

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday will be Hymn Singing Sunday.

Early Christians used songs in the face of oppressive conditions. How has singing been important in more recent times to resist actions that go against God's vision? How can we keep singing to promote God's way of justice, compassion, & peace?

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



Mennonite
Church
of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA



Hymn Singing Sunday

This Sunday, June 28

This Sunday is Hymn Singing Sunday. Most of the sermon time will be Worshippers' Choice for you to suggest a hymn in Voices Together for us to sing. Please select two verses so we can get to as many of your choices as possible. You might want to decide ahead of time what you want to suggest. Come ready to experience a joy-filled worship in song!

Shared by Joe



Friday, June 26 from 2pm - 7pm

Saturday, June 27 from 10am - 2pm

The Hands All Around Quilt Guild is hosting a "Quilter's Estate Sale" this Friday and Saturday at MCN. It is the quilting collection of one of the HAAQG's founding members, Mary Weakman. **It is a cash only event.** Items that will be available include: fabric, yardage and fat quarters, cotton and wool, kits, counted cross stitch, wool applique, notions, craft supplies, books, threads, embroidery floss, and valdani pearle cotton. **Learn more [here](#).**

Camp Friedenswald Survey



Deadline: Today, June 24

We are excited for MCN to find new ways to relate to Camp Friedenswald! To share with us in our discernment, Community Life Commission asks that you take a few moments to share your thoughts about what we might do there in this next season. **You can find a brief survey [here](#).** Please respond Wednesday, June 24.

Shared by the Community Life Commission



Movie Night at MCN

Friday, July 10

MOVIE NIGHT at MCN. Fun for all!! Watch for details, coming soon!

Sponsored by the Community Life Commission

Project SACRED



Outreach Commission has heard the call to respond to the troubling history of Mennonite participation with Indian residential schools for indigenous children. These were places that actively alienated children from their native language, culture and many died in such schools due to illnesses. You can read more about this [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#). It feels complex to seek repair in such situations, but Project SACRED (Mennonite Church USA) is working toward tangible acts of solidarity with indigenous people such as the repatriation of children who were buried at these schools. Outreach Commission has committed to give \$500 toward this project, and we invite you all to join us by contributing through MCN (memo note: Project SACRED) or by sending funds directly to Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church, with Project SACRED in the subject line, at 10348 N 2270 Road, Clinton, OK 73601.

Shared by the Outreach Commission

CE Special Guest



Sunday, July 26

Our July 28th worship and Adult Sunday School will feature Ruth Keidel Clemens. Ruth grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where her parents had traveled from Flannagan, IL to serve as Mennonite missionaries. She went on to serve with Mennonite Central Committee for 27 years in Congo, Cambodia, and the United States, holding a variety of leadership roles. She and her husband are active members of North Baltimore Mennonite Church, where Ruth plays piano and manages a house for asylum seekers. She will also be at Flannagan Library on Saturday, July 25, giving a talk about her new book, [A Quest for Purpose](#). **View a flyer for the MCN event [here](#). View a flyer for the Flannagan Library event [here](#).**

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*

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

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

MCN 50th Factoid: "High Places"

Bite-sized pieces of our shared history leading up to our 50th anniversary celebration 9/27/26. "High Places" often became settings for idolatry throughout the Old Testament, and yet, some biblical figures used "high places" as settings for worship before the construction of the temple, and Moses famously heard from God on top of Mount Sinai. Seemingly across time, people have been drawn to high places in sacred moments. How does MCN stack up against others as a high place? At 781 ft above sea level, MCN is one of the highest Mennonite Churches in Illinois (Metamora Mennonite is 3 ft higher), but credit for the highest Mennonite Church (MC USA) likely goes to Beth-El Mennonite Church in Colorado Springs, CO that sits at an elevation of 6,357 ft. In Bloomington-Normal, Vale Church sits highest at 848 ft, but Holy Trinity's steeple reaches an elevation of 942 feet. *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org*



Summer Worship Series

Collaborative Formation: How Working for Peace Forms and Connects Us.

One very tired claim from religious people is that those committed to social justice tend to neglect spiritual life. However, if we recognize how working for justice is itself formative, we can offer a counter argument. Perhaps those who are committed to “spiritual life,” at the expense of justice work are in fact, ironically, neglecting their formation. And just like spiritual practice, justice work ought to be unifying, shared work rather than isolating, private piety.

- **June 28 - Harmonizing (Hymn-sing Sunday)**
- July 5 - Candor
- July 12 - Confidentiality
- July 19 - Investment
- July 26 - Guest preacher: [Ruth Keidel Clemens](#)
- August 2 - Divestment
- August 9 - Mutual Aid
- August 16 - Menno Haven
- August 23 - Patience
- August 30 - Impatience
- September 6 - Hope



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.



