

THE MIDWEEK



**Worship will be at 10 am at Menno Haven
Camp & Retreat Center followed by lunch,
fun, and fellowship!**

There will be no worship at 805 S Cottage this
Sunday.

Menno Haven is located at [9301 1575 East St.
Tiskilwa, IL 61368](#). Click [here](#) for directions.

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



Church Office & Building Closed

Tomorrow & Friday, August 13-14

The Church building and office will be closed all day this Thursday and Friday (August 13 & 14). Thank you for your understanding!

Shared by the Church Office

Menno Haven Sunday



This Sunday, August 16 at 10:00 am

WHEN: Sunday, August 16

WHERE: Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center, Tiskilwa, IL

WHAT:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- Lunch, noon.
- Afternoon activities available - swimming, canoeing, paddle boating, lawn games, fishing (bring your gear), zip lining (sign up available soon), hiking, relaxing and visiting

DETAILS:

- **Sign up** contact Marge
- There will be a lifeguard on duty.
- Lunch suggested donations: Adults \$15.00, Children 10 and under \$7.00, Children 3 and under free
- There will be no services at MCN on this day.

Please join together for a fun filled day of worship and fellowship!

From the Community Life Commission



Student Mutual Aid Program Breakfast!

Sunday, August 23 at 8:00 am

Come one come all! The Student Mutual Aid Program Committee would like to invite you to a breakfast on August 23rd, 8:00 AM at the church. This will be a great time to learn more about this program, celebrate its legacy, hear stories from past and current students, and fellowship together! This program continues to succeed due to the support of this congregation for over 50 years. If you have questions you can reach out to Darvis, Annette, or Katie. Please RSVP to Darvis. If you cannot make it but would like to learn more or make a pledge, please contact Darvis at that same email or phone number.

Shared by the Student Mutual Aid Program Committee

Membership



If you are interested in becoming a member of MCN, we want to hear from you! A membership class will be put together based on the needs and the availability of those interested. please reach out to Pastor Kevin (kevin@normalmennonite.org).

Through August

Thanks to all who have so generously donated to our Mennonite Central Committee School Kit project. We will continue to accept donations for a few more weeks. If you would rather fill bags yourself, we have bags available for you to take on the display table. This is a good project if you have younger children. They can help fill the bags for other children in need. Thanks again for your support. **QUESTIONS SEE:** Deanna and Louise.

Contents of a School Kit (NEW items only)

- 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks: 8.5 in x 10.5 in; 70 sheets each
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler: flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm (inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils in packaging
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- MCN will provide pencil sharpeners that meet MCC requirements

Shared by Deanna and Louise



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 23

BRING YOUR BACKPACK! We'll be blessing backpacks as we return to the rhythms of school and fall this year. Please have your child (of any age!) bring their bag for daycare or school to be "blessed" during our children's time. Adults are also welcome to bring a briefcase, backpack or computer bag.

Shared by the Discipling Commission

Christian Education Focus



Sunday, August 30

Christian Education resumes for PK-12! Students who are eligible will be joining the next SS grade band. We will also show appreciation for our teachers from last year and distributing Bibles.

Shared by the Discipling Commission



Save the Date: FFN

Friday, September 25 from 5:30-7:30 pm

Please join us for Family Fun Night on September 25 from 5:30-7:30. For our 50th anniversary celebration, we'll focus on the theme from John 15:5: I am the Vine; you are the branches!" We'll enjoy songs, a lesson, activities and PIZZA!

Shared by the Discipling Commission

Vision Team



The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is happy to share that the congregation strongly affirmed Janet and Shannon as new members of the Vision Team and that they both accepted this call. Their terms will begin in January 2027 and will last for two years. Additionally, Janet is willing to serve as chair of Vision Team when Ben's term ends in December. Thank you to everyone who participated in this process!

Shared by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

Meal Train

Meals for Jane and Mark



MCN Immigrant Protection Plan

Due to the fact that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can enter any place open to the public, the Outreach Commission has prepared a plan in the event that ICE would come into the Mennonite Church of Normal. Although this may not happen, we feel it is better to be prepared and will be worth the effort if but one person is protected.

If ICE should appear at our church, we have several designated spokespersons. Only a designated spokesperson will interact with ICE. The congregation will remain constantly engaged in church activities: praying singing, sharing joys and concerns, attending to presentations, etc. There is a booklet of Scripture and hymns located in the pulpit to use if necessary.

