

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Your Baby* using Ephesians 4:25-32.

Anger is unavoidable for anyone who cares about the wellbeing of themselves or others. As Christians, we often feel uncomfortable with anger, and as people committed to nonviolence, we are suspicious about anger and its connection to vengeance. Paul made it seem like anger was something to expect, but something to tend carefully. How might we tend to our anger together?

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

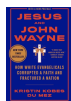
# Quilt Tops



## Wednesdays from 1-4 beginning June 10

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

*Shared by Gerry*



## Christian Education

### Beginning June 21

[Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted A Faith And Fractured A Nation](#) by Kristin Kobes DuMez 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.

## CO Registration



Beginning in December, all men ages 18-25 will be automatically registered for the U.S. Selective Service System. With the possibility of a reinstated draft, we encourage everyone to be prepared with documentation that can be used as evidence toward for receiving conscientious objector (CO) status, which qualifies you to participate in alternative service. MCC has a helpful Christian Peacemaker Registration with more info [here](#). If you have questions, feel free to talk to Pastor Kevin.

*Shared by the Outreach Commission*



## A Note from the Vision Team

On June 1, Vision Team hosted a joint commission meeting with the chairs from each of the commissions (Discipling Commission, Worship Commission, Administration Commission, Community Life Commission, Outreach Commission, and Pastoral Team), to discuss updates, our theme of Connections, plans for our summer sabbatical from CE, and future congregational conversations.

*Shared by the Vision Team*

## Shine Collective



Thank you for your generosity in giving to the Shine Collective. Our May fundraiser raised \$1,122, enough for two compostable toilets, providing privacy and dignity to promote the health of young women and girls in Central America.

*From Amy and Holly*

## Save the Date: Menno Haven August 16th

### Sunday, August 16

We will be worshipping together at Menno Haven Camp (9301 1575 E St, Tiskilwa, IL 61368) on **August 16th** this year. Please note, this is a different weekend than previous years. More details to come!

# Better Together: Dementia Friendly Bloomington-Normal Survey

The Dementia Friendly Bloomington-Normal Task Force is seeking community input on how people living with dementia and their caregivers can be best supported in the Twin Cities. The [East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging \[ECIAAA\]](#) and the [University of Illinois Extension](#) are seeking feedback through a [survey here](#) open to the entire community through June 15.

*Shared by the Congregational Care 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 Zehr) will work to partner you with someone.

*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 are now available to take from the Library Table.**

## Share Your Story!

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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*



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*Bite-sized pieces of our shared history leading up to our 50th anniversary celebration 9/27/26.* We are very grateful for the look and feel of the new seating cushions on the chairs in the sanctuary. We can direct our thankful feelings toward Harvella Bauman Stutzman, whose generous gift to MCN from her estate covered the cost of this update. Many of us didn't have the chance to know Harvella. She lived in Bloomington-Normal and was deeply involved with Mennonite Church of Normal and the Mennonite Hospital, where she established a salon for hospital patients. Her husband, Bob, was a physician and was also deeply involved at MCN. He was serving on the church board at the time of his death. Shortly following Bob's sudden passing, in 1990 Harvella relocated to Colorado Springs to be near her daughters. Bob was from Carlock, so it was understandable that the couple might spend most of their years together in Bloomington-Normal. But where was "home" for Harvella? She was born and raised in Champa, Madhya Pradesh, India where her parents Harvey and Ella served at the Champa Christian Hospital. Her move to Colorado was a return to the mountains for her, but we are grateful she shared many years with us in the prairie state! You can read more about Harvella [here](#). *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: [kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org)*



## Prayer Requests and Announcements

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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 3

**2:00 pm** Worship Commission (Zoom)

### Thursday, June 4

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

**6:45 pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

### Monday, June 8

**5:00 pm** Outreach Commission

### Tuesday, June 9

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

**7:00 pm** Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

### Wednesday, June 10

**1:00 pm** Quilting



## Those Serving This Week





## Orienting With the Word program invites fresh engagement with the Bible

In a time when the practice of reading the Bible together has declined in the U.S. and Canada, participants in the Orienting With the Word program are finding joy and excitement in reading the ancient sacred Christian text together.

