

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Divestment* using Matthew 22:15-22.

Religious leaders tried to catch Jesus saying something that would get him in trouble, and asked about paying taxes to the occupying empire. Jesus' response that they should "give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's" is remembered not just as an evasive political answer but a bit of wisdom. What actually does belong to Caesar (our contemporary version) and what doesn't belong to God? What do we release, and what should we withhold?

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

HAAQG Stash Sale



This Friday, August 7 from 10 am to 2 pm

The Hands All Around Quilt Guild will be hosting their 4th Annual Stash Sale here this Friday, August 7 from 10 am to 2 pm. There will be fabric yardage/scrap, cotton/wools/kits/panels, patterns, books, and more for purchase. The sale is cash or check only. **View the event on Facebook [here](#).**

Condolences



Saturday, August 8 at 11 am at North Danvers Mennonite Church

Condolences to the family of Imogene Miller who passed away Thursday, July 23. A funeral service will be held at North Danvers Mennonite Church on August 8 at 11 am. Please remember her family in prayer as they grieve. **Read her obituary [here](#).**

Westminster Village

This Sunday, August 9 at 3 pm at Westminster Village

Residents of Westminster Village, Pastor Kevin will be leading Vespers this coming Sunday (August 9th) at 3pm and would love to see you there!

Menno Haven Sunday



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** at the table in the fellowship area or 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

Adult CE



Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation class will discuss Chapters 12 & 13 on August 9.

Shared by Bess & Joe
p. 2



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. If you cannot make it but would like to learn more or make a pledge, please contact Darvis.

Shared by the Student Mutual Aid Program Committee



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



When Sorrow Comes, Why Not Sing?

When sorrow enters our lives, as it inevitably does, our reactions are often to grieve, become angry, grow depressed, and even bargain with God, as the famous psychiatrist Elizabeth Kübler-Ross has observed. What if we sang instead? **Read Judith Valente's blog post about the hymn sing last week [here](#).**

Meals for Jane and Mark



Take Home Question

Thank you all for the vibrant discussion on Sunday, August 2nd. We heard many positive comments about the process and received a lot of good ideas. We know that this conversation does not get us to a place where we are "done." We are asking you to reflect on Sunday's discussion about who we have been. What aspects do you feel we are called to let go, and what aspects do you feel we are called to carry forward? Vision Team welcomes responses to these questions & further comments.

Shared by the Vision Team

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 9 - Divestment**
- August 16 - Menno Haven

- August 23 - Patience
- August 30 - Impatience
- September 6 - Hope

MCN 50th Factoid

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

We've seen some old photos of the land where the church sits as farmland shortly before being developed, but what are the older stories before we "broke the prairie" here? Illinois wasn't founded as a state until 1818. In 1819, the Kickapoo people were forced to move out of Illinois as a part of the treaty of Edwardsville. This has also been home to Peoria, Kaskaskia, Oglala Sioux, Miami, and others. How might we carry this story as a community? You can learn more [here](#), and you can read a land acknowledgement from the 2023 Interfaith Thanksgiving [here](#). *Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org*



Those Serving This Week



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



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 5

1:00 pm Quilting

Thursday, August 6

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Friday, August 7

10:00 am Hands All Around Quilt Guild Stash Sale

Tuesday, August 11

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 12

1:00 pm Quilting



Anabaptist Climate Collective appoints interim executive director

The Anabaptist Climate Collaborative (ACC) board of directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Leah Reesor-Keller as interim executive director. Reesor-Keller succeeds Douglas Day Kaufman, who concluded his role as executive director on July 31, 2026. "I could not be more excited to welcome Leah to ACC. Her wisdom and wealth of experience will be a tremendous asset to ACC during this year of transition," said Harrison Horst, ACC Board co-chair. "The ACC Board is looking forward to engaging deeply with Leah as we refresh our strategy moving into 2027 to ensure we can continue equipping and activating the next generation of climate leaders." Leah, an organizational leadership consultant and writer, brings over two decades of experience with faith-based and social justice nonprofits. She has served as a co-country representative for Mennonite Central Committee in Nepal, executive minister of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, and transitional executive director of KAIROS Canada. She is the author of *Tending Tomorrow: Courageous Change for People and Planet* (Herald Press, 2024). **Read the rest of the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative's article published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**

