

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *No, Yeah* using Matthew 5:33-37.

Article 20 of the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective reads: "We commit ourselves to tell the truth, to give a simple yes or no, and to avoid swearing of oaths." Of course, this is basically a quotation of Jesus, but Mennonites have lived this out in particular ways that may arguably miss the point. Jesus asks us to be forthright, and to speak honestly. What might candor do for the community of Jesus?

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

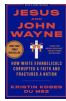
# Church Building & Office Closed



## This Friday, July 3

The church building and office will be closed on Friday, July 3 for the Fourth of July.

*From the Church Office*



## Adult CE

## This Sunday, July 5

*Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*  
Class discussion will focus on Chapters 3,4, and 5.

*Shared by Bess & Joe*

## Movie Night at MCN



## Friday, July 10 at 6:30 pm

**WHAT:** Movie Night!!! G/PG rated

**WHO:** Everyone and friends

**WHEN:** Friday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** MCN, indoors

**WHY:** FUN, FUN, FUN!!!

**BRING:** Water bottle, blanket or lawn chair (or you may choose to sit in a church chair)

**FOOD:** Popcorn will be provided

*Sponsored by the Community Life Commission*

## Connection Sunday Event: Picnic at Sugar Grove Nature Center

## Sunday, July 12 after Worship

Pack a picnic lunch and head out to Sugar Grove Nature Center (4532 N 725 East Rd, McLean, IL 61754) for an afternoon of fun. Sugar Grove has a picnic shelter, a small creek, walking trails, trees to climb, and outdoor toys. Plan to leave immediately following the service and stay as long as you like.

*From the Discipling 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

# 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](#).**

## Midwest Food Bank Volunteering



**Monday, July 27 from 6-8pm**

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is Monday, July 27 from 6-8pm. MFB wants us to sign up at least two weeks ahead of time to facilitate their project planning, so if you think you will go, **please sign up as early as possible using [this link](#)**. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Commission.

*From the Outreach 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*



## 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.

- **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

# 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*

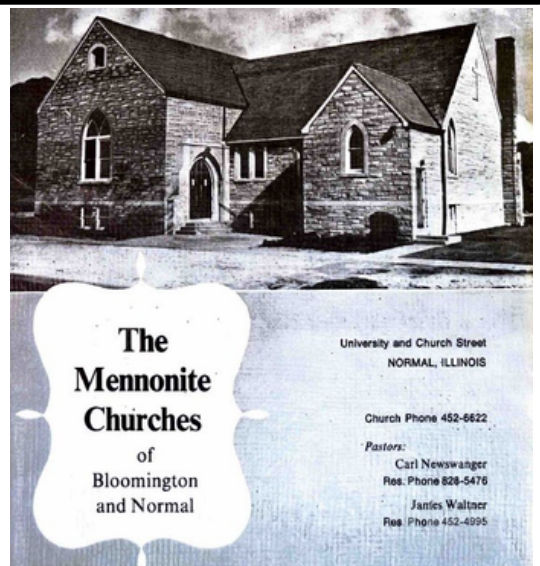
## Share Your Story!

Submissions have begun to come in for our collection of stories celebrating the 50th anniversary of Mennoite 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*

*Bite-sized pieces of our shared history leading up to our 50th anniversary celebration 9/27/26.*

As the USA celebrates 250 years, we are reminded of the foundational phrase "e pluribus unum" or "out of many, one." It is a phrase that suits our purposes at Mennoite Church of Normal as well. Fifty-one years ago, leading up to the vote to merge, First Mennoite Church and Bloomington Mennoite Church were in a "federation" period when they spent a year worshipping together. As a careful eye will notice in bulletins from that time, neither church was listed by name but only "The Mennoite Churches of Bloomington Normal"—a bold and hope-filled display of unity. *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: [kevin@normalmennoite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennoite.org)*





  
**Those Serving This Week**



**This Week at MCN**



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

**Wednesday, July 1**

**1:00 pm** Quilting

**Thursday, July 2**

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

**9:00 am** Discipling Commission

**9:30 am** Women's Bible Study

**Friday, July 3**

**All Day** Church Office & Building Closed for the Fourth of July

**Tuesday, July 7**

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

**Wednesday, July 8**

**1:00 pm** Quilting



**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

# 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.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



## Anabaptist Short Course Bundle

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Want to deepen your understanding of Anabaptist history, thought, witness and practice? The Anabaptist Short Course Bundle offers the best deal on our collection of discussion-based online short courses. In these six-week courses, you'll explore Anabaptist resources as a source of inspiration and guidance for your own life and ministry. The bundle includes four courses for only \$995 USD total (regular price is \$350 USD per course). **Learn more and register [here](#).**

- Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible with Paul Keim, PhD, and Drew Strait, PhD | Sept. 16 – Oct. 27
- Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology with Jamie Pitts, PhD | Oct. 28 – Dec. 15
- Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture with Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD | Feb. 3 – March 16
- Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication with Betty Pries, PhD, CMed | April 7 – May 18

*Shared by the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary*

## Just Peace Pilgrimage: Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

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**September 22-26. Registration deadline: July 15**

You and your community are invited to engage with contemporary Indigenous realities, explore the histories of Indigenous Peoples, and examine the complexities of Indigenous-settler relations. What might it mean for your community to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and actively contribute to the work of truth-telling and repair? Hosted by the [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#) and led by Coalition Executive Director Sarah Augustine. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

*Shared by Mennonite Mission Network*

# Dismukes Gala

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**Saturday, August 15**

The fourth annual Dismukes Gala Fundraiser will spotlight the amazing story of Dr. Henry Dodford Dismukes, an African American physician in Kimball, West Virginia, in the early 1900s. Join Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes on Saturday, August 15, at 6 p.m. at the Jack Caffrey Arts & Cultural Center in Welch, West Virginia, for dinner and live music from The Company Band. Delegate Anitra Hamilton, a McDowell County native now serving in the West Virginia House of Delegates, will be the keynote speaker. Funds raised at the gala will go towards rehabilitating the building that previously held the Henrietta Dismukes Nurses' Home. As proposed by our community steering committee, the Nurses' Home is being transformed into a community learning center. Exterior renovations are complete, and interior rehabilitation is underway. **Purchase gala tickets or become a sponsor [here](#). Learn more about Dr. Dismukes and the project [here](#).**

*Shared by Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes*

## My identity is not an oxymoron

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*BMC brought companions on a journey to self-acceptance.*

Growing up Mennonite in rural Ohio, I rarely heard of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests. When I did, it was usually in a denominational news story about them attempting to field a table at a Mennonite conference and usually failing. Queer people were never talked about, but it was in the water that being LGBTQ+ was deviant and sinful. Even so, I didn't have strong feelings about LGBTQ+ people one way or the other. It has been quite a journey from me growing up in that environment, trying to be a good rule-follower, to the place where I am now. Early in my transition, I was hungry for queer community where I could feel safe and find others like me to help understand myself. I wanted at least some of that community to be Christian and, if possible, Mennonite. Finding myself again living in rural conservative Ohio, online connections and community became even more important. I shared deeply with fellow trans Anabaptists, blessing each other by retelling our journeys. I was and continue to be cared for and encouraged by gentle pastoral souls who walk with me in my struggles and pains. BMC members were with me when I finally decided to come out to extended family, my local church and beyond. June of this year marks my two-year anniversary on hormone replacement therapy and July the two-year anniversary of being fully out as a trans woman. I am incredibly grateful for my siblings in BMC and other queer Mennonites who have walked with me throughout my discovery and acceptance of myself, fully coming out, continuing through today. **Read the rest of Brie Yoder's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Reimagining MC USA for the world we will serve in 2040

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In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Glen Guyton, executive director of Mennonite Church USA, shares insights from the recent meetings of the Structure Review Committee for the "Reimagining MC USA" initiative and explores how MC USA can faithfully adapt its structures, leadership and connections to serve the church and the world in 2040. **Read Glen Guyton's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

## Shannon W. Dycus named 10th president of EMU

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Shannon W. Dycus has been named president of Eastern Mennonite University. Dycus has led the university as interim president since July 2025, and begins her five-year term on July 1. "I'm humbled to continue the bold legacy of EMU," said Dycus, EMU's 10th president. "EMU leaders have been courageous and visionary stewards of this sacred community. Being called to serve among them is a responsibility I'm excited and honored to step into." The EMU Board of Trustees unanimously voted to appoint Dycus as president during its June 12 meeting. **Read the rest of Eastern Mennonite University and the *Anabaptist World's* news release [here](#).**

## Everence Toolkit

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Download Everence's Summer 2026 edition of their Toolkit [here](#). (Also available [En Español](#).)

