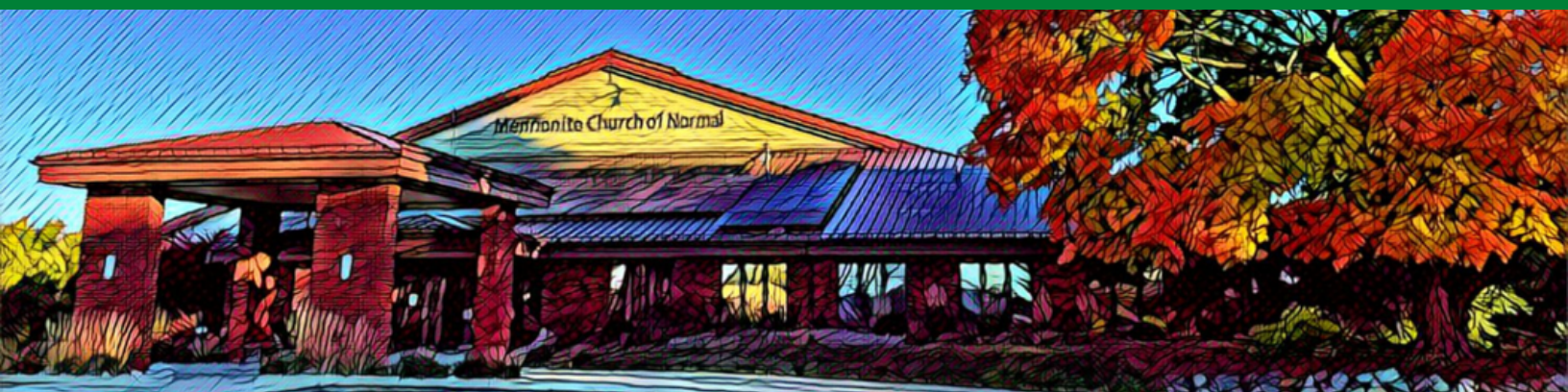


THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Dynamism, Generosity, Right, Duty* using Philippians 2:5-11.

Peace is a word that we aspire to represent in our embodied faith, and one temptation is to be primarily reactive. Notice the common terms: nonviolent, anti-war, de-escalation. In Philippians, Paul describes Jesus' life as an act of God's solidarity with humanity. Instead of standing against something, he stood with people. Have we been trained to build peace in that way?

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
Sanctuary

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



September 25-27

Please take a moment to help us prepare by filling out an RSVP form [here](#) **by this Friday, September 18th.**

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

And please share [this flyer](#) widely to spread the word.

Cultivating Generous Congregations



Sunday, September 20

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 for the last time on September 20, we will have time to share and discuss pieces of that learning experience and what does Generosity mean for Mennonite Church of Normal? We want to hear from you!

Shared by the Administration Commission



Carle BroMenn Chapel



Friday, September 25 at 3pm

MCN folks are wrapping up work on furniture for the hospital chapel. One is the table for their "compassion closet" donations, and the other for their "Tree of Want," a place where people can share in a ritual of naming their hopes. (see attached photos). We have been invited to mark the occasion of these items with a blessing led by Carle BroMenn Spiritual Care staff Friday, September 25th at 3pm in the chapel. All are welcome to join!

50th Celebration Meal



Sunday, September 27

We need your help. We have a delicious meal planned for Sunday noon on Sept 27 of our 50th Celebration. Everything is provided except for the dessert. We need you to provide the dessert. We are planning for 200, until we get our final count on registrations. Be sure to get your reservations in. Thanks in advance. Contact Louise if you are willing to provide a dessert.



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



Food for Family Fun Night

Discipling Commission is seeking donations of food supplies for the Fruit Pizza Dessert station for our Family Fun Night on September 25th. Donations should be dropped off by 3pm that day and placed on the kitchen counter or in the refrigerator as needed. **Please use this [link](#) to sign up to bring needed supplies.** Many thanks!

Shared by the Discipling Commission

Youth Mentorship Program



Families with children in grades 6-12 are welcome to seek a spiritual mentor for their child as part of MCN's Youth Mentorship program. Please contact Holly if you have questions or would like to participate in this program.

