

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *All Flesh* using Genesis 9:8-17.

The flood narrative sounds like a cautionary tale about avoiding wickedness and trusting in God even when it doesn't make sense. However, God seemingly dismantles the possibility that we see a simple action-consequence dynamic as ultimate when it comes to God's relationship with humanity. Do we concern ourselves with ark-ing? Or are we given a new task?

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

Order by: **Tomorrow, September 10**

Deadline Extended! 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! Child and infant sizes have been added as well. T-shirts will be available to pick up the evening of Friday, September 25 and the morning of Saturday, September 26. **Please place your order [here](#) by Thursday, September 10th.**



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

Cultivating Generous Congregations



Sundays, September 13 & 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 again on September 13 & 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



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.



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



Service Projects



If you have filled out your RSVP form, you will have seen some information about the options for service projects on September 26th. Here is some more information.

- **Midwest Food Bank:** Many of you have a close connection with Midwest Food Bank, as MCN has had quarterly volunteer nights there since 2016 with J'ne who helps coordinate our efforts there. Often the work is repackaging food so it can be distributed where it is needed for disaster response or food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and churches that directly provide meals to individuals and families in need. **Learn more and sign up [here](#).**
- **MCC Comforter tying:** We have a number of active quilters among us, but even those who are not skilled at sewing can tie comforters (with some instruction) that are sent to places in need around the world through Mennonite Central Committee. You can learn more about the impact of comforters [here](#). This project will be hosted at the church and is coordinated by Gerry, Mary Ann, and Deanna.
- **Carle BroMenn chapel:** There are a number of people already working on this project of making some updated furniture for some meaningful pieces in 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) Volunteers have already been working and these projects will likely be completed by the 26th, but we will take the opportunity on that day to have a commemorative event with the Spiritual Care department. If you sign up for that option, we will make sure you are in the loop for participating in that brief celebratory time.

Postponed: Dementia Friendly Community Workshop

A CHANGE! The Dementia Friendly Community Workshop which was announced for September 20 has been postponed. We will let you know as soon as it is rescheduled. Thanks for your interest.

Shared by the Congregational Care Committee



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

Miller Park Zoo Art for Conservation



This Saturday, September 12 from 10 am to 4 pm

Miller Park Zoo will be hosting their annual arts and crafts fair on September 12 from 10am - 4pm. Local artists will be selling their work throughout the zoo to support local animal conservation. Charlotte will be a vendor at this event. Her booth is #9 on the map, Lottie Rose Art. Click [here](#) to view a map of the vendors and [here](#) to learn more about the event.

Shared by Charlotte

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



Automatic Door Operators

Work has begun on the automatic door operators for our front and north exterior doors, office door, and main bathrooms. Keep an eye out on Sunday for the changes!

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



Someone who helped Vivian and Cal with storm damage clean up left their rake behind. If you recognize it as yours, please reach out to pick it up!

MCN 50th Factoid: Guess Who's Coming to Worship?

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

One of the great blessings in life is reuniting with dear friends. We are so grateful that our 50th celebration gets to be an opportunity for such reunion. Do you recognize the special guests who will share their voices with us in worship on the 27th?

- Tom Kauffman (MCN 1987-1995)
- Mag Richer Smith (MCN 1979-1982)
- Tim Schrag (MCN 1996-2019) - joining via video
- Michael Danner (Metamora Mennonite 1997-2015, IL Mennonite Conference 2015-2018, Mennonite Church USA 2018-present)

Do you have a factoid to share? Send it to: kevin@normalmennonite.org



Those Serving This Week



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, September 9

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, September 10

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

6:30 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Sunday, September 13

1:00 pm S'mores and More at Moraine View State Park

3:00 pm IL Mennonite Relief Sale Board Meeting

Monday, September 14

5:00 pm Outreach Commission

Tuesday, September 15

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 16

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting



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.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





A "holding space" story

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, spiritual director Jane Hooper Peifer explores what it means to "hold space" for someone living with deep trauma and how compassionate presence can become a powerful expression of God's love. **Read Jane Hooper Peifer's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**