## Repent and repair: a 2% solution

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A fellow Bethel College alum once told me he "would rather have 50 2% solutions than two 50% solutions." I think there's wisdom in this idea — wisdom we can apply to economic and racial justice. None of us participated in enslavement, Jim Crow or the removal of Native people. But there is no doubt that many White Mennonites have benefited — from red-lining (racial discrimination in housing) to advantages in obtaining farmland, houses and bank accounts, to the words and ideals of the Constitution favoring us but not others. Very few White Mennonites have made reparations for the advantages that came from the evils we so casually forget or ignore. Until we repent and repair, the past will continue to trip us up. For decades I have listened to sermons about the Jubilee year: After 50 years the land was to revert to the family that first owned it (Leviticus 25:8-38). I have seen very little of that happening. Discussions about dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery are good, but I see a lot more discussion than action. So, how could we repent and repair? Being a math nerd, I've thought about how to make this happen today, with fewer people on rural land and more of us with assets like stock portfolios and retirement accounts. I propose that we who have assets that are "fruit of the poisonous tree" should give 2% per year of our net worth to an Indigenous group, or the descendants of enslaved people or another disadvantaged group, over 50 years. We can start when we begin earning and have assets (like a car). After 50 years, each of us would have provided the equivalent of restoring one household at 100%. Note that I am not referencing tithing. That is separate from Jubilee. They are not the same thing. When the U.S. government was negotiating with the Lakota Sioux, it promised to feed, clothe and provide medical care "as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the river flows." When I was at Pine Ridge, one of my favorite quotes was from Chief Red Cloud after the Lakota Sioux were surrounded, subdued and moved to the reservation. He said, "Do that for seven generations, and send all our young men to West Point to get an education, and you will not owe us anything more." (I realize this does not fit with Anabaptist pacifism, but West Point was the best education Red Cloud knew.) We are now approaching seven generations out, and I have seen that the U.S. government seems to be doing as little as possible to fulfill our commitment and the poverty persists. Two percent per year equals Jubilee. **Read the rest of Jerrell Williams's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## No kings! Then what?

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*The Founders unleashed greater equality than they intended.*

From a distance of 250 years, Anabaptists today might think we have little in common with the U.S. Founders — just as most Mennonites in the American colonies had little to do with the Revolution, typically choosing pacifism over engagement with either the Loyalist or Patriot side. I'd argue differently: that the best qualities of the colonists who declared independence from England are some of the highest ideals Anabaptists hold today. We espouse these qualities unevenly and live them imperfectly (as the colonists also did) — too often acting on selfish motives, hampered by bias or bigotry. But when we embrace our better values and act on them, we embody ideals as radical as those the Founders established: equality, respect for conscience and an obligation to act together for the common good. The hardest work of justice was done not by the Founders but by those who took their words more seriously than they did. In the 250 years that followed, the Founders' ideals were tested by movements of people even further from divine kings: the enslaved, women, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, the poor, non-Christians and others whose efforts to advance individual liberty would have dismayed most of the Founders. The Founders rejected the divine rule of kings, not expecting that doing so would prompt an expanded view of human equality. Anabaptist and American movements for justice and freedom have often been more radical than the reformations and revolutions they emerged from. **Read the rest of Rebecca Barrett-Fox's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

## Beginning with a Posture of Listening

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We know there are better ways to engage in conflict. We believe the difficult work of transforming it forms us into the peacemakers we are called to be. But are we seeking out the tools we need? Kiara Yoder pursues peace through a three-day MC USA and Eastern Mennonite Seminary workshop on conflict transformation. Her reflections call us deeper into the pursuit, reminding us that we don't begin with answers, but with a posture of listening. **Read Kiara Yoder's blog post for Mennonite Women USA [here](#).**

## Seeds of hope in India

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*In West Bengal, India, a single project is bringing many changes to local families' lives.* MCC supports more than 450 projects and 340 partners in dozens of countries around the world. Through this video, take a deep dive into the many changes that a single project can bring to families' lives. In six villages in West Bengal, India, families are eating more nutritious food as they find new ways to farm, work and make big dreams a reality. Learn how MCC and partner Asansol Burdwan Seva Kendra are helping farmers diversify their income, women create a sense of independence and children grow into stewards of the Earth. **Watch the video from Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

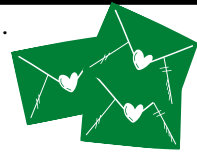
  
Past Midweeks

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# 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>

## Commission Meeting Minutes

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## Item Check-Out Request Form

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## Commission, Team, & Committee Members

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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!

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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