Shared by the Discipling Commission

A Note from Vision Team



Your Vision Team met on Sept. 14. In addition to reports from each of the commissions:

- We reviewed Plans for the 50th Anniversary. Everything is on track for a good celebration.
- We discussed a summary of the Table Discussions from our Looking Back/Looking Ahead sessions during worship on Aug. 2. We will be preparing a report to be sent out to the congregation soon with questions for our continued reflection.
- We discussed the Appreciative Review process used last year for the annual review of the pastors. A survey with that approach will be sent out to the congregation in Oct. for the Vision Team to use in its review. It was postponed from Sept. because of the 50th Anniversary.

Shared by the Vision Team



Presentation

Sunday, October 4 at 5 pm

On Sunday, Oct. 4, Meghan will share the about her experiences at Oak Flat (AZ) and other work she is doing with the Dismantling Coalition. Come learn history and updates. All are welcome at the Mennonite Residential Community's Community Building at 5pm.

Shared by the Community Life Commission

MCN Timeline

On the North side of the atrium, you can see a 16-foot banner that displays the timeline of the history of Mennonite Church of Normal. It is not only large for the sake of being easy to read, but because we hope to build on it. There is space between some of the benchmark events for all of us to add our own points of interest to the timeline. You can simply grab one of the little circles provided, write whatever personal event you'd like—the time you joined us, a milestone like a wedding or baptism, a favorite experience, or whatever else you imagine (and the date)—and stick it directly on the banner wherever it fits. We hope this will be a fun way to revisit memories together the weeks surrounding the celebration weekend, but we can keep adding things for the rest of the year!

Updates from Outreach Commission



This past week at Outreach Commission, among other things, we committed to make some contributions on behalf of MCN. We are giving \$500 toward The Immigration Project for their 2026 Annual Fundraising Luncheon October 9th at 12pm—you can read more about that event and RSVP [here](#). Also, perhaps you saw Camp Friedenswald's recent special appeal for support. They had a large week-long group event cancel their reservation, creating a \$50,000 deficit. We decided to contribute \$500, and we invite you all to consider giving toward that cause as well. You can donate [here](#).

Shared by the Outreach Commission



Update from Administration Commission

As you may have noticed on Sunday, our front and north exterior doors, the church office, and the main bathroom doors all have automatic door operators now! In addition, lever door handles were installed on all interior doors that didn't already have one. Both of these improvements were based on the recommendations from the Safety, Access, and Accommodation Committee and were funded by the general maintenance escrow. The Administration Commission is excited to be continuing our work towards a more accessible building.

Shared by the Administration Commission



Gratitude to each of you at Mennonite Church of Normal for your continued prayer and action in supporting the Coalition, Apache Stronghold, and Oak Flat. Despite the Supreme Court declining to hear Apache Stronghold's religious freedom case earlier this year, there are still many avenues that can protect Oak Flat. You may or may not know that Resolution Copper's mining plan for Oak Flat relies on access to Arizona state trust land to dump toxic tailings. This puts Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs in a position to stop it. So we are asking you, as people of faith and conscience, to spread this message more widely.

We are at a critical time in the fight to protect the sacred at Oak Flat.

We need your voice and the voices of your beloveds to:

- **PRAY** for Governor Hobbs, that she might find strength and courage to say NO to Resolution Copper's plans to dump a mountain of toxic waste on state trust lands in Dripping Springs Valley at Skunk Camp.
- **CALL** Governor Hobbs at 602-542-4331 and leave a message urging her to protect the state trust lands in Dripping Springs Valley from destruction.
- **SIGN** a letter to Governor Hobbs, urging her to protect the state trust lands in Dripping Springs Valley from destruction. You can sign an appropriate letter based on your state residency:
 - Arizona Residents, sign on [here](#).
 - Non-Arizona Residents, please sign on [here](#).

Shared by Meghan on behalf of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery



New Season in Worship

Beginning Sunday, September 13th we are returning to the Narrative Lectionary (NL) The NL is a collection of readings that trace the biblical story from creation through the early church, while marking the seasons of Advent and Lent. It is a four-year cycle, each year focusing on a different gospel (this year it is Matthew).

- September to mid-December - Israel's early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile and return.
- Christmas to Easter - sustained reading of one of the four gospels
- Easter to Pentecost - Acts and Paul's letters.

Summer is not a fixed part of the schedule, so it is often a time to spend reflecting on topical/thematic studies. We just finished our Summer reflecting on "Collaborative Formation." We talked about openness, anger, empathy, solidarity, harmonizing, candor, confidentiality, investment, mutual aid, divestment, patience, impatience, and hope as things we can only do together that are essential for our formation as faithful followers of Jesus. Do you have thoughts, ideas, or questions you'd like to share about that series or the Narrative Lectionary? You can share those [here](#).

