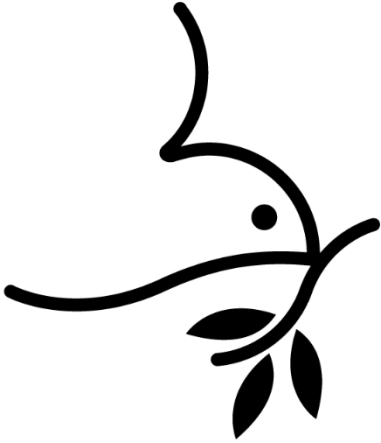




Mennonite Church of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

July 26, 2026

Offering Christ's peace to hearts, homes, community and world

Order of Worship

Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome and Congregational Life

Prelude

Call to Worship

Singing Praise to God

Hymns	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	VT* 549
	<i>One Is the Body</i> , vs. 1-3	VT 386

Gathering Prayer

Hearing God's Word

Children's Time	<i>Come and See</i>	VT 282
Scripture	Isaiah 58:6-7, Micah 6:8, & 1 Peter 4:10-11	
Sermon	<i>What is your function?</i>	

Responding to God's Word

Song of Response	<i>Sing a New World into Being</i>	VT 809
Sharing Joys and Concerns		
Pastoral Prayer		
Hymn	<i>For Those with Whom Our Lives Are Bound</i>	VT 734
Stewardship Affirmation		

Sending in the Spirit's Power

Sending Song	<i>Take My Life, and Let It Be</i>	VT 759
Benediction		
Final Response	<i>God, Be the Love</i> , vs. 1, 4, 5	VT 43

**Voices Together Hymnal*

Assisting in Worship:

Worship Planner & Leader: Lynn Reha & Amy Reiman

Worship Planner: Lynn Reha, Amy Reiman, & Cindy Ropp

Accompaniment & Prelude: Elsa Raab

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Children's Time: Ruth Keidel Clemens

Scripture Reader: Rita Munkakusi

Sermon: Ruth Keidel Clemens

Pastoral Prayer: Lynette Miller

Tech: Phil Brandon & Rick Harnish

In planning today's worship, we drew from the following authors and their work and wanted to acknowledge that borrowing here:

- Bowler, Kate. *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* (Convergent Books, 2023). Kate Bowler is an author and professor at Duke University who studies the stories we tell about success, suffering, and faith.
- Lorde, Audre. Audre Lorde is a writer, professor, philosopher, intersectional feminist, poet, and civil rights activist. We drew the quote from *Black Liturgies*. However, this quote was originally written in her diary in December 1985, which eventually was published posthumously.
- Riley, Cole Arthur. *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems and Meditations for Staying Human*. (Convergent Books, 2024). Cole Arthur Riley is a Black, queer woman who integrates spiritual practice with Black emotion, Black literature, and the Black body.

In Memoriam:

Esther Brown, member of MCN: October 22, 1939 – May 9, 2026

Ardys Serpette, member of MCN: July 5, 1939 – July 7, 2026

Announcements from the Midweek:

- **Menno Haven Sunday:** Sunday, August 16 at 10:00 am join us for worship at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center in Tiskilwa, IL followed by lunch and afternoon activities. Learn more in the Midweek. Sign up in the Fellowship Area.
- **Vision Team:** Ballots for Vision Team members are due July 30 at 5 pm.
- **Hymn Sing:** You are invited to sing with Mark and Jane at their home on Wednesday evening, July 29 at 6:30 pm. This is a time of deep connection and support for Mark and Jane and their family as well as those who know and love them well. Please bring a hymnal (*Voices Together*) if you have one and a lawn chair. Hymnals will also be available for those that don't have a copy. Come and share in this time of care and compassion.
- **Celebration of Life for Ardys Serpette:** A Celebration of Life service for Ardys Serpette will be held on August 1 at the Mennonite Church of Normal. Visitation will be at 9:00 am, Service will be at 10:00 am, Lunch will follow immediately afterwards. If you are willing to provide a salad (to serve 10) or dessert for this, please contact Marge Weaver.
- **MMN Service Adventure Presentation:** On Sunday, August 2 at 5 pm in the MRC Community Building, our own Ian will share about his year in Alaska with Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure, a 10-month gap-year program.
- **MCC School Kits:** Learn how you can help with making School Kits for Mennonite Central Committee this August in the Midweek.

This Week:

Sunday 7/26	9:30 am	Special Guest Ruth Keidel Clemens
Monday 7/27	6:00 pm	Volunteering at Midwest Bank
Tuesday 7/28	3:00 pm	Pastoral Team (Zoom)
Wednesday 7/29	1:00 pm	Quilting
	6:30 pm	Hymn Sing at Mark & Jane's Home
	7:00 pm	Vision Team (Zoom)
Thursday 7/30	7:00 am	Next Man Bible Study
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
Saturday 8/1	9:00 am	Visitation for Ardys Serpette
	10:00 am	Celebration of Life for Ardys Serpette
Sunday 8/2	5:00 pm	Ian MMN Service Adventure Presentation

Our Vision:

Mennonite Church of Normal is a nurturing, Christ-centered Anabaptist congregation that welcomes all people. As followers of Jesus, we aspire to transform our communities and world into places of peace, healing, and hope.

Our Welcome:

All people of any race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, age, education, or ability who confess faith in Jesus Christ, are welcome to participate in the full life and ministry of the Mennonite Church of Normal. Furthermore, all people of any gender or sexual orientation who confess faith in Jesus Christ, may become members, be married, and are eligible for all volunteer, staff, and pastoral positions at MCN.

Building Open Hours: Monday – Friday: 9am-11am & 1:30pm-3pm

Office Administrator: Lydia Hedberg | church@normalmennonite.org |
309-452-6622

Custodian: Rita Munkakusi

Community Life Commission, Outreach Commission, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, & Worship Commission Pastor:

Kevin Chupp | kevin@normalmennonite.org

Pastor Kevin designated office hours: Wednesdays, 8am-12pm (or call to plan a visit)

Pastoral Team Leader and Administration Commission, Discipling Commission, and Vision Team Pastor:

Lauren Satchwell | lauren@normalmennonite.org