Bike Michiana Project: Climate Adaptation in Bangladesh

August 28-30

Join Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes and other bicycle enthusiasts of all skill levels for an enjoyable experience of pedaling the beautiful lake and farmland region of southern Michigan and northern Indiana. You will be supporting the mission and service of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Terrain is rolling and flat. Fellowship and worship included. Money raised by riders and corporate sponsors in 2026 will support climate adaptation projects in Bangladesh through MCC. Be a part of the solutions for vulnerable families struggling to overcome increased floods and storms impacting their communities in Bangladesh. Peter Martin recently returned from a MCC Learning Tour to Bangladesh and will share photos and stories on Saturday evening of the exciting ways MCC partners are assisting these threatened communities to adapt to increasing uncertainty around the impact of climate change on agriculture and animal production in this country of deltas where floods are common. New this year! We are excited to announce that this year we are planning to include some alternate activities and family components to the program. This year's schedule will include alternate activity options for children ages 0-15, some of which will be fully staffed by Amigo while the adults can ride, and others that require one adult's supervision per family group. We are also offering alternate activities for anyone else who wants to be a part of them - young, old, and in between! **Read the rest of Mennonite Central Committee Great Lake's announcement [here](#).**

Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology

The Spring 2026 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* "Decolonial Discipleship as an Intercultural Church" — edited by Hyung Jin (Pablo) Kim Sun, PhD, and Sarah Kathleen Johnson, PhD — explores how practices of decolonization and genuine intercultural engagement need to be understood as deeply interconnected aspects of our collective journey toward peace, justice and reconciliation. **Read it online for free [here](#).**

Shared by the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Dutch church creates hub for exploring 'Menno Simons Land'

Expanded church welcomes neighbors from near and far.

The Anabaptist congregation that worships in the Dutch village where Menno Simons was born and served as a Catholic priest has expanded its church building to better serve neighbors near and far. *Menno Simons Hûs* (House) hosted its official opening April 25 in Witmarsum, Netherlands. The Hûs adds on to the 1961 building that is home to *Doopsgezinde Gemeente De Lytse Streek* (Small Area Mennonite Congregation), which formed out of three congregations that came together in Witmarsum. The region is home to several historical sites from Simons' life. The Menno Simons Foundation worked with the congregation for seven years to raise funds from around the country to develop a reception space that can accommodate an influx of visitors from around the world. Pastor Flora Visser said the expansion adds a meeting room that can handle 150 people, a bigger and better kitchen and a room with an exhibit on Simons' life and Anabaptist themes such as nonviolence and conscientious objection. **Read the rest of Tim Huber's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Ministry to Haitian Immigrants

Temporary Protected Status for Haitians, which was granted beginning in 2010, has official ended. This puts many of our Haitian neighbors in Ohio at risk for deportation. If you would like to give a donation, these are two organizations that Jeff Boehr, pastor of Lima Mennonite Church recommends. **1) Response Doves:** Jeff Boehr is a member of the Response Doves with Lima Mennonite, as is Matthew Yoder with Grace Mennonite, Pandora. The Response Doves have been a source of assistance for day-to-day needs, especially for folks who are currently unable to work (under current immigration law). We have provided groceries for folks, and Leah Eiden (of Ebenezer Mennonite) is organizing a mini-food bank with deliveries, especially if people are fearful of leaving their homes. We specialize in culturally appropriate food donations, as Haitians struggle with some of the food available from traditional pantries--canned food/processed food. We have also paid rent and utilities for folks. To donate, send a check to Elm Street Church of the Nazarene, 300 W. Elm Street, Lima, Ohio 45801, with a memo/notation or note saying it is for the Response Doves. **2) Immigrant Legal Fund:** This fund is also managed by the Elm Street Church of the Nazarene. Lima didn't experience a wave of immigrants until the 2020s, when the Haitians arrived. So there are no resident lawyers with expertise in immigration. After much vetting, an immigration law firm was found (Cleveland), which is reputable, ethical, and highly regarded. We established a retainer fund with them. Because of our church collaborative, they are providing a significant 50% discount to take on asylum cases for us. Donations for the Legal Fund may also be made by check to Elm Street Church, with Legal Fund in the memo line. Donations for the Legal Fund may also be made through the giving portal on the Elm Street web site. [Elm Street Church of the Nazarene](#). Then to the GIVE tab. That will take you to six boxes about giving options. Go to Ministry to Immigrants. Hit GIVE. There's a drop down that takes you to the Immigrant Legal Fund.