Shared by the Worship Commission

Thank you for taking part in this year's MCC School Kit Challenge! Thanks to the work of people like you throughout the U.S. and Canada, we went well above our goal of 30,000 school kits for the 2026 challenge. Working together, you, your community and other devoted supporters packed 46,481 school kits! Each of the 46,481 school kits you shared will be a gift and treasure for a student dreaming of a bright future — and for the loved ones, teachers and community members dreaming alongside them. Thank you for being part of this year's School Kit Challenge. We hope you'll join us again next year!

Mennonite Church of Normal packed 300+ kits that will be picked up this Friday. Thank you for all our help!

Shared by Mennonite Central Committee and the MCN Outreach Commission

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 church@normalmennonite.org. We're all eager to see how you are serving in your community!

From the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

MCN 50th Factoid

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

The "Cornerstone Laying Service" for our current church building took place in the afternoon on October 19, 1980. You can see the bulletin from all of that Sunday's services [here](#). It was a simple service with a hymn, scripture reading, some comments, placing of the stone, and a prayer of dedication. Interestingly, the text listed is almost certainly a typo. The intended text was likely 1 Peter 2:4-10, which includes a description of Christ as the cornerstone and the invitation to "come to Christ, a living stone...and like living stones yourselves be built into a spiritual house." The reference listed in the bulletin is 1 Peter 4:4-10, which concludes with the exhortation: *Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.* This misprint might be prophetic! **Don't you think MCN can claim this as some sort of foundational conviction? Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org**



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



Those Serving This Week



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 16

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

7:30 pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Thursday, September 17

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, September 22

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 23

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

TRANSGENDER RESOURCE FAIR

Friday, September 25
4:00 - 7:00
Unitarian Universalist Church
1613 E Emerson St, Bloomington
Contact info@ppc-il.org

Organizations providing resources to trans and nonbinary communities.

Inclusive and encouraging Vendors (bring \$!)

Free clothes from The Wardrobe

Talks!

4:00-4:20: John M. Scott Health Trust Grant with PPC
4:20-4:40: Express Yourself (masc) with ISU Speech & Hearing Clinic
4:40-5:00: Power of Attorney for Healthcare with Carle BroMenn Healthcare
5:00-5:20: Express Yourself (fem) with ISU Speech & Hearing Clinic
5:20-5:40: Misdiagnosis for Transgender Individuals in Mental Health Spaces with Bridge to Hope Counseling
5:40-6:00: Game Demo with Red Raccoon
6:00-6:20: Emotional & Social Intelligence with ISU Police Department
6:20-6:40: Pansies Planting Pansies with Planned Parenthood

Prairie Pride Coalition & Unitarian Universalist Church

\$ collected to support Rainbow Village

You're invited to ...

The Immigration Project's Annual Fundraising Luncheon

DATE: OCTOBER 9TH, 2026
TIME: 12:00PM - 1:00PM
LOCATION: BROWN BALLROOM, ISU BONE STUDENT CENTER

RSVP HERE

JOIN US FOR A LUNCHEON IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRANT JUSTICE!

THE IMMIGRATION PROJECT

Journaling: Writing Toward Wellness

Thursday, Sept. 24

6 P.M. CT on Zoom

Join us for an interactive webinar exploring the benefits of journaling.

The Corinthian Plan
Together, providing health care for pastors and church workers



Anne Blackwood



Ruth Johnston



Ingrid Friesen Moser

Stop the U.S. and Israeli militaries from being further enmeshed

I hope that you join me in supporting efforts to oppose cloture on the Senate National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a bill that would increase cooperation between the United States and the Israeli military. This cooperation would clear the path for our military to work hand in glove with the Israeli military to develop new weapons and technologies for Israel's use in its wars in the Middle East, and against Palestinians. Stopping cloture will force a supermajority vote of 60 senators to pass this NDAA, allowing for debate and amendment votes that could significantly curtail or defeat this Act. [Use our letter-writing tool](#) to urge your Senators to:

1. Support the efforts of Senators Van Hollen, Sanders, Merkley, Welch, Markey, and Warren to oppose cloture on the Senate NDAA, to allow debate on further military integration with Israel.
2. Oppose and remove Section 1217 of the NDAA and Section 619 of the Intelligence Authorization Act.