In the five-month program of AMBS's Faith Formation Collaborative, small groups from participating congregations meet weekly in their own setting to share personal stories of their relationship with the Bible, read the Bible together, listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and find meaning in the text as a group. While two representatives from the group attend an in-person Retreat and Training Seminar at the beginning of the program, no other travel is required. "One of the most common themes we're seeing in the program evaluations is how much participants are enjoying reading and studying the Bible together in community — and that this surprises them," said Naomi Wenger, MAR, MA, Program Administrator. "Many participants can't wait to share how they are learning to read and study the Bible with others in their congregations and beyond." Since August 2025, the free program has served more than 170 participants across 16 congregations or church agencies in seven U.S. states — in two cohorts. Training seminars for the next two cohorts will be held in Leavenworth, Kansas, and Paris, Ontario. **Read the rest of Annette Brill Bergstresser's article for Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary [here](#).** The next cohort runs Aug. 1 – Dec. 13. Click [here](#) to apply by June 15.

## Mission Network awards 2026 Anti-Racism Grants

Mennonite Mission Network offers an [Anti-Racism Grant](#) for individuals and organizations managed by Asian, Black, Hispanic, Indigenous or other People of Color groups who are engaged in peacebuilding, social justice and anti-racism efforts. These five organizations were selected from the 68 applicants to receive the funding they requested:

- [Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid](#)
- [M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence](#)
- [MashUp! Nashville](#)
- [Flint Hills Wisdom Keepers Foundation](#)
- [The Good Neighbors Initiative](#)

Read the rest of Mennonite Mission Network's press release [here](#).

## Menno Simons Sermon Prize awarded to American pastor

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The Center for Peace Church Theology at the University of Hamburg in Germany has awarded the 2026 Menno Simons Sermon Prize to Kate André, pastor of the Mennonite Congregation of Boston. André's sermon, "Gathering in the Gap," delivered on Palm Sunday 2025 at the Mennonite Congregation of Boston, links a pro-democracy demonstration with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem in Luke 19. "Is the struggle worth it even if we lose, even if we die, even if the whole system collapses and the life we know — the parts we value and take for granted — is stripped away from us?" she asks. "Why didn't Jesus save himself?" The sermon touches on traditional theological explanations for Jesus' death, suggesting we should not try to find meaning in senseless deaths but mourn them honestly. The sermon points out tactics that can be used in the face of frightening uncertainties. It conveys hope rooted in faith, peace, justice and simplicity. André is an ordained minister in Mennonite Church USA and has served Mennonite Congregation of Boston since 2022. She also serves as a Mennonite chaplain at Harvard University. She has taught world religions, philosophy and ethics, and coordinated a program for young adults focused on Ignatian spirituality in New York City, where she pursued an acting career before earning her Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School. Her master's thesis explored sketch comedy and improvisational theater as tools for authentic community-building in worship design. The Menno Simons Sermon Prize aims to encourage and recognize sermons that bring the biblical witness to light through the lens of the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition. Sermons should promote Peace Church orientation and convince through credibility, providing spiritual strengthening, and encourage engagement with current issues of public life beyond denominational boundaries. **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

## Liminal space: listening for God between thresholds

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This week, I found a word that named something I've felt for a long time — liminal. I wish I had known it earlier, because it fits so well with how I often feel when people ask how I am doing. Liminal simply means “in between” — the hallway between two thresholds, after something has ended but before anything new has begun. Many of us live in this hallway more often than we realize, carrying it quietly into our conversations and interactions. It's a space we know well. A job ends. A role changes. A relationship shifts. Or nothing obvious happens on the outside, but inside something no longer fits. We feel unsettled, unsure and a little impatient with ourselves for not having clarity yet. Liminal space is not a mistake or a failure. It's a real part of life. The word comes from the Latin “limen,” meaning threshold. It names those moments when the old way of being has loosened its grip, but the new way hasn't shown up yet. Many of us recognize it in the words we find ourselves saying: “I don't know what I'm doing next,” or “I can't go back, but I don't know where I'm headed.” When we're uncomfortable, we want answers. We make lists, talk things through over and over, or pressure ourselves to figure it out. Decision making has its place; it helps us choose between options we already understand. But discernment is different. Decision-making asks: What should I choose? Discernment asks: What should I pay attention to right now? Discernment isn't about forcing a plan. It's about noticing what's already stirring beneath the surface. And in liminal space, thinking harder often doesn't help. Our minds can get stuck, looping through the same questions without new insight. That's where creative and embodied practices can be surprisingly helpful. When words run out or thoughts get noisy, the body and imagination often know how to slow things down. They help us listen instead of rushing. **Read the rest of Rebeka Moeljono's article published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**

