

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Feet* using Psalm 119:57-64.

Patience, in the way we discussed last week, does not rule out impatience when it comes to the impulse to act. Psalm 119:60 displays a heart of urgency: "I'll be prompt and will not hesitate in keeping your commands." How are we as a community embodying faithful urgency? How can we cultivate holy impatience?

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 9 & 12

Children & Youth CE

Pre-K – 4th Grade
Room 11

5th – 8th Grade
Room 8

9th – 12th Grade
Rooms 5 & 7



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA



This 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

Order by: Thursday, September 3

Get your Commemorative MCN 50th t-shirt! We are planning to order t-shirts to wear for our service projects on September 26th, but you can wear one anytime! **Please place your order [here](#) by Thursday, September 3rd.**



MCC School Kits



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

Cultivating Generous Congregations



Sundays, September 6, September 13, & October 4

Last February and March, Everence offered a 6-session seminar on Cultivating Generous Congregations. Four of us attended, Adam, Mary, Lotus, and Lauren. During the Christian Education hour on September 6, September 13, and October 4, we will have time to share and discuss pieces of that learning experience and what does Generosity mean for Mennonite Church of Normal? We have snacks, and we want to hear from you!

Shared by the Administration 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



September 25-27

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of MCN September 25th-27th!

- **Friday** - Family Fun Night (5pm-7:30pm)
- **Saturday** - open house (11am), lunch (12pm), service projects (2pm), hymn sing (6:30pm)
- **Sunday** - Worship (9:30), lunch (12pm), memorial tree-planting

Please take a moment to help us prepare by filling out an RSVP form [here](#). And please share [this flyer](#) widely to spread the word.



Family Fun Night

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



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).

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.

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 30 - Impatience.** September 6 - Hope



Bite-sized pieces of our shared history leading up to our 50th anniversary celebration 9/27/26. Have you seen the monarch caterpillars crawling around? You can see some at MCN, thanks to the careful cultivation of native plants around the church by many committed stewards among us. One of the biggest pieces of that puzzle is the Native Prairie Rain Garden, the creation of which was led in part by Pastor Matt Hickman. In the Spring of 2010, sod was removed from the stormier swale by the church parking lot to begin the transformation. A native seed mix was introduced late Fall 2010, and in Summer 2011, with a grant from the Illinois Native Plant Society, 450 mature plant plugs were added to the mix. Now, 16 years later, we and our neighbors continue to enjoy the beauty of these plants, while our other-than-human neighbors get to put them to use! *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org*



Those Serving This Week



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

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.

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, August 26

1:00 pm Quilting

Thursday, August 27

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, September 1

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 2

1:00 pm Quilting



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



A simple line drawing of a heart shape, formed by a continuous line that loops around and ends in a small heart.

Gather, glean and give

Midsummer harvest has begun. Gathering from gardens filled our 'give and glean table' at Wild Church with fresh fruits and veggies. Homegrown grains were also on the table in the form of winter rye berry salad (your recipe for today), eggs (you'll learn shortly why I'm naming these as a grain) and a loaf of bread was our "talking stick" passed around the circle at sharing time. Early August marks the halfway point between the summer solstice and autumnal equinox, true midsummer. I learned from seminary classmates this is celebrated as a cross-quarter holiday on the Celtic calendar (Lughnasadh) which corresponds to the Anglo-Saxon Christian harvest festival of Lammas (translating as loaf mass) where the first wheat harvest loaf is baked and blessed. **Read the rest of Heather Wolfe's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Action Hour to support de-escalation and diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula

Thursday, August 27 at 12 pm CDT

Recently, President Trump announced a substantial reduction in U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK/South Korea) joint military drills, while noting ongoing conversations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK/North Korea), and made overtures toward engagement. Officials in DPRK have denied ongoing diplomacy but acknowledged rapport between the two countries' leaders. This moment has created a narrow window for renewed diplomacy between the U.S. and DPRK. Join the Korea Peace Network for this Action Hour urging your member of Congress to support de-escalation measures and diplomatic engagement with DPRK. The Korean War has remained unended for 73 years and relations between the U.S. and the DPRK have been frozen since President Trump and Kim Jong Un's meetings in 2018-19. U.S. leaders now have an opportunity to bring DPRK back to the table. During the Action Hour, you will hear a brief state-of-play recap from peace advocates on these developments followed by an opportunity to call your members of Congress and urge them to support diplomacy and peace on the Korean Peninsula. No prior advocacy experience is required, and Korea Peace Network advocates will offer scripts and guidance to support your advocacy. This is a practical, hands-on opportunity to turn concern into impact. Come ready to learn, act and help move U.S. policy toward the Korean Peninsula in a more just and peaceful direction. *This event is hosted by the Korea Peace Network, of which MCC U.S. is a member. KPN is an alliance of concerned U.S.-based civil society groups working together to establish a just peace on the Korean Peninsula through peacebuilding, engagement, trust building, reconciliation, and dialogue between all concerned governments and civil society groups.* **Register [here](#).**

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

Camp Friedenswald Women's Retreat

September 18-20

Join Camp Friedenswald for a relaxing and engaging weekend in the peaceful woods. This year we are featuring Amanda K. Gross who is an artist, community organizer, and author of *White Women, Get Ready*. Through grounding in history, embodiment, story, healing work, community, creativity, and faith, Amanda will guide us toward a deeper understanding of Beloved Community as we learn about the ways "white mistress syndrome" upholds systems of violence and harm. All women are welcome! **Click [here](#) for more information, draft schedule, bio and to register.**