Camp Friedenswald Restoration Retreat

October 23-25

Join Camp Friedenswald for the annual Restoration Retreat the third weekend of October. Aaron Sawatsky-Kingsley will speak on the theme *Smitten by the Changing Earth: stories of remorse, heartbreak and grace*. Special guest Cortney Colia will also present *Lifeways of the Great Lakes Anishinabeg: native plants and voices*. We hope you can join us for this important gathering filled with meaningful conversation, plant forward meals, and activities connecting you to the more-than-human world at camp. **Click [here](#) learn more about the Restoration Retreat and to register.**

Shared by Camp Friedenswald

From secret dating to serial serving

I just finished my last week as a full time staff member for Mennonite Action. For the next couple of months, I'll be pitching in part-time as I transition out of the organization, and as our new Executive Director, Lina Blount begins her tenure leading our organization. I am thrilled for you to get to know Lina. Over the past several months, I've been struck by Lina's commitment, courage, and rootedness in her faith. I'm excited to support her leadership as she prepares to take this organization into the future. [Join us for our next mass call on September 17 at 8 pm ET / 5 pm PT](#) to hear more from Lina. Mennonite Action started out as an idea that blossomed into a movement — and with your help, we are transitioning into an organization that is built to stay. **Read the rest of Nick Martin's announcement for Mennonite Action [here](#).**

Urgent prayer request for Nepal

Nepal is facing a devastating humanitarian crisis after catastrophic flash floods and landslides swept through central regions of the country.

Nepal is facing a devastating humanitarian crisis after catastrophic floods and landslides have taken lives, displaced families, and damaged homes, schools, roads, and bridges. Through trusted local partners, we are standing with affected communities as they grieve, search for loved ones, and begin the long work of recovery. Please join us in prayer for families, rescue workers, churches, and partner organizations. **Read the rest of Mennonite Mission Network's Urgent Prayer Request [here](#).**

Ethiopia's Meserete Kristos Church withdraws from Mennonite World Conference

Mennonite World Conference regrets to announce that Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia has voted to withdraw from MWC membership. After an extended period of prayerful deliberation and earnest discernment, the Meserete Kristos Church, assembled in national convention on 4 September 2026, reached a formal decision to withdraw from Mennonite World Conference. The motion was carried with 98.3% approval. Church leaders from Meserete Kristos currently serving on MWC Commissions and Networks will resign from their positions effective that date. Meserete Kristos was the largest MWC member church. **Read the rest of Mennonite World Conference's press release [here](#).**

L'Église Meserete Kristos d'Éthiopie se retire de la Conférence Mennonite Mondiale

La Conférence Mennonite Mondiale a le regret d'annoncer que l'Église Meserete Kristos, en Éthiopie, a voté en faveur de son retrait de l'adhésion à la CMM. Après une longue période de réflexion, de prière et de discernement sincère, l'Église Meserete Kristos, réunie en congrès national le 4 septembre 2026, a pris la décision officielle de se retirer de la Conférence Mennonite Mondiale. La motion a été adoptée avec 98,3 % des voix. Les responsables de l'église Meserete Kristos qui siègent actuellement au sein des Commissions et des réseaux de la CMM démissionneront de leurs fonctions à compter de cette date. Meserete Kristos était l'église membre la plus nombreuse de la CMM. **Lisez la suite du communiqué de presse de la Conférence Mennonite Mondiale [ici](#).**

'Martyrs Mirror for the new reader'

Plain Anabaptists are translating iconic book into contemporary English.

Throughout its history, the Martyrs Mirror has been translated — from Dutch to German in 1749, from German to English in 1837 and 1886. Now another translation is in process. Since 2023, a committee of Plain Anabaptists has been translating the iconic book into contemporary English. It is the "Martyrs Mirror for the new reader," said James K. Nolt at a public meeting Aug. 4 at the Martindale Fellowship Center in Ephrata, Pa. Readers today need an appropriate translation to inspire, to point them to Christ Jesus and to see examples of faithful lives, he said. The new edition is being translated directly from the 1685 Dutch edition. Translator Lydia Penner, who previously worked on Documents of Brotherly Love: Dutch Mennonite Aid to Swiss Anabaptists, is working on the project, along with Robert Riall of the Old Order Amish. The Martyrs Mirror tells the stories of 16th-century Anabaptist martyrs, as well as earlier Christian martyrs, in over 1,000 pages of dense text that may be daunting to modern readers. Its illustrations include depictions of executions and other scenes of faithful witness. Anabaptists have looked to this book for inspiration and identity. **Read the rest of Eileen Kinch's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Maybe people are not leaving Jesus