## More than a meal at Anamiewigummig

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*At the Kenora Fellowship Centre, staff, guests and visitors build safety, dignity and community.*  
**Content warning:** This story includes references to residential school history and possible unmarked graves. Please read with care. At Anamiewigummig, the Kenora Fellowship Centre, situated in the traditional territory of Treaty 3 in downtown Kenora, the day begins before the doors open. People gather outside looking for warmth, food, a washroom and a place to feel safe while carrying the weight of whatever the night has brought forward. By the time the centre opens at 8 a.m., staff are already preparing for the challenges and opportunities to come. For Yvonne Bearbull, the executive director, that daily effort is held within a deeper calling to be a place rooted in the belief that good things happen here, which is how the name Anamiewigummig has been interpreted by Elder Tommy Keesick (former Chief of Grassy Narrows First Nation - Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek). “When people come into the centre knowing that, something positive happens. In a place where crisis so often arrives first, that vision offers hope,” says Bearbull. The Fellowship Centre initially began as a place of gathering, food and connection, but has since become one of Kenora's most trusted low-barrier spaces. The Indigenous-led charitable organization welcomes people facing homelessness, poverty, hunger, grief, various addictions and mental health challenges, many of them young, Indigenous, carrying the effects of intergenerational trauma from Residential and Day Schools, the 60's scoop, child welfare, and the justice system. The drop-in centre offers practical support: coffee, tea, and water; breakfast and lunch every day; phone and fax access; referrals; clothing and footwear; washrooms and hygiene supplies; transportation support; and a transitional housing program. A meal brought to your table is a small gesture of dignity. Today, sandwiches, macaroni salad and fried bannock, a gift brought by MCC guests from Winnipeg, are passed around amid banter. **Read the rest of Jessica Burtnick & Rosemary Paringiro's blog post for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

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## Money as a mirror

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*Save for the future, but don't forget the beauty of now.*

The trip is planned. Everyone is excited. The money is there. And then you hesitate. Not because you cannot afford it. But something inside you pumps the brakes anyway. A little voice whispers: Should I really be spending this? Sound familiar? If you have spent most of your life being careful, saving faithfully and making sure everyone else was taken care of first, this hesitation is not a stranger to you. It shows up at the checkout line, at the travel website, in a restaurant, at the moment you finally have permission to enjoy what you worked so hard to build. Here is what I want you to know about that hesitation moment: It is not really about the trip. That hesitation is an internal cue. If you allow money to be a mirror, it is reflecting something much deeper than a budget decision. It is showing you what you believe. About security. About worthiness. About trust. And sometimes, about God. Here is what I have come to believe: Responsibility alone rarely creates joy. But responsibility paired with personal clarity often does. The problem is not usually the money. The problem is that we have never stopped to ask what actually brings us satisfaction and fulfillment. So the question becomes: What does generosity toward yourself look like? Not over-indulgence. Not exclusion of others. But care that reflects your values, your season of life and your needs. It's a self-generosity that compounds generosity with others. When I see someone hesitate (whether it's giving to others or allowing something for themselves) I often ask: What story are you telling yourself right now? Because that story is the mirror. And the mirror is showing you something worth paying attention to. As you face the mirror, ask yourself if it is time to reorient your story. The freedom you seek is to become someone whose financial choices align with your soul-driven desires and beliefs. About yourself. About God. About our world. About enough. About what this life is for. If money is a mirror, what is yours revealing? **Read the rest of Liz Hand's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Olive Trees and Palestinian People

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As described in the first part of this story [Resistance to Oppression, Resilience in Suffering](#), Palestinians are steadfast in their resistance. Continuing our story, consider the remarkable resilience of the Nassar family at Tent of Nations, one of the places where we planted olive trees. This recent update from the Nassar family bears witness to their resilience. **Read the rest of Steve Thomas's blog post for Mennonite Men [here](#).**

## Unarmed Civilian Accompaniment: A Mini Guide

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Around the world, authoritarianism continues to rise, targeting dissent and/or vulnerable communities. In these moments it is critical that we build strong communities of solidarity. Read and share CPT's mini guide on how to use Unarmed Civilian Accompaniment to clap back against authoritarianism! **Access the guide from Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**

  
Past Midweeks

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org)

Lauren Satchwell:

Pastoral Team Lead & Pastor for Administration Commission,  
Discipling Commission, & Vision Team;  
[lauren@normalmennonite.org](mailto:lauren@normalmennonite.org)

## 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!

## Commission, Team, & Committee Members

## Commission Meeting Minutes

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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Commissions and Teams Contact List

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Structure Documents

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