If you have additional questions about our Immigrant Protection Plan, please see a member of the Outreach Commission. You can view the Immigrant Protection Plan [here](#).

Shared by the Outreach Commission



Do you support trans rights but find the talk of medical transition confusing? There is so much disinformation and misinformation circulating, it can all sound big and scary. When I lived in Missouri and made routine trips to testify in legislative hearings, I got used to hearing representatives and senators reference the 3-year-olds having gender confirmation surgery (granted, that was not the name they used). That language didn't stop in Missouri, but has been used across the country (and likely beyond) in order to convince others of the need to ban gender affirming care for minors. So what's the real story? I'll preface this by stating that I am not a doctor. I am a parent raising a transgender child. I am also very involved in study and talking with others — individuals and organizations who live this every day. Nothing I say is intended as medical advice, but as a resource for those hearing political rhetoric and wanting to understand better. **Read the rest of Jennifer Harris Dault's blog post [here](#).**

Shared by Pastor Kevin

Please stop by and check the lost and found. These items will be donated on **September 21st** if not claimed. Thanks!



MCN 50th Factoid

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

Well, nearby, North Danvers Mennonite Church is [celebrating 175 years](#) September 11-13, making it one of the oldest congregations in our Central District Conference. Hopedale Mennonite Church was also founded in the 1850s. However, the record goes to Metamora Mennonite Church was founded 193 years ago in 1833! *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.

- **August 16 - Menno Haven**
- August 23 - Patience

- August 30 - Impatience
- September 6 - Hope



Those Serving This Week



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, August 12

1:00 pm Quilting

2:00 pm Worship Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, August 13

All Day Church Building & Office Closed

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

6:45 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Friday, August 14

All Day Church Building & Office Closed

Sunday, August 16

10:00 am Worship at Menno Haven
Camp & Retreat Center

Tuesday, August 18

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 19

1:00 pm Quilting

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)



Waging Peace: Why This Conversation Matters

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

4 p.m. PT / 7 p.m. ET on Zoom

What does it mean to pursue peace in an age of war, polarization and nationalism?

Join us to learn more about Waging Peace: A Militarism Summit, coming Nov. 6–7 to Leola, Pa.



Joy Metzler • Hannah Rose Martin • Iris de León-Hartshorn



A solid span and an apt metaphor

MDS and Islamic Relief USA volunteers build a bridge and enjoy each other's company. Laughter — that's one of the main things Phil Helmuth remembers from the joint Mennonite Disaster Service and Islamic Relief USA bridge-building project in May and June in Hendersonville, N.C. "We had so much fun working together," said Helmuth, who was the project director at the site located around 100 miles west of Charlotte. "It was a week filled with laughing." Helmuth directed a team of 15 volunteers, seven from MDS and the rest from Islamic Relief USA, who worked together to rebuild a private driveway bridge washed away in September 2024 by Hurricane Helene. In addition to the fun they had while building the bridge, there were opportunities to learn about each other. MDS executive director Kevin King said the joint project came about last year when Islamic Relief asked MDS if they could learn more about how the organization does its long-term recovery work. "They wanted to know more about how we worked and ways to involve their youth in responding to disasters," he said. "What we did there was more than building a bridge over a creek," he said. "We lived out our core value as a Christian organization of building relationships." Added Helmuth: "I came away from the experience energized as I shared my faith story and heard the faith stories of others who are different from me." The "Bridging Together" project in western North Carolina was born of a partnership between MDS and Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas to rebuild bridges destroyed by Hurricane Helene — in particular, bridges that cross small creeks between the state-maintained roads and people's homes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimated the storm destroyed 4,000 bridges. **Read the rest of John Longhurst's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Legal guidance must serve rights, not deterrence

The Greek government is introducing a new framework for initial legal counseling provided to asylum seekers. As the Greek Ministry of Migration reconsiders a Joint Ministerial Decision on free initial legal counseling, CPT and other organisations in Greece demand: legal guidance must serve rights, not deterrence. **Read CPT Aegean Migrant Solidarity's blog post for Community Peacemaker Teams [here](#).**