Shared by Camp Friedenswald

The cost of conscience: My father's peace witness

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Explore the legacy of [conscientious objection](#) through one Mennonite family's story and discover how Christians are reimagining faithful responses to war at the [Waging Peace militarism summit](#). **Read Devon Miller's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

August E-memo: Policy Updates

- **Stopgap spending bill:** To avert a government shutdown (current funding ends on Sept. 30), [the Senate voted](#) to fund the government at current levels through Dec. 11, with strong support from both parties. The House passed its own stopgap measure and the two versions will need to be reconciled when Congress returns from recess in September. **Take action:** [Urge Congress to Pass a moral fiscal 2027 budget](#).
- **The Farm Bill:** On Aug. 6 the Senate Agriculture Committee failed to advance this year's Farm Bill out of committee due to absences and opposition to the bill's food aid provisions. Growing violent conflicts and environmental pressures, among other factors, continue to exacerbate access to healthy food and disrupt food systems globally. [Pray for our legislators](#) to prioritize collective well-being and an equitable Farm Bill.
- **Middle East:** An increasing number of lawmakers oppose sending weapons to Israel. In the U.S. House of Representatives, a recent amendment to cut military aid to Israel received [100 votes in favor](#). The Block the Bombs Act ([H.R. 3565](#)), which would prohibit U.S. munitions sales to Israel, has 81 cosponsors.

Shared in the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries [August E-Memo](#)

Not paying for war: One congregation's journey

This year my spouse and I practiced war tax resistance and redirection for the first time. We made this choice in large part due to the support from our congregation, First Mennonite Church of San Francisco. Over the last three years our congregation has been on a journey, discerning our corporate support for war tax resistance. The conversation was catalyzed three years ago in the Outreach Committee of FMCSF as [we wrestled with the egregiousness of our tax dollars funding the genocide in Gaza](#). One member of the committee was seriously considering tax resistance and was curious about how the congregation would respond. Would there be support for such a choice? As a committee, we decided to bring this to the congregation in an explicit way. Through sermons, educational hour discussions, a small group, a congregational survey, a public forum and conversations at congregational meetings, we ended up drafting a congregational statement of support for those practicing war tax resistance and redirection. We did not withhold this money with the assumption our action would change IRS policy, but rather by sharing publicly to inspire others to do the same. Mass movement is crucial to create systemic change. **Read the rest of Joanna Lawrence Shenk's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Building Community for Women through Small Groups

At Portland Mennonite Church, we have a variety of ways that we build community and connection in smaller groups. As noted in Palmer Becker's *Anabaptist Essentials*, we really believe that "Community is the Center of our Life" and try to enact that in regular ways. Our Small Group committee has created a yearly rhythm where we invite people to engage in different kinds of small groups, and some of these especially benefit women. **Read the rest of Kristen Swartley's blog post for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

Marco Güete walks the Camino to support Hispanic Ministries

On Sept. 6, Marco Güete, director of Mennonite Church USA's Hispanic Ministries, and his wife, Sandra, will begin an 18-day, 143-mile pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago from Portugal to Spain. This is Güete's fourth pilgrimage to raise funds for theological education and leadership development for Hispanic Mennonite pastors and leaders. His goal this year is to raise \$25,000. **Read the news release [here](#). Follow MC USA on Facebook for updates on their journey [here](#). To support Hispanic Ministries, give online [here](#).**

Shared by Mennonite Church USA

Telos: Each place is going somewhere

Let's talk about lawns and the land underneath them. Grass is meant to be seen but not really looked at. It's simply what exists when there's nothing else there. As an American society, we expect that any land not paved over or built upon will be carpeted in at least 50% lawn. It's the assumed default — as standard and unquestioned as having toilet paper or running water in your home. Yet, beneath that uniform green, something profound is waiting. Most Native cultures teach that land is inherently sacred. The Bible does too, though this might surprise many modern western Christians. Leviticus 25 emphasizes that the land belongs to God, and Numbers 35 strictly forbids polluting it. When people of almost any culture or faith tradition reflect deeply, the sacredness of the earth naturally rises to the surface. In daily life, however, we barely notice a lawn unless it's time to mow. Consider how you can let the telos of the land express itself. Maybe you can let a section (1/7 would be a biblical fraction) of your garden rest for the coming year. Or maybe you've gotten ahead of the game and let part of your land go in the direction of its telos. Are there edible weeds (Lev. 25:6) you can put on your salad or in a tea? **Read the rest of Andrew Hudson's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Another tragic chapter

Responses to ICE violence are rooted in love of neighbor, community and action.

In my last report for Anabaptist World, "[Four Days in Minneapolis](#)" (March), I concluded that the story of violence against immigrants was not over. Tragically, this was true. Six months after federal agents killed two U.S. citizens in Minneapolis, two more fatal shootings sparked outrage across the nation. In July, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, 52, of Houston, and Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero, 25, of Biddeford, Maine, were shot and killed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, adding to the death toll of state violence against people caught in immigration limbo. Theirs were not the only lives lost within the immigrant struggle. By August, advocacy organizations documented at least 23 deaths inside ICE detention facilities this year. Of some people held in detention, we know almost nothing. Information about them remains buried within the system. Saulo Padilla, who worked for Mennonite Central Committee for 18 years and now facilitates seminars on migration and trauma, compares ICE shootings to a biblical image: public executions that spread fear in ancient Rome. The stories unfolding across the nation are connected by the same structure of violent immigration enforcement — and a growing movement that refuses to remain silent. This is another tragic chapter but also one rooted in love of neighbor, community and action. **Read the rest of Juan Moya'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!