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 24

1:00 pm Quilting

Thursday, June 25

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

Friday, June 26

2:00 pm Hands All Around Quilt Guild Sale

Saturday, June 27

10:00 am Hands All Around Quilt Guild Sale

Tuesday, June 30

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 1

1:00 pm Quilting



Those Serving This Week



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



EMU enters agreement to sell campus forest to retirement community

Eastern Mennonite University and Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community announced a strategic partnership on May 11 that includes EMU selling to VMRC a 13-acre forest situated between the neighboring institutions. The transaction allows the retirement community to plan for future growth and provides EMU with resources to advance its educational mission. A joint release described the partnership as supporting both institutions' "long-term strategic goals by strengthening financial sustainability." In a joint response to questions from Anabaptist World, Braydon Hoover, EMU vice president of enrollment and marketing, and Emily Anderson, VMRC director of process management, said the partnership was not in response to concerns about the financial stability of EMU or VMRC. They said the purchase price and transaction terms were not being publicly disclosed. EMU has owned Park Woods since 1917, when the school began as a Bible academy on the outskirts of Harrisonburg. VMRC has committed to preserving the forest as a green space. **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Scholarship offers WVU student an alternative to military enlistment

For many students, military enlistment can feel like one of the few affordable paths to higher education. But for Connor Kouterick, a freshman at West Virginia University, another path emerged. Through the [Peaceful Futures Scholarship from Peaceful Options for Training and Careers \(POTC\)](#), Kouterick found financial support that allowed him to pursue college without military enlistment. The scholarship offers students considering alternatives to military service a way to pursue education and careers rooted in peace. **Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA's news release [here](#).**

MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries: Policy Updates

- **More ICE and CBP funding passes:** On June 9, Congress finalized passage of a budget bill giving Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection \$70 billion through fiscal year 2029. The bill was passed along partisan lines and did not include guardrails for how the funds should be spent. On the day of its passage, [faith leaders rallied on Capitol Hill](#) to oppose the bill on moral grounds.
- **Middle East:** As we desperately hope for peace between [the U.S. and Iran](#), Israel continues their invasion of Lebanon, moving [northward toward Beirut](#). In Palestine, Israel seeks to occupy [70% of Gaza](#), while [settler violence in the West Bank escalates](#). On June 16, [the Senate narrowly rejected](#) (47-48) an Iran War Powers Resolution (WPR); on June 3, the [House passed their version](#) of the WPR.
- **Coal ash regulations reconsidered:** MCC U.S. joined other faith organizations in voicing strong concern over an Environmental Protection Agency proposal to gut regulations that prevent coal ash pollution. Even with current regulations, coal plant sites are contaminating water supplies with coal ash — the toxic mix left after burning coal. Existing regulations should be strengthened, not abandoned.

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

Report: process caused 'further harm'

Conversations between Mennonite Central Committee's U.S. and Canadian boards and two former service workers resulted in further harm, according to the consultants who facilitated the 14-month process.. The former workers, Anicka Fast and John Clarke, raised concerns about workplace abuse at MCC and sought greater accountability and transparency by creating the organization MCC Abuse Survivors Together, or MAST. They allege MCC terminated their employment in Burkina Faso without sufficient cause while they were on sick leave ([AW, March 2025](#)). Rus Funk Consulting and Hart Communication produced a report April 23 that said five online meetings between Dec. 2 and March 2 retraumatized the couple. In a summary statement, the consultants said: "Despite extensive safeguards, intentional efforts to ensure balanced power and the goodwill of all participants, these facilitated conversations resulted in further harm from MCC to John and Anicka, re-traumatizing them. In our view, this outcome stems from the MCC Board's failure to engage in trauma-informed practices, inattention to power dynamics and lack of a culture of accountability." MCC said in a statement that it continues to view the situation as workplace conflict rather than abuse. MCC said it was sorry that "five multi-hour meetings were insufficient for listening to John and Anicka's story. There was also no space to share MCC's story in this process, including the perspectives of other people who were harmed in this situation. "We lament the trauma experienced by John and Anicka — and by others whose voices have not been heard. John and Anicka have much to offer the broader church and their communities, and we pray God's blessing on them... "While there were ways we failed in timely and clear communication, this situation does not constitute systemic abuse. We are grateful for opportunities to look more broadly at our policies and processes, and we have made numerous changes over the past five years. Those changes have included trainings in being a trauma-informed organization and clearer processes for reporting and investigating harm." **Read the rest of Anabaptist World's article [here](#).**