AW call for submissions: The Faithful & the Political

How does your faith guide your political choices (or avoidance of politics)? How can people of faith effect change through political action? What faith-based words and actions are most needed in the current political climate? How have political leaders' recent actions aligned or not aligned with your values? How can a candidate earn your support? Do you discuss politically charged topics in your congregation? Do members of your congregation make a political impact? What shifts in political engagement have you witnessed in your faith community? How do you or others make peace while engaging politically? How have you experienced the local impact of political decisions on education, healthcare, poverty or other issues? How do you reach across the divisions that polarize people? In a time when some feel cynicism and despair, what gives you hope? Deadline: August 25. Length 600 to 1,200 words. Send to editor@anabaptistworld.org. **Read the *Anabaptist World's* call [here](#).**

MVS term opens new career path, intergenerational friendships

Through Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS), Juan Witmer found much more than he bargained for in Tucson, Arizona. In the span of a year, he encountered a welcoming faith community, vibrant southwest landscapes, and a placement he intends to make into a career. **Read Travis Duerksen's blog post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

GAMEO marks 30 years of serving the global Anabaptist community

The [Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online](#) (GAMEO) recently celebrated its 30th anniversary as an open-access repository focused on Mennonite and Anabaptist communities, history, and theology. Since its founding, GAMEO has developed into an essential resource for researchers, educators, and students around the world. With over 17,000 articles and thousands of visitors per day, GAMEO continues to grow in content and reach, supporting fact-based understandings of Anabaptists and Mennonite communities. GAMEO began as an English-language resource, but over the past five years, it has expanded into German, Spanish, and French language content. In June 2026, GAMEO's Management Board met via Zoom to chart the upcoming year of projects. The board welcomed Devon Miller, MC USA archives coordinator, to his first meeting. Historian and author Ian Kleinsasser returned for his second year, contributing his expertise and connections to strengthen the quality and variety of Hutterite-related entries in GAMEO. New content published in GAMEO this past year included numerous entries by Gerald Ens, featuring the stories of Mennonites who migrated to Canada and Latin America in the late 1800s and early 1900s. A significant number of congregational entries were also added. **Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA's news release [here](#).**

Change leadership begins within: Three ways to prepare for change

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate executive director of Operations and director of Human Resources for Mennonite Church USA, shares three faith-based practices for leading change — letting go, embracing experimentation and modeling the way of Jesus — to help church leaders navigate transformation with hope and grace. **Read Iris de León-Hartshorn's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

A dash of holy impertinence

To hear him tell it, Peter Wiebe has lived from one miracle to another — a stream of stories now stretching over 98 years. Three times he has been snatched from death. His appendix burst when he was a child, and gangrene set in. Later, he was nearly clawed into the power take-off of a farm harvesting machine before his father pulled him away. As a seminary student in Chicago, he narrowly escaped being crushed under the wheels of a bus. Each brush with death became a spellbinding story. On March 31, Peter celebrated his 98th birthday with dozens of friends in Glendale, Ariz., his home since the 1990s. He remains as strong in body and mind as many people decades younger, walking with a spring in his step and speaking with zest and verve. Growing up as a farm boy in Manitoba, Peter sensed an early call to ministry. It was not a vague feeling, a random thought or a gentle nudge from an elder. At the age of 14, while plowing with a two-cylinder Model B John Deere tractor, he heard a clear voice that he immediately recognized as a divine calling. Already a student of the Bible, he felt he was walking in the footsteps of Samuel and Paul. He knelt beside the tractor in the southern Manitoba soil and said, “God, I’m ready to do it, if that’s what you’re asking.” When he shared this with his mother, she replied, “I dedicated you to the Lord for ministry before you were born.” **Read the rest of Shirley Hershey Showalter's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

German church supports housing ministry for refugee integration with locals

Refugees and locals will live together in a new apartment complex supported by Schwandorf Mennonite Church in Germany. According to Schwandorf Pastor Paul Warkentin, [around 90 people are anticipated to live in 31 apartments in three buildings](#). The “Houses of Hope” project is an initiative of [Hope Bearers Foundation](#), a Christian organization that has built about a dozen such developments in Germany. The project raises questions for the congregation that relate to its own church work: How can encounters between people of different backgrounds be successful? How can lasting relationships be established? How can Christian faith contribute to peaceful coexistence in everyday life? “Houses of Hope” combine living space with integration work, social work, volunteering, networking and education. Spiritual life and interreligious dialogue are also integral components. The goal is to understand integration not only as a form of assistance but as living together in community. Even before the planned occupancy in 2027, a community is to be established in Schwandorf. This includes networking with local churches, social service providers and committed individuals. A team of approximately three full-time staff will include a site manager, social worker and maintenance staff. **Read the rest of the article from *Die Brücke* published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



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

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!