Maybe people aren't leaving Jesus. Maybe they are leaving churches that talk about truth but struggle to live it. It is easier to cast blame elsewhere — on the culture, younger generations, worship styles, social media, politics or the simple fact that fewer people seem interested in church these days. But maybe we should stop making excuses. Maybe people are not looking for a cooler church. Maybe they are wondering whether the church actually believes what it says. Because people can smell religious performance from a mile away. They hear “everyone is welcome” and still notice who ends up on the margins. They hear sermons about loving our neighbors while watching Christians treat some people as problems to be managed, debates to be won or enemies beyond the reach of grace. Y'all, people are not asking whether our churches have better coffee. They are asking whether we actually mean any of this. **Read the rest of Chris Scott's blog post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

August E-memo: Events

- **Every third Thursday: Borderlands and beyond: Monthly charlas with MCC (virtual):** The MCC U.S. Immigration Network facilitates casual virtual monthly charlas to engage with MCC's community partners, programs and leaders working in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands and beyond. [View the program calendar, previous recordings and register.](#)
- **Sept. 21: Faithful witness in turbulent times (virtual):** In this webinar, panelists will share how the communities where MCC works are affected by Empire and global inequalities, and how we can commit to being faithful peacemakers. [Register now.](#)
- **Sept. 24-June 10: Creation Justice Ministries' Ecopreacher cohort:** Are you a pastor eager to address creation justice from the pulpit, but need support? Register for Ecopreacher, a ten-month cohort facilitated by MCC partner Creation Justice Ministries that equips preachers with theological grounding, practical tools, and a community of peers who get it. Registration is open until August 28. [Learn more.](#)
- **Oct. 18-24: Puerto Rico Peace Camp:** What does it mean to work for peace on Earth when there is constant conflict and exploitation? Join this young adult MCC Peace Camp to explore how the life of Jesus and the clamor of the land call us together to cultivate peace. [Register by Sept. 12.](#)
- **Oct. 30-Nov. 1: The art of being creatures: A gathering for peace, climate and advocacy (Winnipeg, Canada):** Save the date for this Anabaptist-led gathering for young adults and those who support the next generation of faith and climate leaders. Led by the Spirit, we will pray, create, share food and learn from each other about peace, climate and advocacy. [Sign up](#) to be alerted when registration opens!
- **Nov. 14-20: Borderlands learning tour (Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, Calif.):** Join West Coast MCC for a week of experiential learning in Tijuana and San Diego to explore migration, borderland communities, and the impact of current immigration policies through the lenses of peacebuilding and hospitality in Christian scripture and tradition. [Learn more and register.](#)

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

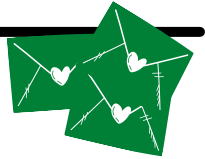
'Plautdietsch, baby! It's a thing.'

As the number of Low German speakers grows, Canada adds the language to its census. Low German speakers in Canada were surprised in May when the 2026 census included *Plautdietsch* in the list of officially recognized languages. Plautdietsch came up on the online version of the census when it asked what language, other than English or French, respondents knew well enough to conduct a conversation. Those who answered "Low German" received a prompt that asked them to "please be more specific." "*Plautdietsch*" was suggested as an answer, along with Low Saxon, a version of Low German spoken across northern Germany and the eastern Netherlands. The inclusion of that term prompted one user to exclaim on social media: "*Plautdietsch, baby! If you speak Low German, the new Canadian census recognizes it as Plautdietsch. It's a thing.*" According to the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online, *Plautdietsch* is a Low German language spoken by Mennonites who originally came largely from the Netherlands and settled in Danzig and along the Vistula River in the 16th century. It is estimated that between 300,000 to 500,000 people in the world speak it today, mainly Mennonites in Latin and South America, Mexico, the United States and Canada. According to Daniel Pereara, a senior analyst at Statistics Canada, the agency that conducts the census, the reason for including *Plautdietsch* as a language is because "every cycle we try to improve on the level of detail captured by the census." That means giving Canadians over 400 language options, in addition to Canada's two official languages, English and French. **Read the rest of Shirley Hershey Showalter's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**



Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS.
SEND A CARD IF THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!





Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank 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