Five years later, Climate Riders remain committed to advocacy

In the summer of 2021, eighteen participants, most of them young adults, spent two months on a cross-country bicycle journey from Seattle, Washington, to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Organized by the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative (then known as the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions), with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) as a supporting partner, riders visited churches, hosted town halls and met with Anabaptist communities to discuss the impacts of climate change. In more than 40 countries where MCC works alongside partners, communities are facing changing weather patterns and frequent occurrences of extreme weather. Some places are receiving too much rain, or not enough rain. In turn, crop failures and hunger, contaminated water and displacement create suffering and conflict. Upon arrival in Washington, D.C., riders met with legislators, where they shared their experiences and, in line with what MCC is hearing from partners on the ground, advocated for U.S. federal policies that help communities address the causes and effects of climate change. Five years later, the riders are now recent college graduates and early-career professionals with a strong commitment to advocacy and creation care. **Read Jakyra Green and Naomi Kratzer's blog post for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

Honoring my father: reconstructing Babel

Making sense of a world in which little boys lose their daddies.

A missing piece snapped into place, and I shattered, my body convulsed by sobs. When I felt ready, I sat up and took a pen and paper and wrote a tear-stained, incoherent letter to Daddy, who has been dead for nearly three decades. Cancer at 34. I was 4. I had been watching a home video my mom filmed in the Philippines when our family was serving with Mennonite Central Committee. In the video, I'm sitting in a chair clamped to a table watching Daddy put together a Lego set, as this was adorable. There are things that matter to a child who doesn't remember his father's face (which in pictures looks so much like mine that relatives still call me Mike), hands (that in the video dance like mine when I tell stories) or voice (Minnesota accent sounding foreign to my Kansan ears). Memories, stories, evidence of Daddy matters. I know I can't go back in time to rebuild childhood cities and tower dreams. A Lego set will not resurrect my father. That's God's job. We are left with bricks and tears. But there is a way to live in the rubble, to make sense of a world in which little boys lose their daddies. In the next year, I'm going to take time to reflect on grief, telling stories that honor my father's legacy. I'm taking a class at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary called Doing Theology from an Anabaptist Perspective. I plan to examine the faith of my father. I have some sermons and writings but few memories of the man. That's where you come in. To this day, I meet people who tell me my daddy changed their lives. If you remember Mike Jay Hofkamp and have stories to share, please reach out. I would love a story, no matter how insignificant and small. The little details are the most humanizing, and I cherish them in a special way — how he gardened vertically, ate cold leftovers for breakfast, drank too much in college. These stories remind me he lived an embodied life, just a man filled with the Spirit, following Jesus. If you can help me honor his legacy, please reach out. My email is mlhofkamp@gmail.com. **Read the rest of Martin Hofkamp's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Who gets rich when you get sick?

In March, my wife went to the emergency room. She had severe headaches and had gone to an urgent care center where she was prescribed antibiotics for a sinus infection. But the pain got so bad she couldn't keep food or medications down. We attempted an appointment with her primary physician but arrived too late, and they would not see us. The two largest hospitals in my area have the longest emergency room wait times in the country, so we chose a smaller hospital, assuming she might receive IV antibiotics and that would be that. She had a CT scan and went back to the waiting room. Then another nurse rushed in and said, "It's an emergency," and took her for another scan. Finding myself in an abruptly empty room, I called a physician friend and asked, "What do you think this means?" as a lump formed in my throat. The next several days were scary. Scans showed a large mass in her brain. She struggled with memory, cognition and movement. A biopsy indicated stage 1 lymphoma. Her treatment is chemotherapy. She's undergone several rounds and is recovering well. We're optimistic. We are as well prepared for this situation as anyone could be. She has health insurance through work and plenty of sick time. My job is flexible so I can be with her every day. We live close to a major health center. We have a wide support network pouring out love in large and small ways. While the system seems to work for us, a closer look reveals the obscenities haunting beneath the surface. In the Gospels, Jesus leads a healthcare ministry. While often interpreted as supernatural miracles, these stories might be better understood as models of societal reorientation. Jesus calls us to a reversal where care, compassion, life and love guide not only our individual actions but the structure of society. **Read the rest of Joe Paparone's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Loyalty within a house of steel

In the West Bank, a Palestinian family is forced to fortify their home, which stands next to an illegal settlement. Everyday life becomes an act of endurance.

The dirt road leading to Mahmoud Daghameen's house started to get tighter, bumpier and narrower as he drove me up the hill that eventually led to his house. We approached the outskirts of Samou, only 500 metres away from the illegal settlement of Susya. At first glance, the house does not feel like a home, rather a building under siege. **Read Tameem Tamimi's blog post for Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**



Past Midweeks

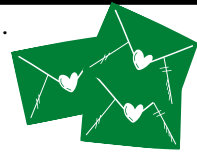
Items for the Midweek



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

<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

Commission Meeting Minutes

Item Check-Out Request Form

Commission, Team, & Committee Members

Work Order & Purchase Request Forms

Facility Use Agreement

Commissions and Teams Contact List

Structure Documents
