

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

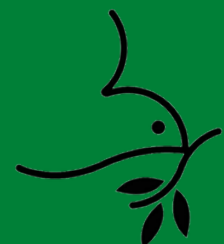
This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Twice as Bright* using Exodus 2:11-25.

When Moses saw an Egyptian beating one of his own people, he killed him. He saw injustice and followed his first instinct—violence. It was the most expedient and satisfying response to what he encountered. But after years hiding from the consequences of his actions, he faces an opportunity to bring deliverance for all of God's people. It would take time, but it would make lasting change. How do we resist our more violent impulses and patiently work to enact God's justice.

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



Blessing of the Backpacks

This 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



Student Mutual Aid Program Breakfast!

This 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 King at that same email or phone number.

Shared by the Student Mutual Aid Program Committee

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

S'mores and More at Moraine View State Park!

Sunday, September 13 from 1-5 pm at [Moraine View State Park](#)

Community Life Commission invites everyone to the Honker's Island Shelter (25 minutes SE of BloNo) for an afternoon of hiking, fishing, visiting and S'MORES! Let's hang out before the leaves fall! **Date:** Sunday, September 13. **Time:** 1-5pm (Feel free to take a picnic lunch. Reserved all day.) **Bring:** Roasting sticks, lawn chairs. **Provided:** Fixings for S'mores (yum), water and cups.

Shared by the Community Life 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

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

Meals for Jane and Mark



Meal Train

A message of thanks





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).

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



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 23 - Patience**
- August 30 - Impatience

- September 6 - Hope

Sharing Our Gifts



The "Sharing Our Gifts" slide show will be playing again this Sunday before and after the service and will be available to view in the following Midweek. If you've not sent in a photo yet, please do so! You can email them to the church office at church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). The August issue of the Connector showcases some of the important work that both congregations and the conference are doing to build solidarity with marginalized people. We hear about the work of Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship with detained immigrants and we hear from Conference Minister Doug Luginbill about the Palestine Resolution passed at Annual Meeting this year, along with lots of announcements. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available to take from the Library Table soon.

MCN 50th Factoid

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

You may have seen the note in a previous Midweek about our Little Free Library (LFL) that has been absent from its spot. It is being restored after some wear and damage from a storm earlier this Summer. Our LFL (Charter #90037) was made by Jeff and is a part of a network of more than 200,000 in 128 countries. It all started in 2009 when Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin built the first little free library for himself, quickly followed by several others for his friends. His initial aspiration was to match Andrew Carnegie's goal at the turn of the 20th century to build 2,509 free public libraries. It is safe to say, having nearly surpassed nearly ten times that goal that he has been profoundly successful in promoting community and literacy around the world! *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org*



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 19

1:00 pm Quilting

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, August 20

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

6:30 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, August 23

9:00 am Student Mutual Aid Program Breakfast

Tuesday, August 25

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 26

1:00 pm Quilting



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





The Spirit leads us to come alive

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Wellbeing specialist Ruth Johnston explores how the Holy Spirit calls us to lives of purpose, inviting pastors and church leaders to reconnect with what makes them come alive and discern God's ongoing call. **Read Ruth Johnston's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

MDS Illinois Unit Annual Meeting

Saturday August 22, 2026 from 10 am – 1 p.m

Hopedale Mennonite Church (5192 Hopedale Rd Hopedale, IL 61747)

Lunch furnished by your Illinois MDS Unit. Please bring a Guest. Program will include Response Review and Election of Officers (open positions: Assistant State Coordinator and Member at Large). Questions contact Lamar Miller, Illinois Unit Chair or Lorena Richtarsic, Region 2 Administrative Assistant at LRichtarsic@mds.org.

Shared by the Mennonite Disaster Service Illinois Unit

Response to Ongoing Suffering in Palestine

During the 2026 Annual Meeting delegates passed a resolution, "[Response to Ongoing Suffering in Palestine](#)." Doug Luginbill, Conference Minister, shares his thoughts regarding the resolution [here](#). An additional resource for congregations is a [template of a letter](#) that can be sent to legislators re the resolution.

Shared by the Central District Conference

Book Resource Lists

Anabaptist Disabilities Network is excited to announce a new resource on our website—book resource lists on a variety of topics! Books can be a helpful resource to learn more about how disability relates to faith and the life of the church. It's also fun to dive into a story that features disabled characters or to read a memoir by someone with a similar life experience. The books gathered here are meant to contribute to spiritual life, to provide resources for worship, and to give you ideas for ways your congregation can become a place of belonging for all people. To see the book list for a particular topic, click on the links below.

- [Books for Children and Young People](#)
- [Spirituality](#)
- [Intellectual and Developmental Disability](#)
- [Disability Theology](#)
- [Disability and the Church](#)
- [Disability Justice](#)
- [Neurodiversity](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Dementia Care](#)

Shared by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Who reads a book with 232 authors?

At the institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism at Goshen College, I maintain a digital library that serves Anabaptist seminaries throughout the Americas and Spain. Its two most popular books are single-author works by well-known scholars on practical ministry skills. The third most highly consulted text does not fit this pattern. It is a daily devotional book with 232 authors. Titled 2021 Devotionals, the book was written, compiled and published by the Movement of Anabaptist Women Doing Theology from Latin America, or MTAL. It has garnered more than 12,000 views, an average of more than 100 a week. The extraordinary reach of this publication is but one glimpse into the impact and significance of MTAL in Latin America and beyond. **Read the rest of Elizabeth Miller's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Clair Good appointed new Executive Director of MDS U.S.

