recognizing that progress is not inevitable, some also expressed concern about resurgent anti-queer bias. Annabeth Roeschley, BMC executive director, summarized the progress, the backlash and the unfinished journey. She described BMC as a "sanctuary of fierce and tender care in the wake of ecclesial violence" and a place of "healing from religious trauma." And yet, she said, "We are in a different era now, and the floodwaters of fascism, fear and repression are rising again... We have not fully dismantled the walls of injustice, but the walls are indeed crumbling." With joy, revelry and a few tears, about 130 people, most from the LGBTQ+ community, gathered to reflect on a 50-year journey out of persecution and isolation — a path marked by struggles with the institutional church and by efforts to integrate their sexuality with their faith. At the celebration, Liz Ullery Swenson, a Church of the Brethren member from Olympia, Wash., reflected on parallels and contrasts between the Brethren and Mennonite denominations. "It seems that the Mennonites are slightly ahead on the work of inclusion, and the Brethren have farther to go," Swenson said. "Hearing Mennonites talk about their experience is very different from mine as a queer person in the Church of the Brethren... "The Brethren are much more rooted in sticking together and unity, while Mennonites have been more willing to break. The loss in not being willing to separate is that no one is able to live into their spirituality in its fullness, and that hits hard on LGBTQ individuals, as we are asked to assimilate to make others feel more comfortable." Irvin Heishman, pastor of West Charleston Church of the Brethren in Tipp City, Ohio, has seen both the losses and gains of LGBTQ+ inclusion. He came out as gay while pastoring his congregation. "We lost some members when we became open and affirming," he said, "but we are really thriving, and there's a deep, spiritual genuineness and love for each other." **Read the rest of Paul Schrag' article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



## Past Midweeks

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### Items for the Midweek



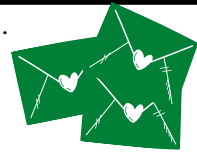
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Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

# 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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Building Open:

Lydia Hedberg:

Rita Munkakusi:

Kevin Chupp:

Lauren Satchwell:

## Item Check-Out Request Form

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## Commission, Team, & Committee Members

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## Commission Meeting Minutes

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# Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

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## Facility Use Agreement

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## Commissions and Teams Contact List

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## Structure Documents

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