Senators Van Hollen, Sanders, Merkley, Welch, Markey, and Warren have voiced strong opposition to this measure and we thank them for that. Most importantly, we need to tell our own Senators that we want them to vote "No" on cloture and vote against any, and all, military aid to Israel. As a Mennonite and a human being who believes in equality, justice, and peace, I am angered that my own government is squandering our resources on wars and enabling Israel's horrific oppression of Palestinians. Please join me in calling on our Senators to oppose cloture on the NDAA and oppose all military aid to Israel. Please share the campaign widely, and thank you for your attention and sumud (steadfastness) in advocating for our Palestinian siblings. **Take action [here](#).**

Shared by Mennonite Action

The upside-down growing season

It is the off-season for gardening in Florida. Christians celebrate the upside-down kingdom. In Florida, we celebrate the upside-down growing season, or at least upside-down compared to the norms of the northern U.S. and Europe. It might surprise many Anabaptist World readers, but most of the world doesn't garden according to the familiar rhythm of plant in the spring, cultivate in the summer and harvest in the fall. Those patterns run deep in our imaginations and even echo in the biblical harvest festival of Sukkot. (More about that in October.) So gardening in Florida looks dramatically different from "up north." Yet it's rewarding to find connections. For July, one of those connections is cover crops. I love our local gardener community because it holds those competing stories together. We inherit one set of assumptions from culture, but the land teaches us another. Learning to notice the actual rhythms of a place develops what Jesus called "eyes to see." And as we pay attention, we discover that subtropical Florida has more in common with much of the world's agriculture than with the seasonal patterns many of us grew up imagining. Perhaps that, too, offers a glimpse of the upside-down kingdom. **Read the rest of Andrew Hudson's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Artist Spotlight: Melissa Strawser

Read Eileen Kinch's interview with artist Melissa Strawser for *Anabaptist World* [here](#). p. 9

Let's celebrate menopause

Did you know that menopause is a single day? Menopause is marked on the 365th day after a woman's last menstrual period. Leading up to that day is a phase called perimenopause, and the rest of life lived after that day is postmenopausal. Menopause is a natural transition in every woman's journey. Sometimes it is induced medically because of surgery, cancer treatments or medicines used to treat health conditions. We are beginning to be more open as a society about sharing and seeking support in community. So when I learned, just last summer, that menopause was a birthday of sorts, the idea to throw a party when my time came got planted. In our culture we are open about celebrating birthdays, yet I've never heard of a menopause birthday party. This felt like a socially acceptable and playful way to bring recognition to a rite of passage. My spiritual self also wanted to weave in reverent ritual. A lesson I learned in seminary was to mark milestones and meaningful moments with intentional ritual, so they do not blend into the background of everyday life and get lost in mundane rhythms. Moments such as menopause feel like a life threshold, just like the time of getting a first menstrual period. **Read the rest of Heather Wolfe's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Summit to explore Christian responses to militarism

"Waging Peace: A Militarism Summit" Nov. 6-7 at Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pa., will bring together Christians to explore faithful responses to war, political polarization, nationalism and violence. The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board, in partnership with Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Central Committee, will host the summit. Militarism — the belief that military power is the primary means of achieving security and resolving conflict — increasingly shapes public life, public discourse and cultural values in the U.S. In many churches, geopolitical conflicts and nationalism have become entwined with religious identity. Author and peace advocate Shane Claiborne will give the opening keynote address, "Ain't Gonna Study War No More." The closing keynote will be delivered by Joy Metzler, a conscientious objector and peace advocate. Metzler separated from the Air Force in 2025 as a 2nd Lt., citing U.S. funding and partnership in the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza as her turning point. She started speaking out against these crimes while on active duty, and her advocacy has continued with groups such as Veterans for Peace, About Face Veterans and local groups she has partnered with or started. Seminars will explore topics such as conscientious objection, nonviolent action and organizing, the intersection of militarism and climate justice, Christian responses to radicalization and youth-focused peacebuilding. **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

Anabaptist Witness

A new *Anabaptist Witness* issue on "Anabaptist Missiology Revisited" is available for free online. Edited by James R. Krabill, PhD, this issue tells the story of the Association of Anabaptist Missiologists (AAM) and brings together the four papers presented at the initial AAM gathering in 2000 for the first time. Contemporary Anabaptist voices from the global faith family offer responses to each paper. Book reviews discuss intercultural congregations and Muslim-Christian relations. **Read it [here](#).**

Shared by the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

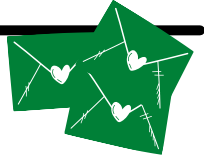
Items for the Midweek



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!



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