Clair Good has been appointed as new Executive Director of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) U.S. and will begin his new position on Oct. 1, 2026. Good joins MDS from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) where he most recently served as the Plain Community Liaison, strengthening constituent engagement, donor relations, resource generation, and volunteer involvement. "He brings a remarkable breadth of experience as a missionary, administrator, development worker, peacebuilder, and pastor, shaped through service in the United States, England, Israel, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Kenya," said MDS U.S. Board Chair Wayne Yoder. "Clair is a seasoned strategic visionary with more than four decades of leadership experience across global, intercultural, and community-based settings." **Read the rest of the Mennonite Disaster Service's announcement [here](#).**

MCC Action Alert: Slash the Pentagon budget!

Background: The U.S. has the largest military budget in the world, accounting for more than half of global military [spending since 1949](#). War never brings peace but rather deprives and steals from programs that support human needs. Anabaptists have long lived out holistic peace values, rejecting military service, engaging in peacemaking, and highlighting the devastating costs of war. The ever-growing U.S. military budget (the current White House request is \$1.5 trillion) and a dramatic decrease in funding for peacebuilding and humanitarian needs have contributed to violent conflict and [environmental destruction](#) globally. Human security at home and abroad should be centered in mutual flourishing and not warmaking. The Slash the Pentagon Act ([S. 4799](#)) seeks to drastically cut the defense budget by half and instead invest those funds in:

- Trains, not warplanes (\$205 billion)
- Health care, not warfare (\$220 billion)
- Bread, not bombs (\$200 billion)
- Education, not annihilation (\$125 billion)

Take action: [Encourage your senators to co-sponsor the Slash the Pentagon Act](#)

Shared by the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries

Wings of Hope Camp

At Laurelville Retreat Center in Mt. Pleasant Pennsylvania, the spirit of summer camp extends beyond the season. One beautiful expression of that spirit is Wings of Hope, an afterschool program designed especially for children and teens with disabilities, ages 5-18. Rooted in joy, belonging, and creativity, Wings of Hope creates a space where every participant is welcomed, celebrated, and invited to simply be a kid. Wings of Hope brings the heart of camp into each gathering. What makes Wings of Hope especially meaningful is its intentional focus on community. In a world where families navigating disabilities can often feel isolated, this program offers a place of connection for participants and their families. Parents and caregivers are welcomed into the experience, creating opportunities for shared joy and mutual encouragement. **Read the rest of Angela Ehrhardt's blog post for the Anabaptist Disabilities Network [here](#).**

Scenes from a revolution

As war closed in, so did pressure on Mennonites to conform.

In 1782, as the American Revolution was winding down, a group of travelers arrived in Coventry, Pa., and stopped at the home of Mennonites Jacob and Susanna Longacre, begging for a meal. Though Jacob was away, 70-year-old Susanna offered her usual hospitality and provided food and drink. As the group sat down to eat, the travelers said they were British prisoners and asked for directions, which Susanna provided. For this act, Susanna, along with two neighbors who also provided aid, were arrested. The travelers were not British fugitives but American spies looking for British sympathizers. Though Susanna and her neighbors appealed for clemency, claiming they acted only on Christian principle, they were convicted and fined. Mennonites, by and large, were not caught up in revolutionary fervor. At this point still largely concentrated in southeastern Pennsylvania, they tried to avoid the war's conflicts and controversies. In this regard, they had much in common with their Pennsylvania German neighbors. Mennonite responses to the American revolution hinged on two key convictions still important to Mennonite communities today: the negotiation of loyalty between church and state, and the commitment to Christian nonviolence. During the American Revolution, most American Mennonites simply continued their agricultural and marketeering labors. Largely indifferent to national concerns, they focused their attention locally. Yet the questions they faced — of how to live peaceably in a time of war and how to relate to governments as Christians who claim a higher loyalty — continue to challenge Anabaptists 250 years later. **Read the rest of Joel Horst Nofziger's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Agrovoltaics and saving our fields

In recent months, I've seen a lot of content on social media rallying people to "save our fields," as artificial intelligence data centers are proposed across the country. My first thought was to agree with the posts and move on. Without our fields, there is no food system, nothing to faithfully eat. But it is always worth interrogating your first thought. On second thought, this feels like a rehash of complaints about solar arrays going up on agricultural land. And on third thought, it seems to be the same as campaigns against wind turbine arrays. It looks like one continuous fight over land use. It looks like over 20 years of folks valiantly taking up the cause of stewardship. But I don't think it's that. I think this may be a case where the aesthetics of stewardship and the work of stewardship are at odds. Stewardship and creation care are callings that we take seriously. We remember that earth is God's, our role is to take care of it, and Deuteronomy 22:6 even gives instructions for not hunting a mother bird with her young — a very sound conservation principle. Creation care is important because our food system relies on the integrity of agricultural spaces, and the integrity of those agricultural spaces relies on a stable climate. Wind and solar can be harmonized with agricultural work. Wind and solar work to help repair the climate crisis. AI data centers destroy agricultural land, pollute the surrounding communities and exacerbate the climate crisis. As people of faith, we should take conservation seriously as a part of stewardship. What's heartbreaking is that the language of stewardship is being used against projects like wind farms and solar arrays despite these projects being some of our newest tools for more effective stewardship. As we see more examples of the language of stewardship being used against projects that would in fact promote conservation, we enter a time where effective stewardship demands us to be more discerning than ever. **Read the rest of AJ Delgadillo's article 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!