Shared by Central District Conference

July E-memo: Policy Updates

- **Proposed mining legislation threatens land and water:** Several members of Congress are seeking avenues to pass the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act (MRCA), a bill that would give even more control over our public lands to the mining industry without needed environmental protections. Urge Congress to keep the MRCA out of defense spending bills or permitting bills, and instead support the Mining Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Prevention Act. **Take action:** [Oppose harmful mining legislation](#)
- **2026 Farm Bill:** The 2026 Farm Bill, officially the "Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567)" passed the House in April. The bill provides a five-year reauthorization of U.S. agricultural, nutrition rural development, and international food assistance programs, including Food for Peace. Urge the Senate to pass its version of the Farm Bill and a moral budget that protects Food for Peace. **Take action:** [Ask Congress to pass a moral FY2027 budget](#)
- **ICE shootings follow increase in immigration enforcement:** On July 7, news broke that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents shot and killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a father and construction worker in Houston, Texas. On July 13, another ICE-involved shooting resulted in the death of a 26-year-old man in Biddeford, Maine. Both incidents are under investigation. These tragedies bring renewed attention to the pattern of violence in federal immigration enforcement.

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

The South Sudan Mennonite Church requests urgent prayer

Since the beginning of this year, South Sudan has experienced a significant increase in conflict, especially in the Jonglei and Upper Nile regions. These conflicts, coupled with flooding and a decline in agricultural production, have led to economic decline and the internal displacement of 2.6 million South Sudanese people. On average, [104 women and girls in South Sudan are being displaced every hour](#). Additionally, the civil war in neighboring Sudan has caused many people to flee to South Sudan, resulting in displacement of an additional 2.4 million Sudanese refugees and South Sudanese returnees. Now, over half of South Sudan's population is experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. This hunger crisis is affecting women and children the hardest, with [2.2 million children under the age of 5 years old and 1.2 million pregnant and breastfeeding women experiencing acute malnutrition](#). Many people have been forced to forage for wild food to survive, with some people reporting that they are going days without eating anything. The South Sudan Mennonite Church is working to procure and distribute emergency food assistance for displaced people in their community. Please pray for:

- An end to the unprecedented floods that have affected South Sudan for the past several years, and a return to regular agricultural activities.
- Conflict to cease in both South Sudan and neighboring Sudan.
- Immediate support for the South Sudan Mennonite Church and other organizations to provide basic food items to vulnerable households.
- Increased humanitarian assistance for health and hygiene needs.
- Safe, weather-resistant gathering places for those who otherwise wouldn't have shelter.

Presently, Mennonite Mission Network is collaborating with neighboring Mennonite churches in Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya, alongside MCC South Sudan for effective humanitarian relief coordination, and Mennonite World Conference for global church accompaniment. This partnership is seeking to provide both immediate support and longer-term strengthening of the church's witness and resilience. Mission Network also sent funds to assist congregations in reinforcing their meeting houses, many of which have deteriorated due to floods, and we are making plans to increase on-going support. Your prayers matter. Your gifts also matter in this moment of urgent need. Donate today to support the South Sudan Mennonite Church's emergency food distributions and holistic response. Even small amounts, when combined with others, can provide life-saving meals for families. Make a donation to Mobilize for Peace [here](#) to help us respond to this urgent need. **Read the prayer request shared by Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Fourth of July in Palestine

The author, a lifelong educator from the USA, is spending time with CPT Palestine in Al-Khalil/Hebron. Here, he acknowledges his own connection to settler colonialism and reflects on the impact of the occupation on education for young Palestinians.

On my second day in al-Khalil (Hebron), I observed the weekly practice of Israeli settlers – elders, young people, and children, most clad in white clothing – gathering in the Old City of the West Bank's largest city, to repeat their contrived claims of rights to local Palestinian land and property. **Read D.E.L.'s blog post for Community Peacemaker Teams [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

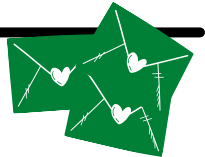
Items for the Midweek



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!



Useful Links
